

## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### A. Theoretical Review

##### 1. Translation

###### 1.1 The Definition of Translation

Translation as a multilingual way of communication used in various fields of life. Some experts define it differently, even though their point of view is the same as one another. For more details, there are several theories about translation according to different experts.

The translation is one of a process in language activity. The use of translation is widely implemented in a lot of scope of information. Because of its importance, translation is also extensively learned by the student of English foreign language learner. Regarding the statement above, therefore, the definition of the translation will be elaborated to make it easier to understand its

concept. Translation is very important in today's global life. We can relate to the outside world by translating from the source language into the target language. People who have a different language with us, will be helped by the translation (Putra, 2021).

In terminology, the word translation has been used since around 1340. The term of translation itself is first used and derived from Old French Latin translation. Besides, it can also be considered absorption from Latin translation. According to Nida and Taber in (Wuryanto, 2018), translating is reproducing text in the equivalent language of the recipient of the message, in the closest and proper sense in the source language.

Meanwhile, the concept of translation, there are a lot of definitions stated by the experts. As stated in (Hartono, 2017), Newmark says that translation is a process of rewriting the meaning of

the text into another language where the author intended the text.

Furthermore, as cited in (R.Silalahi, 2016), Larson states that translation is changing a form. Either in written or spoken form, the translation replaced all of the elements of language such as words, phrases, clauses, sentences and paragraphs from the form of the source language into the form of the target language. Translation problems are often exacerbated when translators are confronted with cultural words that contain hidden meanings. These problems can be partly due to the translator not having enough information about the source culture or being absent altogether (Rustaova, 2023).

Translation is a social phenomenon, and no social phenomenon is ahistorical. Thus, translation must be contextualized in its historical environment. This entails the need for translation scholars to be aware of possible methodological overlaps or

discrepancies that they may share with historians.  
(Lange, 2022).

translation typically has been used to transfer written or spoken source language texts to equivalent written or spoken target language texts (Ordudari, 2017)

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that basically translation consists of source language, target language, and equivalent meaning. It has transferred messages from one language to another which should be equivalent without adding in omitting rather than focusing on changing words and grammatical forms.

## **1.2 Proses of Translation**

The translation process is the main occupation among a whole translation activity. To translate a text, the translator has to consider the stages they are going through. This is because the translation process leads until the end where the translator

creates a translation product. Whereas the steps in the translation process itself, the experts argued in the amount of its stage. Some mention three stages while other states more than 3. But, the point is the same that translation has three main processes.

To produce a good and reasonable translation product, it cannot be separated from the effort in the translation process, be it choosing equivalent words, identifying terms or idioms and analyzing the results of the translation so that the meaning in the source language is fully conveyed (Johanis, & Pendit, p. m. d.; 2022).

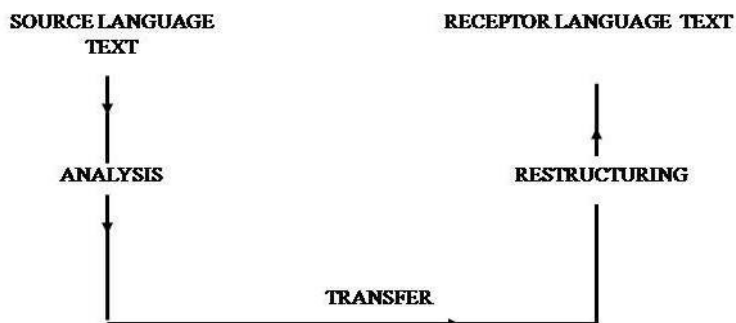
the researcher concludes that there are three main stages of the translation process: analysis, transfer and restructuring.

**The Analysis** is a review process to find meaning in the source text by using background knowledge and linguistic competence. At this stage, the translator

places the source text sentences into translation units: both words and phrases. This process is intended to provide accurate, acceptable, and readable text in the target language that is representative of the original text in the source language.

**The Transfer** is a cognitive process of transferring selected words from the source language into the target language that has gone through the translator's reason and logic. At this stage, the translator must find the closest equivalent meaning in the two languages.

**The Restructuring** is the process of reproducing to make a suitable text in the target language that is in line with the grammatical and semantic structure of the source language. In this phase, the translator must consider whether the translation results sound smooth and natural. This approach may be diagrammed as in the following diagram.



