II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Definition of Translation

Translation is a common subject that has been discussed and analyzed by many people until today, especially in the field of literary studies. For that reason, the definition of translation has been proposed by experts and has been developed into a broader perspective to define what translation is.

According to Peter Newmark (1988) in his book called A Textbook of Translation, he defines translation as: "often, though not by any means always, it is rendering the meaning of a text into another language in the way that the author intended the text" (Newmark, 5). Translation could be defined as rendering text from one source language (SL) to the other language, the target language (TL). It’s not only the matter of word choices but also how the translation itself could bring the same meaning from the source text (ST) and language into the different components of word choices and the structures in the target text (TT) and language.

Furthermore, Eugene A. Nida (1982) stated that “translating consists in reproducing the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source-language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style” translation is also reproducing the target language which has its most natural (Nida, 12). Not only was translation defined as rendering the source language into the target language, but translating also means to reproduce the source language in the most natural way possible into the target language, and by that, the meaning and the context of the text could be read and understood easily in the target language. So, as translators render the meaning, they also need to consider the naturalness of their translation using the target language. They need to make sure that the overall product feels natural by the meaning and their style of translating the literature product.

B. The Problem of Non-equivalence

Translators have to understand the meaning between the signs that are connected by each word, it is often rare to find the same pattern of grammatical phrase or sentence in the TL to match and carry the meaning from the SL. Therefore, those difficulties become a problem of matching the equivalence either at word level or above word level. Mona Baker (2018) defines that non-equivalence at word level means that the target language has no direct equivalent for a word that occurs in the source text (Baker, 19). Meanwhile, idiomatic expressions are considered as the problem of translation above the word level.
as idiom is the combination of words to form stretches of language (Baker, 53) and it gives the thought that we couldn’t find the exact same phrase between languages because it will be impossible to find sameness in the pattern of the Source Language and the Target Language. The problem of non-equivalence then becomes such a big matter in doing the task as a translator. Translating one language into another requires genuine precision in finding similar words or phrases that create the same meaning of the SL text in the TL.

C. Idiomatic Expressions and the Problem of Non-Equivalence

The form of non-equivalence could be different from one to another, the level of its difficulties can also be different because of many factors. Baker stated that the type and level of difficulty posed can vary tremendously depending on the nature of non-equivalence (Baker, 19). The form of non-equivalence itself have many variations, it may be strictly linguistic such as collocations and idioms, or it may be extra-linguistic (Baker, 16). The translation of idioms, for instance, takes us a stage further in considering the question of meaning and translation, for idioms, like puns, are culture bound (Bassennett, 32). We cannot translate idioms literally as word-for-word translation, because it might cause misunderstanding to the receiver of the literature product. Therefore, through this study, the researcher will propose a further explanation on how idioms translated into the Target Language (TL).

D. Definition of Idiomatic Expressions

Mona Baker (2018) in her book In Other Words: A Coursebook on Translation, explains that idioms are an extreme type of collocations for their flexibility of patterning and transparency of meaning (Baker, 69). Idioms often create meanings that cannot be translated by their individual words or cannot be deduced from their individual components (Baker, 69). Because idioms are culture-bound, sometimes idioms are hard to be recognized, as different cultures in languages could have different types of idioms.

As Beekman and Callow (1974:121) have stated that idioms are expressions of “at least two words which cannot be understood literally and which function as a unit semantically” (qtd. in Larson, 125); Jean Delisle (1999) also proposed a similar definition of idiomatic expressions (Delisle, 144). While in the Cambridge Dictionary, an idiom is defined as a group of words in a fixed order that has a particular meaning that is different from the meanings of each word on its own. Idioms are the type of expressions which likely to be misunderstood (Nida, 2) and seem to be unnatural by people who aren’t
familiar with how idiomatic expressions form in a sentence. On the other side, the idiomatic expressions could be seen as something natural by the native speaker of the language who uses it (Newmark, 28). For example, it is very natural to use the phrase ‘break a leg’ in the English language between people who perform, this term is used for wishing someone good luck before they perform (definition by Cambridge Dictionary). But, for the people who aren’t familiar with this phrase would think that the person who uses this idiom means it in a literal way, to break someone’s leg, which will be a dangerous kind of act.

So idiomatic expressions are the type of expressions formed by a group of words that cannot be translated literally by word-for-word translation. This problem makes the process of translation much more complicated. When the translator finally found and could recognize the idiomatic expressions, they should find the right interpretation of the meaning.

E. Difficulties in Translating Idiomatic Expressions

There are two types of problems commonly found in understanding the meaning of an idiom. Firstly, an idiom could sound so literal in the context, which then got ignored by the reader or translator as it seems so natural for the context. For example, this sentence: “Kevin has spilled the beans at the dinner table, leaving his family in shock”. The phrase spill the beans followed by ‘at the dinner table’ seem so natural in the context. However, spill the beans carries two meaning, first is the literal event of Kevin spilling the bean while eating, second is the idiomatic meaning: to tell people secret information (Cambridge Dictionary). The second problem is that some idioms in the target text can be very similar to the idiom of source text, thus the reader or translator without further search considered both idioms as the same idioms. For example, the idiom ‘has the cat had/got your tongue?’ in English is something you say to someone when you are annoyed because they will not speak (Cambridge Dictionary). There is a similar expression used in French, but with a different meaning that says: donner sa langue au chat; to give one’s tongue to the cat. This expression means to give up, in the case when someone give up to answer a riddle.

As translating idioms cannot be done easily by finding the equivalent of each word individually and the translator might misinterpret it within the two cases above, it has been a challenge for the translator to translate an idiomatic expression. As mentioned before, idioms may vary from one language to another. Baker stated some possibilities that the translator might found some of these difficulties:
1. As languages express things in different ways, from the meaning to the pattern of a sentence, an idiom may not have the equivalent in some of the other languages.

