THE TRANSLATION OF IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS: A CASE STUDY OF "IKAN-IKAN YANG TERDAMPAR" TRANSLATED INTO "STRANDED FISH"

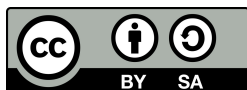**Ririn Tasumbey**
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Abstract

Idiomatic expressions are an essential aspect of language and often pose significant challenges in translation due to their strong cultural underpinnings. This study examines the translation of idioms in the short story "*Ikan-Ikan yang Terdampar",* which has been translated into "Stranded Fish". A qualitative method is employed, supported by Newmark's Semantic and Communicative Translation Theory. The analysis reveals instances of translation loss, gain, and skewing, highlighting the complexities involved in translating culturally bound expressions. The findings underscore the importance for translators to consider cultural context in order to retain the idiomatic meaning and avoid misinterpretation or distortion during the translation process.

Keywords: *English, Cultural Context, Idiomatic Expression, Short Story, Translation.*

Introduction

One of the key components of human existence is language. Though, every nation and even every tribe has its own language. Newmark asserts that the information that is available globally will not be understood by others as it ought to be in the absence of translation (Newmark, 1988). That's why translation comes to bridge the gap between these differences in terms of various languages existence. As we know that it is not easy to do translation of each unit of linguistic inserted in the text such as the structure of the text, or even the idiomatic expressions. Based on (Newmark, 1988) that the process of conveying equivalency between two languages is known as translation. Likewise, Munday (2008) states that the translation should be free (sense-for-sense), innovative, and literal (word-for-word), indicating that should be as close to the original as possible. (Larson, 1989) distinguishes between literal

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and idiomatic translation. A literal's translation known as translation based on form that aims to maintain the structure of the original language. Idiomatic translation, on the other hand, is a equivalence-based translation that aims to convey the sense of the original content into the receptor language (Munawir, 2021).

Idioms and other expressions that serve as a conceptual unit cannot be taken literally, according to Larson (1998). They represent a culture that is frequently distinct from the culture of the target language, making it challenging to locate the same lexical meaning components. The two languages' meaning components will not coincide. From this end, in translating, the translator will make necessary meaning alterations to express the desired meaning of the source language. The example of idiom expression is "son of bitch" which is translated into "dasar jalang". Here, based on the example, the translator did not translate the expression word by word or literally instead of using the other meaning which hiden behind that expression. In doing this research the translator also used Newmark's theory; semantic and communicative methodology to show the two principles of the analysis.

Understanding idiomatic expressions in translation is crucial for accurately conveying the nuances and cultural nuances of a language. Idioms are deeply rooted in the culture and history of a language, and failing to interpret them correctly can lead to misunderstandings and miscommunications. By delving into the meanings and origins of idiomatic expressions, translators can ensure that the true essence of the original text is preserved in the target language. This level of understanding is essential for maintaining the authenticity and tone of the original text, allowing the message to be effectively communicated to a wider audience. Without a thorough comprehension of idiomatic expressions, translators risk losing the subtleties and intricacies that make a language unique. In conclusion, mastering idiomatic expressions in translation is not just about converting words from one language to another, but about capturing the essence and cultural significance of a text. According to (Pangestu et al., 2022) on their journal, it is shown that after analysing The Shawshank Redemption Movie Subtitle, they only found out that there are three four idiomatic translation strategies which is applied to translate the idiom: translation

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through paraphrasing, translation by omission, and translation by similar meaning and form. It means that only some of the idioms from SL (Source Language) has the same meaning and lexical items with TL (Target Language). Meanwhile, (Hidayati & Nihayah, 2024) revealed that although translator used techonologies such as ChatGpt, there will still an error shown due to its inconsistency with the context of the original text.