Based on the diagram, it can be seen the translator has to do three steps of the process of the translation. Firstly, the translator has to do is analysis and identify the whole of source language, which contains the grammar structure and the meaning of each word or sentence as a component of language. Then elaborate the components that have been identified in order to look the relationship each other and their respective functions. Secondly, from the results of the analysis that has been done before. Then the translator starts to transfer the language based on the results of the analysis and the translator understanding from language A to

language B. Thirdly, after analysis the source language text and transferring it to the receptor language text. The translator reconstructing or rearrange the components contained in language A into language B to make equivalent meaning.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the process of translation is a complex activity. The translator must be a concern on how to produce a good translation. Consequently, the important thing of process translation has to find the closed equivalence of meaning to understand by the receiver of target language.

### **1.3 Translation Method**

Translation Method Oriented to the Target Language

The translation method is a systematic method used to translate. In his book entitled A Textbook of Translation, Newmark in yusniaty divides translation methods into two groups, namely source-



oriented translation methods and target language-oriented translation methods Newmark (1998) (Yusniaty, 2021). This method is known as the V diagram because it forms the letter V as shown below.

a. Adaptation Translation

It can be said that adaptation is a translation method that is contrary to the word for word translation method. If the word for word translation method is oriented to the source language, the adaptation method is oriented to the target language. This method emphasizes the message to be conveyed. Adaptation is usually used to adapt a play or comedy. In this translation, the source culture is replaced by the target culture.

b. Free Translation

Almost the same as adaptation, the free translation method also emphasizes the message

to be conveyed. The difference is that the free translation method does not replace the culture of the source language with the culture of the target language. This method is only concerned with the message of the source text, but does not pay attention to the form and aesthetics of the translated text, so this method is not suitable for translating poetry. Usually this free translation is in the form of a paraphrase which can be longer or shorter than the original text.

c. Idiomatic Translation

Idiomatic translation aims to reproduce the message in the source language text. However, this method tends to distort the nuances of meaning if the source text uses idioms that are not found in the target language. Therefore, usually these idiomatic expressions are translated like ordinary expressions.

d. Communicative Translation

This method seeks to reproduce the contextual meaning of the source language so that the linguistic aspects and content are easily understood by readers of the target language text. If free translation focuses on meaning without making adjustments to the target culture, communicative translation methods still present elements of culture.

#### **1.4 Types of Translation**

One of the general problems of translation is determining the type of translation that is suitable to be applied in translation. Translators must know what type of translation is appropriate to use in translating. In choosing the right one, the translator must consider the type of text, the target audience, the intent of the author of the text, and the purpose of translating the text. For more details, the translation has several types from several expert opinions.

According to Larson, translation is divided into two major parts:

- a. Meaning-based translation, meaning-based translation makes every effort to communicate the meaning of the source song text in the natural form of the recipient's language. Such translations are called idiomatic translation.
- b. Form-Based Translation, trying to follow the form of the Source Language and is known as literal translation.

Another opinion from Newmark, the types of translation are divided into several types, namely:

- a. Word-by-word translation, often demonstrated as interlinear Translation, with the target language immediately below the source language word, the source language word order is preserved and the

words are translated singly according to their most general meaning, out of context.

- b. Literal Translation, SL grammatical constructions are changed to their closest TL equivalent but the lexical words are again translated singly, out of context.
- c. Faithful translation, attempts to reproduce the exact contextual meaning of the original within the constraints of the grammatical structure of the target language.
- d. Semantic Translation, semantic translation differs from 'faithful translation' only insofar as it has to take more account of aesthetic value (i.e., the beautiful and natural sound of SL texts, sacrificing 'meaning').
- e. Adaptation Translation, the culture of the source language is changed to the culture of the target language and the text is rewritten. and is known as a literal translation.

- f. Idiomatic translation reproduces the message of the original but tends to distort the nuances of meaning by preferring colloquialisms and idioms where these are not present in the original.
- g. Communicative Translation, seeks to translate the exact contextual meaning of the original in such a way that the content and language are easily accepted and understood by readers.
- h. Free translation, meaning that the translated text can be modified without any ties to the source language regarding grammar.

Referring to the explanation above, several experts propose various types of translation. This can help translators to choose the appropriate type when translating idioms. In this case, the type of translation that is more suitable and efficient when applied to idiom translation is by using idiomatic translation by Newmark and translation based on meaning by Larson. That's

because idioms are translated by looking contextually rather than considering the grammatical structure of each idiom word.