2. Some idioms have similar form or structure with different meaning and vice versa. So, the translator should find the closest form or meaning of the idioms.

3. Play on idiom might be used in a text, meaning that an idiom might be used in its literal or idiomatic senses in the text, unless the idioms in target language are equivalent with the idiom in source language both in form and in meaning.

4. Using idiom especially in written discourse may rely on either the usage of idiom is conventional or not, because some languages have different level of formality and sensitivity in using specific type of phrases such as idioms.

F. Strategies of Translating Idiom

In a response to the difficulties that might be a challenge for the translators, several experts had found a way to make the solution to this problem, for example, Mona Baker. Baker proposed these 6 strategies of idioms translation:

1. Using an idiom of similar meaning and form

To find a roughly similar meaning and matching lexical items of idiom in two or more different languages is very occasional, and this strategy seem to be the least used strategy by translator.

Example:

ST: I heard that Louis stab Lili in the back, I thought she was innocent.
TT: Aku dengar Louis menusuk Lili dari belakang, aku kira dia anak baik.

The idioms of *stab someone in the back* and *menusuk dari belakang* meaning ‘to harm someone who trusts you.’ Both idioms of SL and TL are very similar in meaning and form. As it has been mentioned before, this type of idioms is very rare since the lexical items in each language may differ, the chance of two languages having the same form and meaning of idioms is occasionally.

2. Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form

To find a similar meaning but dissimilar form of idiom in the source language and target language is possible and easier way to transfer the meaning of the idiom without losing its form of idiomatic expressions. More often than not, the structure or the pattern will be different in each language.

Example:

ST: I don’t have enough time, but I could kill two birds with one stone.
TT: Aku tak punya banyak waktu, tapi aku bisa *menyelam sambil minum air*. 
These two idioms have a different composition of lexical items and imagery, but both idioms mean to achieve or do two things at the same time or in one action. This one might be easier than the previous strategy since it is more likely for idioms between languages to have a similar meaning but a different form.

3. **Borrowing the source language idiom.**

This strategy is used when the idiomatic expression become a special element in the sentence. It can be found in the form of, for example, a trademark.

Example:

ST: Learn the truth about space – fact and fiction in the Out of this World space gallery – you can hunt the alien or journey to the planets on our interactive computer displays


The idiom *Out of this World* in the source text is referring to the space gallery in the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester (UK). But it is also a play on the idiomatic meaning of *out of this world* (‘fantastic’, ‘superb’, ‘extremely good’) and the more concrete meaning of ‘beyond the earth’ which refers to what the visitor of the museum might expect to see in a space gallery.

4. **Translation by paraphrase**

By far, paraphrasing is most likely to be used when the equivalence phrase or words cannot be found in the target language. Another reason to use this strategy is when the usage of idiomatic expression seems to be inappropriate for some languages. For example:

ST: Sam is certainly not afraid to speak his mind.

TT: Sam tentu tidak takut untuk mengutarakkan pendapatnya.

The idiom *speak your mind*, meaning to say what you think about something very directly, doesn’t have a fixed expression of idiom in the target language. *Mengutarakkan pendapatnya* may sound similar to the idiom in the source text, especially from the form of the sentence, but it’s really just a paraphrase of the meaning of idioms in the source language.

Paraphrasing an idiom has a similarity with two of the strategies of translating non-equivalence, those strategies are *translation by more general word* and or *translation by paraphrasing using unrelated word*. By using the more general
word, we could translate idiom into a more understandable phrase if the text were read by people that unfamiliar with idiomatic expressions so that the text makes sense to the readers. By paraphrasing an idiom with unrelated words, the translator could simply unpack the meaning of that idiom or modify the general word of the idiom.

5. **Translation by omission of a play on idiom**

   This strategy is allowed to be use only if there is a clear understanding that the idiom being used in the source text are for its literal and idiomatic senses.

   Example:

   **ST:** Having the timetable handed to him, Felix immediately gets the show on the road.

   **TT:** Setelah menerima jadwal susunan acara, Felix segera menjalankan pertunjukannya.

   The English text plays on the idiomatic meaning of the expression as well as the concrete meaning of *show*, which is suitable for the context given that Felix is the person in charge of the show. *To get the show on the road* has two meanings, the first meaning is the idiom: to start an activity or a journey. The second one is the literal, which is a show is about to be held. This play on idiom is rather difficult to reproduce in the target text, so the Indonesian translation opts for sacrificing the idiomatic meaning in this instance.

6. **Translation by omission of entire idiom**

   This last strategy is the only strategy to be used when there are no matching phrases, form, and meaning. As long as the idioms didn’t have a big function for the co-text or didn’t leave a big impact for the co-text, it is allowed to completely omit the idiom. Example for this case, taken from this sentence:

   **ST:** Ten to one, he’ll end up in the principal office.

   **TT:** Dia akan berakhir di ruang kepala sekolah.

   The idioms ‘ten to one’ means very probably or something is more likely going to happen or not going to, and there is no equivalence of this idiom in Bahasa Indonesia that have the same form or different form and same meaning could be found. In this case, as the speaker is very assured that their friend will end up in the principal office just by looking at their action that might be shown in a written regulation, the idiom may be omitted in the target text.
7. There is one strategy Baker proposed besides these 6 strategies, the strategy is called compensation. While this strategy might be discussed within the thesis, Baker stated that the illustration of this strategy takes too much time and space to be discussed. The point of this strategy means that one may either omit or play down a feature such as idiomaticity at the point, where it occurs in the source text and introduce it elsewhere in the target text.