It requires a deep understanding of the context in which the idiomatic expressions are used, as well as the cultural nuances that may not have direct equivalents in the target language (Larson, 1989). Translators must carefully consider the connotations and implications of each expression in order to accurately convey the intended meaning to the reader. Additionally, a skilled translator will be able to adapt idiomatic expressions to suit the cultural norms and linguistic conventions of the target audience, ensuring that the message is received clearly and effectively. In this way, idiomatic expressions play a crucial role in bridging the gap between languages and cultures, allowing for meaningful communication to take place across linguistic boundaries. Kovacs (2016) revealed that the act of delivering equivalents includes not just the vocal conversation delivery process but also the interpretation of the idiomatic expression. By understanding the nuances of idiomatic expressions, translators can help to preserve the original tone and intent of the text while making it accessible to a global audience. This cultural and linguistic sensitivity is essential in maintaining the authenticity of the message and preventing misunderstandings. Ultimately, the ability to effectively convey idiomatic expressions is key to successful communication in a multilingual world. To ensure that the intended meaning is effectively delivered between languages, a trained translator might have to carefully traverse idiomatic terminology in a legal document, for instance. In different linguistic situations, the translator can help avoid misunderstandings and maintain the document's legal integrity by maintaining the original idioms and cultural background.

This level of attention to detail and cultural sensitivity is crucial in fields such as international business, diplomacy, and literature. In international business negotiations, for instance, the use of idiomatic expressions can either strengthen or

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weaken relationships between parties. A well-translated idiom can demonstrate a deep understanding and respect for the other party's language and culture, fostering trust and cooperation. On the other hand, a mistranslated or misinterpreted idiom can lead to confusion, offense, or even the breakdown of negotiations. In diplomacy, the accurate translation of idiomatic expressions is essential for building strong diplomatic relationships and fostering mutual understanding between nations. Similarly, in literature, the preservation of idioms and cultural nuances is vital for capturing the essence and tone of the original work.

In this study, the source language text is written in English and the target language text is written Indonesian language. The text is published from Hasta Mitra in 2000, and the Indonesian version is written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer while the English version is written by Kevin Dixon. The problem of the study is; "What types emphasis implemented in translation of "Ikan-Ikan Yang Terdampar" and in "Stranded Fish?".

Idiom is a collection of words in a set sequence that have a specific significance that is distinct from the definitions of each word individually." Providing a definition for English is unlike English vocabulary in general. Have a look at this instance, "Don't take on more than you can handle!" When we interpret the expression word for word, it implies that we should not take on too many meals. Nevertheless, in general, the expression advises us not to undertake tasks that are excessively challenging or overwhelming. In essence, we are encouraged to tackle tasks that we truly accomplish or complete. Based on the demonstration, we can assert that a strict approach or converting every word to NK9 create a significance of an expression should not be done. is because phrases "have a unique significance, aside from their specific words" (Hobson, 2017). We should perceive the entire words or phrase as one singular unit that has a particular significance rather than translating word by word.

Idioms are mainly utilized to highlight a point or a concept that we're attempting to convey. Rather than stating, "Things will improve," you could express, "It's always darkest before the dawn." Both statements convey the same idea, but the latter choice is more captivating as it provides a visual contrast. A reader is more likely to recall the

feeling if sensory words are used. Proverbs are also utilized to make our language more captivating and lighthearted. idioms are frequently used to underscore a concept, but at times it's simply more enjoyable to say "Don't flog a deceased equine" rather than "Cease discussing the identical notion repeatedly."

This study is concerned about two main concepts such as idiomatic expression and types of translation such as semantic and communicative principle in translation. The issue in analyzing the idiomatic expression is related to the cultural knowledge of the translator. A translator should know the background culture which inserted in the given language. For instance, in English there is idiomatic expression stated "as white as snow" and it is translated into Indonesian language as *seputih kapas*. The translator makes an adjustment to render the closest equivalent of the original into the receptor language. Larson (1984) stated that in translation the idiomatic, it is necessary to aware the natural forms of the receptor language whether gram matical or lexical items. Translation that is authentically idiomatic doesn't sound like translation at all. It seems to have been written in the receptor language at first. Based on the explanation the specific issue in this research regarding the idiomatic translation is the analysis of the gain, loss, and skewing information which occur on the SL to TL. The previous study only focused on broad strategies which might lack the depth of analysis for specific cases (Wisudawanto et al., 2020). While much research has explored general strategies for idiomatic translation, few studies have examined the specific challenges of translating Indonesian idioms into English while maintaining their cultural and emotional impact. This paper addresses this gap by analyzing the case of idiomatic translation of "Stranded Fish" into "Ikan-ikan yang Terdampar".