## **2. Idiom**

### **2.1 The Definition of idiom**

Idiom is one of the variations of languages. It is frequently used in a wide variety of situations and contexts. In origin countries like Britain, they are native speakers often using idioms in daily conversation. But a non-English-speaking country like Indonesia is not aware of the existence of idioms in English. Thus, to be clear the researcher presents variously definition idioms by experts.

An idiom is an expression that contains words, phrases or clauses that often use figurative language that is often used in communication (Candra, 2019). As mentioned in the previous conceptual of translation above, idiom takes many places in translation and even becomes one of the methods to

translate the text. In terms of equivalent, the idiom method was used to create a natural and readily communicative text. While in the meaning of the idiomatic expression, idiom will be different but still takes place in the whole activity of translation. And the experts had a various explanations of idiom as it will be elaborated below.

An idiom is an expression whose meaning is not the word we say or the meaning of the word itself, but an expression whose meaning is very far from the meaning of the word idiom itself. Idioms are units of language in the form of words, phrases or sentences whose meaning cannot be 'predicted' both lexically and grammatically from the elements that make it up (Chaer, 2021).

The meaning contained by English Idiom cannot be comprehended by merely knowing the meaning from each word arranging the idiom. Dealing with English idiom in translation is quite



hard because the translator has to transfer the meaning of English idiom into Bahasa Indonesia rightly. the meaning of an idiom is the meaning of a language unit in the form of a word, phrase, clause or sentence that has a different meaning or regardless of its constituent elements (Triska, 2020).

On the other hand, it is quite difficult to find the equivalence term in Bahasa Indonesia reflecting the same meaning as it is reflected in the source text. To manage this problem, the translation strategies need to be applied.

Faced some difficulties when learning English idioms. Orfan investigated student's attitudes toward the importance of learning idioms, difficulties encountered when learning idiomatic expressions, and strategies used to learn and understand them (Orfan, 2020).

## **2.2 Types of Idioms**

According to Chaer idioms are divided into two types, namely full idioms and partial idioms. Below the researcher will explain what is meant by these two types of idioms (Pratiwi, 2018).

a. Full Idioms

A full idiom is an idiom in which all of its elements have merged into one unit so that the meaning it has comes from the whole unit. For example, light hand means like to help.

b. Partial Idiom

Some idioms are idioms in which one of the elements still has its own lexical meaning. For example, complete darkness means a quiet situation. Iron fist means power because of violence.

Furthermore according to Seidl and McMordie classify idioms into the following groups:

a. Keywords with idiomatic usage

1). Adjectives and adverbs, e.g. bad news, big mouth, in short, it's time

2). Nouns, e.g. by the way, in the end, the bottom line

3). Others, e.g. after all, how in the world, it was too bad

b. Idioms with nouns and adjectives

1). Noun phrases, e.g. blessings in disguise, a breath of fresh air

2). Adjective + noun, e.g. blind dates, close calls, narrow escapes

c. Idiomatic pairs

This kind of idiom consists of several combinations. The five different types are given as follows:

1). adjective pairs, e.g. fresh,

2). noun pairs, e.g. flesh And Blood,

3). pairs of adverbs, e.g. in and out,

- 4). verb pairs, eg. sink or swim,
  - 5). identical pairs, e.g. all completely.
- d. Idioms with prepositions, e.g. convenient,  
behind the scenes, in an instant, off the charts
- e. Phrasal verbs, e.g. break, continue, exit, calm  
down, wake up
- f. Verbal idioms
- 1). Verb + noun, e.g. Throw a party
  - 2). Verb +prepositional phrase e.g. keep in  
touch
  - g. idiom of comparison, e.g. as black as coal, as  
dumb as a statue, to eat like a horse, to go like  
the wind.

In other words, an idiom is a group of words resulting from news research, two or more words to express a meaning that has assumptions, figures of speech or connotations. Having from the frequency of use, the expression is used more in everyday

language, as well as essays when compared to proverbs. part of the core elements and the explanatory elements built by the two elements remain.

From the types of idioms mentioned above, it can be concluded that there are many types of idioms. The first is important for translating idioms, translators must recognize idioms in the text. The types of translation can provide information so that translators can recognize these types of idioms to produce good idiom translations.