Method

The author analyzed the data using the qualitative method. In qualitative research, the data are words rather than numerical values, it is asserted by Creswell, 2023. Qualitative research aims to understand the wonders that research subjects—such as behavior, perception, motivation, and action—experience. Holistically, through the use of language and word descriptions, within a unique natural setting, and by

the application of different natural techniques (Sianturi et al., 2021). The researcher applied qualitative method with descriptive approach as it is known as a process of naturalistic investigation that aims to gain a thorough comprehension of social phenomena within their natural environment. Prioritizing the "why" over the "what" of social events, it relies on people's firsthand experiences as agents who give their everyday lives significance. Qualitative researchers use a variety of methodologies to examine human phenomena, including life stories, individual case studies, historical analysis, linguistic analysis, cultural studies, grounded theory, and experience-based research, in place of logical and statistical methods. The focus of the study is the analysis of idiomatic expression, so the qualitative method is suitable for this study since there is no numerical data provided by the writer.

Data can be recognized as research material, but it cannot be recognized as the research subject. Since data have undergone sorting and election, they are finished materials rather than raw materials. In this study the data is divided into two types, such as primary data and secondary data. The primary data were collected from the source text "Ikan-ikan yang terdampar" and the target text "Stranded Fish". The secondary data were taken from books, journals, articles, etc. The primary data were collected through several steps. First, writer read the both texts ; source text (SL) and target text (TL). The researcher attentively and thoroughly examined those documents, which may have demonstrated the development of the translation technique. The idiomatic expression text was the sole focus of the data. The information was then taken at random from both of the novel versions that correspond to each chapter. Finally, the necessary information was gathered by applying some kind of marking on both novels that used translation techniques related to the Newmark V-flat diagram theory. In supporting the analysis, the writer applied

Newmark's theory which focused on the semantic and communicative methodology. Below is the frame of diagram which describes the two princles:

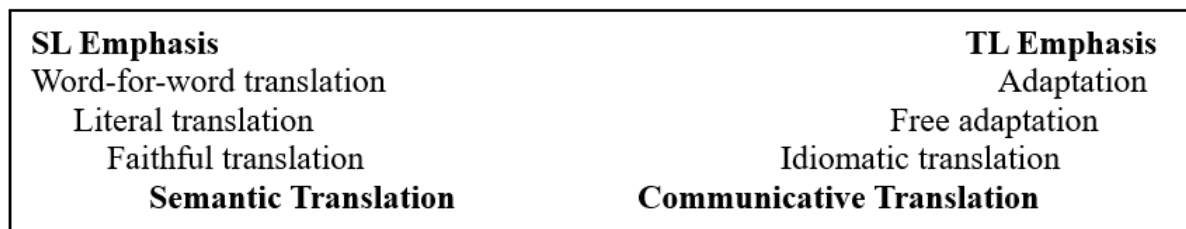| SL Emphasis	TL Emphasis
Word-for-word translation	Adaptation
Literal translation	Free adaptation
Faithful translation	Idiomatic translation
Semantic Translation	**Communicative Translation**

Figure 1. Newmark's Theory

Peter Newmark's approach (1993) to translation emphasizes accuracy and considers both semantic and communicative translation. Semantic translation focuses on adhering as closely as possible to the author's thought processes and the semantic content of the original text, while communicative translation prioritizes the needs and expectations of the target audience, aiming for a natural and readable translation.The data were collected by the purposive sampling, ensuring representation across different chapters. Data analysis were conducted by the approach of Newmark's translation theory. The study focuses solely on idiomatic expression. Newmark (1981) asserts that the goal of semantic translation is to use the syntactic and semantic elements of the objective text to as closely approximate the exact contextual meaning of the source language as possible. However, Newmark (1988) defines idiomatic translation as a translation that adapts the meaning of the original text into the receptor text by utilizing colloquialisms and colloquial terms that are more commonly employed in everyday speech. Moreover, in analyzing the data, the writer also considered the Loss, the Gain, and Skewing information because this part was matter for the idiomatic expression.