### **2.3 Characteristic of Idiom**

To get easier in determining whether the word is an idiom, the translator can indicate the character of the idiom itself. According to Mantyla, there few things that indicated the character of the idiom such as Metaphoricity, analyzability and fixedness form (Mantyla, 2004).

a. Metaphor Cityk

Idiom has been regarded commonly as a synonym. The aim is to deliver the meaning hides behind the sentence in a similar message. Mantyla also added three categories as a kind of metaphor. Transparent, Semi-transparent and opaque.

b. Analyzability/ non-compositionality-two side of the coin

It does mean that idiom is cannot be predicted by interpreting every single word to find out the meaning. For example, sit up cannot be interpreted as sit and then up.

c. Fixedness form

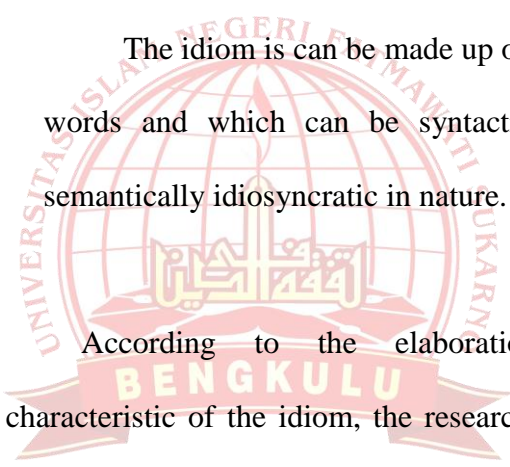
An idiom is a fixed-form so it cannot be interfered with by any variation. Because it stands by its lexical structure.

d. Level of formality

The idiom is not only used for conversation but also used in written form. It means that idiom has its level formality and can be used either in a formal or informal situation.

e. Multi-words expression

The idiom is can be made up of at least two words and which can be syntactically and/or semantically idiosyncratic in nature.



According to the elaboration of the characteristic of the idiom, the researcher confirms that there are characteristic of idiom in order to make it easier in categorizing the figurative language. This characteristic then validates every figurative language that can be categorized as an idiom depends on their types.

## **B. Difficulties in Translating Idioms**

Translating idioms is one of the most difficult tasks for translators. It involves far more than the replacement of lexical and grammatical items between languages, and it may involve discarding the basic linguistics elements of the SL text. The problems encountered in the translation process are the matching of words and the selection of phrases, terms or idioms in the text to translate meaning into the target language in a reasonable and accurate manner (Gusthini, 2022). As a rule, the more difficult an expression to understand and the less sense it makes in a given context, the more likely a translator will recognize it as an idiom.

Once an idiom or fixed expression has been recognized and interpreted correctly, the next step is to decide how to translate it into the target language. The difficulties involved in translating an idiom are totally different from those involved in interpreting it. Here, the question is not whether a given idiom is transparent, opaque, or misleading. An opaque



expression may be easier to translate than a transparent one (Baker, 1992).

Translation by Using an Idiom of Similar Form and Meaning in the Target Language The first translation strategy by Mona Baker is translating using an idiom very similar in its form and meaning to the source language idiom. It must convey roughly the same meaning and be of equivalent lexical items. The examples are taken from a journal written by Winarto and Tanjung (2015) entitled An Analysis of English Idiomatic Expressions in Transformers III Dark of the Moon, the Translation Strategies and Their Degrees of Meaning Equivalence. It is because they use English as the source language and Indonesian as the target language.

According to Straksiene, one in all the issues a translator faces in translating idioms are the lack of equivalence on the idiom level. All languages have idioms. However as a translator it is difficult to search similar equivalent within the source language in the target language.

Idioms could contain a culture-bound item and it is an obstacle for the translator.

According to Baker proposed the main difficulties may faced in translating idioms are summarized follows:

- a. There is no equivalent between an idiom and the target language.

It is difficult to find the closest equivalent in target text whether meaning and form. Which means it can be difficult. It happens because the meaning of language is interpreted in many ways.

- b. Context of idiom use may be different.

An idiom or fixed expression may have a similar counterpart in the TL but different in the context of use. It means that we can find the equivalent of both languages and the meaning of idiom may have similar meaning to the target text but different context of use.

- c. Frequency of idiom use differs in the SL and TL.

The very convention of using idioms in written discourse, the contexts in which they can be used and

their frequency of use may be different in the source and target languages.

Moreover, Davies points out the difficulties in translating idioms as follows:

a. Recognize idioms

There are different types of idioms, some are easy to recognize and some are not. Idioms cannot be separated from the words. This causes the meaning of the idiom to be different from the original word. Therefore, the main difficulty of translators is being able to recognize idioms.

b. There is no equivalent in the target language

Idioms contain cultural language that is difficult to translate. It is difficult to find the closest equivalent and to find words that are not in the dictionary of the target language. At least there should be a translator.

The process of translating from the source language to the target language needs to be known about the habits of the source language. It must be done by student

because each language has its own rules regarding grammar, contextual, and condition (Saragih, 2020).

Talking about language is not only about language, we also have to consider their culture. Every language in this world has its own culture. So when we do translation, the culture of the source language is one of the most important factors for a translator. This must be doing to avoid communication misunderstandings between the source language in the target language.

It can be concluded that translating idioms is not as easy as usual, because idioms are too difficult to guess correctly. Most people translate idioms literally, moreover they can't recognize idioms. Therefore, translators must be careful in translating idioms accurately and need strategies to solve problems encountered in translating idioms.

### **C. Strategies of Translation Idiom**

The strategy is determined by both linguistic and non-linguistic factors, in addition, with simultaneous translation,

it is possible to combine strategies to achieve the optimal result. According to another definition, translation strategies are the abilities (skills) of a simultaneous interpreter (in addition to language proficiency, the ability to speak and listen at the same time, as well as general knowledge), which require special training from him.

In this case, idioms become tricky to translate without a strategy. A perfect transfer meaning of idiom should be understood by the reader or listener. Therefore, the translator must use the appropriate strategies in translating English idioms to produce a good idioms translation.

According to Vinay and Darbelnet cited in Munday identify seven translation strategies: Borrowing, calque, literal translation, transposition, modulation, equivalence, and adaptation. In their view, there are many strategies to translate. But, the proper strategy to translate idiom by using equivalence strategy. It is because equivalent strategies focus to find an equivalent in source language to target language without reducing the original meaning. Another strategy that

can apply to translate idioms according to Mollanzar is divided into two strategies. First, an appropriate idiom is found in the target language as it is equivalent. Secondly, when there is no proper idiom in the TL meaning should be used.

Meanwhile, Baker also proposed into four strategies that can be used to translate idioms in following below:

1. Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form

This strategy involves using an idiom in the target language which conveys roughly the same meaning as that of the source-language idiom and, in addition, consists of equivalent lexical items. For example:

SL: They are my right-hand man.

TL: Mereka adalah tangan kanan ku.

From the example above, the idiom right-hand is translated tangan kanan in target language. The SL and TL have idioms of similar meaning and form. It will have the same construction in meaning when it is translated back

into English because of its similar and meaningful form in both languages.

## 2. Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

It is often possible to find an idiom or fixed expression in the target language which has a meaning similar to that of the source idiom or expression, but which consists of different lexical items. This strategy uses different lexical items. For example:

SL: Bill is a left-handed man.

TL: Bill seseorang yang kidal.

From the example above, the idiom left-handed is translated kidal into target language. In this case, left-handed has similar meaning but also has dissimilar meaning when it is translated back into English because of its similar meaning and dissimilar form in both languages. The transferring strategy is accepted because it uses the different lexical items to express the same idea.

## 3. Translation by Paraphrase

This is by far the most common way of translating idioms when an equivalent cannot be found in the target language or when it seems inappropriate to use idiomatic language in the target because of differences in stylistic preferences of the source and target language.

For example:

SL: I hope you will pass the exam, *break a leg*

TL: aku berharap kamu akan lulus ujian, *semoga beruntung*

From the example above, the idiom *break a leg* is translated *semoga beruntung* in target language. It showed that the translator use paraphrasing strategy because of differences in style of the source in the target languages. It is translated based on its context which is more acceptable and understandable to find appropriate meaning in the target language.

#### 4. Translation by omission

As with single words, an idiom may sometimes be omitted altogether in the target text. It is because it has no



close equivalent in the target language, its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased, or for stylistic reason.

For example:

SL: Gaga kicks the ball again *for god measure*

TL: Gaga menendang bola lagi.

From the example above, the expression *at all* is by omitted by the translator, which should be translated as *as extra or in addition*.

Otherwise, the message from the source language does not a loss in the target language, therefore it is acceptable that the translator using translation by omission strategy.