Results

On this study, it can be seen that there are some data which is identified as loss, gain and skewing of information. In this study, researcher also revealed the basic principles; semantic and communicative translation. The loss of information can be seen on the word toad which is literally translated into *katak*. Toad usually lives in land

area while katak is an animal which can live in two areas; in the water or on the land. So, it can be categorized that there is loss of information which occurred between the original text into the receptor text. And based on this finding, this is kind of semantic principle which the emphasis is associated to the original text. The gain of information can be seen on the idiomatic expression of son of bitch in SL is translated into keparat in TL. Certain equivalency components that are explicit in the original text will no longer be explicit in the receptor text.

In addition, "gain of information" provides a valuable framework for assessing the quality of idiomatic translation, ensuring that the translated text not only conveys the literal meaning but also preserves the cultural and idiomatic richness of the original This can be seen on the meaning of explicit (son of bitch) into implicit *(keparat)*. The skewing of information can be seen on the idiomatic expression of genuine low-life bastards in source language text is translated into bajingan tulen. The translator try to skewing the information of the idiomatic expression by transfer the natural form of meaning from original text into receptor text. The word *bajingan* had more negative emotive meaning rather than bastards.

This result affirms the previous study by Difatrialdi Muji Pangestu (2021) in their journal titled "Translation Strategies of English Idiomatic Expression in The Shawshank Redemption Movie Subtitle" that indicates not all idioms from the first language and lexical items from the objective language have the same interpretation. This is because in translating idiomatic expressions is more complex than translating plain text or word-for-word (Munday, 2008). Due to each language has various lexical items (Venuti, 1995), the researcher suggests that the most common method for translating idioms from the original text to the objective text needs to apply this approach.

Discussion

Discussion on how the meaning of an idiom can change based on the context in which it is used, making it important for translators to take into account the overall setting of the text. This principle emphasizes the need for translators to understand

the cultural and situational background of the original text to accurately convey the intended meaning in the receptor text(Larson, 1989). By examining the context of idiomatic expressions like "*Ikan-ikan yang Terdampar*" translators can ensure more accurate and nuanced translation that captures the essence of the original phrase. Translators must also consider the connotations and implications of idioms in different cultures, as a literal translation may not always convey the same message (Newmark, 1993). Additionally, understanding the cultural nuances of idiomatic expressions can help translators avoid misinterpretations or offensive translations. By incorporating cultural sensitivity and context analysis into their translation process, translators can produce more authentic and effective translations that resonate with the target audience. This level of attention to detail is crucial in ensuring that the meaning and tone of the original text are preserved in the translated version. It requires not only linguistic proficiency but also a deep understanding of the cultural context in which the text is being translated. Translators who take the time to research and fully grasp the nuances of idiomatic expressions in both languages are better equipped to produce accurate and culturally appropriate translations. Ultimately, the goal of translation is to bridge language and cultural barriers, and this can only be achieved through a thoughtful and thorough approach to the translation process.

This level of attention to detail is essential in order to convey the intended message accurately and effectively. It is not enough to simply replace words with their equivalents in another language; translators must also consider the connotations and implications of the original text (Wijaya et al., 2020). By taking the time to delve deeply into the nuances of both languages, translators can ensure that the essence of the original message is preserved in the translated version. Only then the true communication across language and cultural barriers can be achieved. This level of dedication and precision sets professional translators apart from amateurs or machine translations. It requires a deep understanding of both languages, as well as the ability to capture the tone, style, and cultural references of the original text. By approaching translation in this way, translators can bridge the gap between different languages and bring people together through shared understanding. In a world that is

increasingly interconnected, the role of skilled translators in facilitating communication and fostering mutual understanding is more important than ever. For example, a professional translator working on a literary piece must not only accurately translate the words but also capture the nuances of the author's writing style and voice. This requires not just linguistic proficiency, but also a keen eye for detail and an appreciation for the artistry of language.

Furthermore, translators must possess cultural competence in order to accurately convey the intended meaning and context of the original text. This involves understanding the cultural nuances, references, and idioms that may not have direct equivalents in the target language. Without this cultural sensitivity, translations run the risk of being inaccurate or losing the essence of the original work. Therefore, skilled translators must not only be proficient in multiple languages, but also have a deep understanding of the cultures from which those languages originate. This combination of linguistic expertise and cultural awareness is essential for producing high-quality translations that truly capture the essence of the original text.