By looking at the translation strategies mentioned above, this research used the strategy in translating idiom by baker's theory to analyze the data. It is because baker's theory provides the four strategies that suitable for students when translating idiom is a solution.

#### **D. Previous Study**

To review of related literature, the researcher takes some previous related studies to take principles or comparisons. The previous related studies are as follows:

The first study was conducted by Vitaloca Cindrauli Sitompul (2021) entitled “An Analysis Of Translation Strategies Of Idiomatic Expressions In The Subtitle Alice In Wonderland Movie”. The purpose of this study is to find and analyze the types of expressions and translation strategies used in translating the essence of meaning in the film Alice in Wonderland. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. The writer takes data from English scripts and documentation taken from the essence of meaning in the film Alice in Wonderland. In the film, the writer finds 21 expressions which the writer has classified based on Fernando's theory (Vitaloca, 2021).

The second study is from Saran Perwira Ratu Jenata (2017) entitled “Students’ Difficulties in Understanding English Idiomatic Expression”. The aims from this research

is to investigate the difficulties in understanding English idiomatic expression, and what are the efforts that students used to cope with the difficulties. The data collection technique used for this research were test and interview that the result of the test was used as the guideline to gain the depth information. Based on the result, the researcher found that the first difficulties faced by students to understand the meaning of idiom is the students do not realize when dealing with idiom. Furthermore, the students always get the solution to cope with the difficulties, such as using paraphrasing to understand the meaning of an idiom (Saran, Ratu Jenata Perwira 2017).

Second, research conducted by Donny Bhaskara Wicaksono, Erly Wahyuni entitled “An Analysis of The Strategies Used in Translating Idioms in Indonesia Into English found in Indonesian Legends”. The purpose of this study is to find out; the meaning of the idiomatic and the various strategies which are used in translating idioms in Indonesia into English found in Indonesian Legends. This

research used descriptive qualitative as research design. The documents of the research consisted of the Bahasa Indonesia (SL) and English (TL) translation versions of five Indonesian Legends, namely; Batu Kuwung, Batu Menangis, Gunung Merapi, Tangkuban Perahu and Candi Prambanan. This study revealed that idiomatic expression translation strategy by paraphrasing was the most dominant strategy used by the translator in translating the idiomatic expressions found in five Indonesian Legends (11 out of 18 cases). Meanwhile, the second most common strategy was translating by omission (6 out of 18 cases). The last was the strategy of using an idiom of similar meaning and form which only (1 out of 18 cases). Thus, it can be concluded that the translator only applied three strategies out of the main five strategies of translation idiomatic expression suggested by baker (Wicaksono, Donny bhaskara, 2018).

The fourth research conducted by Dian Paramita Ayuningtyas, Muhimatul Ifadah, Siti Aimah entitled "Difficulties of Students Translating Idiomatic Expressions

from English to Indonesian". This study aims to find out how students translate idiomatic expressions, and the difficulties students experience during the translation process. The sample of this research is 18 English Education students. The results of the accuracy level then lead to an analysis of students' difficulties in translating idiomatic expressions. This study found that 15% of students' translations were totally inadequate, 23% inadequate, 10% adequate, 14% almost successful, and 38% successful. While translation difficulties experienced by students were 73% lexical difficulties, 67.5% stylistic difficulties, 66% cultural difficulties, and 64% grammatical difficulties (AyuningtiaS, 2018).

The last study is from Muslimah, Fadhilah (2019) "An Analysis of Student's Ability in Translating Idioms at Eight Semester of English Department Students in Universitas Negeri Padang". Students majoring in English are expected to have the ability to translate English into Indonesian. One of the materials in translation is idiom translation. Idioms

are also found in many books as a tool for conveying learning material. Therefore it is necessary to learn how to translate idioms. This study aims to find out how students' strategies in translating idioms and how students' abilities in translating idioms in terms of accuracy. This study uses the descriptive method. The data in this study are 30 translations of idioms found in *The Adventures of Tom*. The instrument in this study was the idiom translating test (Muslimah f, 2019).

Based on the finding, interesting researchers the conclusion that the study should concentrate on translation difficulties and students strategies in translating idioms. Based on previous studies on idiom translation, there are similarities and differences across the observed studies. A qualitative descriptive approach supports this research, as a method to identify the way students overcome difficulties in idiom translation.