The researcher has found some data that shows the indication of idiomatic expression which will be revealed as follows;

1. The Loss of Information

Table 1. Data 1

Source Language Text	Target Language Text
Toad! You're nothing but a toad!. (Toer,2000:48)	Katak! Engkau ini tidak lain daripada katak! (Dixon Toer, 2000:19)

The idiomatic above, the source language "*toad! You're nothing but a toad!*" is translated into "*katak! Engkau ini tidak lain dari pada katak*". Within this text we can see the word of *toad* which also translated into *katak*. Bell stated one approaches of word meaning is meaning postulates. It means that a word which would relate meaning to meaning through the conventios of set theory. We can identify semantic features among *toad* and *katak* as shows in the following table;

Table 2. Sematic Features 1

Semantic features	SL: Toad	TL: Katak
Animal	+	+
Live in two areas (water and land)	-	+
Connotative meaning; commonly describes as a living creature which has bad behavior	+	+

Toad is a small animal that looks like a frog but has dry skin and mostly lives on land, besides *toad* also defined as an unpleasant person (Meriam-Webster). In the target language text *toad* is literally translated into *katak*. As far as we know that *katak* is an animal which can live in two areas; in the water or on the land but more likely seen close to the water. Thus according to this definition, there is loss of information which occurred between the original text into the receptor text. It also can be concluded that the form meaning is from specific to generic as seen from the definition of toad (specific) while *katak* (generic).

As we have seen on the analysis above, that the translator used faithful procedure in translating the idiomatic expression. Even though it may be a literally translation, but the equivalence meaning is matched to the source language text, that for Indonesian's culture, the word of *katak* has a particular meaning which is associated to someone who is good at making adjustment in every new environment. This type is kind of semantic principle which the emphasis is associated to the source language text.

Table 3. Data 3

Source Language Text	Target Language Text
Infidel! (Toer, 2000:70)	Keparat (Dixon, 2000:42)

The data above, the word of *infidel* in source language text is translated into *keparat* in target language text. the definition of *infidel* according to oxford dictionary is a person who does not believe in religion or who adheres to a religion other that one's own. In the translation of *infidel*, the word of *keparat* is more like to show a feeling of anger, whether the speaker is a religious person or even not, she/he might

be called as *keparat*. Among this comparison, the translation shows the loss of information which occurred on the idiomatic expression among the original text into the receptor text. Here the translator makes an adjustment to the receptor language.

2. The Gain of Information

Table 4. Data 4

Source Language Text	Target Language Text
He's a real son of a bitch! (Toer, 2000:49)	Memang keparat dia! (Dixon, 2000:21)

The data above shows that the idiomatic expression of *son of bitch* in source language text is translated into *keparat* in the target language text. According to Roger T. Bell, he stated that there is reference theory in doing the translation of word meaning. Reference theory is the relationship between phenomenon observed through the senses and the words that are used to refer to the phenomenon. The phenomenon of son of a bitch is always related to express the feeling of the humanbeing's bad behavior while this phenomenon connect to the sense meaning of the word keparat which also tends express the same feeling. In this sequence, some component of meaning which are explicit in the original text will be made no longer explicit in the receptor text. in this translation, it can be concluded that there is gain of information which resulted by the meaning of explicit (*son of bitch*) into implicit (*keparat*).

Table 5. Data 4

Source Language Text	Target Language Text
Your body is nothing but skinny and bones. (Dixon, 2000:52)	Badanmu kerempeng. (Toer, 2000:23)

The data above shows that the idiomatic expression of *your body is nothing but skin and bones* is translated into *badanmu kerempeng*. Here the translator used the sense of meaning in original text into the receptor text while the phenomena of skinny and bones has the same sense of meaning in the word *kerempeng*. The component meaning of skinny and bones is explicit which *skinny* means very thin and

bones in terms of body means a man who has a very thin body and the bones only cover by the skin without any meat. In transferring the meaning, the component of meaning in target text become implicit which explained that *skinny and bones* is *kerempeng*.

Table 6. Data 5

Source Language Text	Target Language Text
Hearing krontjong makes me sick. (Dixon, 2000:53)	Aku jijik mendengar krontjong. (Toer, 2000:24)

As shown on the bold words, in source language text, the idiomatic expression of *make me sick* is translated *aku jijik* in the objective text. literally make me sick can be defined as *membuat saya sakit*, but the translator put the meaning of it as *aku jijik* as part of sense of meaning in terms of implicit component meaning. As explained by Bell that in gain of information; some component of meaning of the original text will no longer be explicit in the receptor text. Look at this translation. The explicit component meaning in the original text is turn to be implicit component meaning in the the receptor text. This translation results the gain of information.

3. The Skewing of Information

Table 7. Data 6

Source Language Text	Target Language Text
How peaceful my heart would now be. (Dixon, 2000:47)	Alangkah akan tenang hatiku sekarang ini. (Toer, 2000:18)

Finding lexical equivalents is inherently challenging when speakers of the receptor language come from a culture that is frequently extremely different from that of speakers of the source language (Larson, 1998). According to this claim, a word's meaning components will vary depending on the language, possibly as a result of regional differences, cultural norms, or beliefs. The skewing of information can be recognized in the many ways that people express themselves. In the source language text, the idiomatic expression of *peaceful my heart* is translated into *tenang hatiku* in the target language text. The word *heart* is translated *hati* in TL text. As we know that

heart is not *hati* in bahasa Indonesia literally, but *jantung*. According to Brata, (2014) that the "heart" (*jantung*) and "*hati*" (liver) refer to distinct entities with distinct purposes. The viewpoint, however, is on the form of the object heart, which is logically tilted to hati (liver), which is culturally distinct and evident from the way the heart and hati are positioned and shaped in the source and target languages, respectively. Nevertheless, because of their comparable duties, they have the same connotative meaning, as demonstrated by the two [+] signs below:

Table 8. Connotative Meanings

Connotative meanings	SL: *heart*	TL:*hati*
Outside part of the chest (as a part-whole relationship)	[-]	[+]
Where feelings and emotions are especially those connected with love	[+]	[+]
Faster beating can be felt when feeling or emotions arises	[+]	[+]

Table 9. Data 7

Source Language Text	Target Language Text
For these last six months we've been genuine low-life bastards, (Dixon, 2000:51)	Sudah enam bulan ini kita memang bajingan tulen, (Page 22)

It appears from this data that the idiomatic expression of *genuine low-life bastards* in the orgininal text is translated into *bajingan tulen*. According to Larson (1984) that the translation of equivalence-based, makes the process to communicate the sense of the original source into natural forms of the receptor language results the occurance of skewing translation, such translation is called idiomatic translation. Reflecting to this statement, it also occured in the translation of genuine low-life bastrards into bajingan tulen. The translator tries to skewing the information of the idiomatic expression by transfer the natural form of sense from the original text into receptor language. The word *bajingan* had more negative emotive meaning rather than *bastard*s. Let's take a look at a semantic features table below;

Table 10. Semantic Features 2

Semantic Features	SL: *Bastards*	TL: *Bajingan*
Unpleasant or despicable person	[+]	[+]
Born of parents not married to each other, illegitimate	[+]	[±]
A thing	[±]	[-]

Conclusion

It cannot be denied that idiomatic expression is important in translation process. This research advances the importance of context as this idiomatic translation research stresses the significance of considering the context in which idioms are used (Yulian & Yingxian, 2020). In essence, research in idiomatic translation advances the field by identifying the complexities involved, proposing strategies to overcome these complexities, and developing resources. Translator should be very careful in translating the idiomatic expression. The change of meaning in translation, either in the form of loss or gain, is inevitable. The change is influenced by several factors (Wijaya et al., 2020) . Thus translator need to master some knowledge about these aspects in the target source then the opportunity of rendering the equivalent of the meaning can be created. On the study, the researcher found out some aspects of idiomatic expression such as the gain of translation, the loss of translation and the skewing of translation. For the future research it would be better to subjectivity in Evaluation: Evaluating the "quality" of a translation can be subjective. What one person considers to be an accurate and effective translation, another person may find to be inadequate (Cruchinho et al., 2024). These findings highlight the uniqueness of idiomatic translation, emphasizing the challenges of maintaining cultural and linguistic accuracy

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