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Baker's Strategies Used in Translating English Idioms Into Indonesian in Crazy Rich Asians By Kevin Kwan

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Article Info	Abstract
	The use of appropriate strategies to translate idioms determines the quality of the idiom translation because the meaning of idioms cannot be extracted from its each component word.The research was conducted to describe the types of idioms found in Crazy Rich Asians novel and to analyze the strategies used in translating the idioms by applying Baker's translation strategy.The data were taken from idioms found in Crazy Rich Asians novel. There were 325 data which were analyzed qualitatively to determine the types of idioms and what strategies were employed. The result shows that opaque phrases dominated of all idiom types, followed by semi-transparent phrase, semi-opaque phrase and transparent expression. There were five strategies employed in translating idioms, they were using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission and literal translation. Translation by paraphrase is the most frequent strategies used to translate idioms because the equivalent idioms in Bahasa Indonesia are not available. Even though in Baker's strategy does not include literal translation, this strategy is applicable to translate transparent expression, but it is not appropriate in translating opaque phrases. This research will be beneficial as the source of information and reference related to the translation of idioms.

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INTRODUCTION

One of the tasks that translator should deal with is translating idioms. Idioms come with entailment that includes cultural aspects, religious beliefs, culture specific items, superstitions and different ideology of people from diversified societies or nations. Idioms can be distinguished easily by native language speakers, but to those who are not of, they will find it difficult to comprehend. Baker (2011) claims that mostly for foreign language learner culture poses a big problem on account of cultural setting (as cited in Ling, 2017, p.1295). Idioms reflects the characteristic of language, the community's way of life and culture. When translating idioms, there might be counterpart of the expressions but they cannot always be applied in the same context.

Idioms are parts of the figurative languages that cannot be separated from novel. In translating English idioms into Indonesian in *"Crazy Rich Asians,"* a novel from Kevin Kwan, it is inevitable to encounter the problem of finding idioms equivalence because both languages are distinctively different in both linguistics and cultures. So, it is up to the translator's ability to be cognizant of idioms. Besides that, the translator should employ the appropriate strategies in translating idioms. Because, when the strategies are correctly applied, the product of the translation will be able to represent the message conveyed by TL. In this case, the lost translation and misunderstanding can be avoided.

Translating idioms compels the translator to utilize some strategies to provide a good idiom translation. Baker (1992) suggest five strategies of translating idioms and fixed expressions (as cited in Sadeghi and Farjad, 2014, p. 249). They are using an idiom of similar meaning and

form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission and compensation strategy.

There are several studies related to strategies used in translating English idioms into Indonesian. Saputro (2012) investigated the strategy used in translating idioms in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows. In his study, he concluded that the most strategy used in idiom translation is translation by paraphrase. In line with Saputro, Khosravi and Khatib (2012) also conducted study to analyze the application of strategies in translating English idioms into Persian in Novels. Khosravi and Khatib reached the conclusion that translation by paraphrase is the most frequent strategy used. Lafta (2015) also gives the same conclusion that the translation by paraphrase the most common used strategy in idiom translation. Besides that, Sugiarti and Andini (2015), Rahmaganti and Himmawati (2015), and Ili (2016) have come to conclusion that among Baker's idiom translation strategies, translation by paraphrase appears to be the most employed by translators to translate idioms. However Arezi (2015) who conducted similar study presents different result when dealing with strategies in translating idioms. Arezy's study examined the applied strategies in the translation of idiomatic expressions in 2 American subtitle movies, namely *Mean Girls* (2004) and *Bring It On*! (2009). He concluded that the use of the Baker's strategies in translating idioms is not equally distributed since the high frequency of the strategy used is translation by omission.

According to the previous studies mentioned above, it has not been known the study which investigates strategies used to translate idioms from English into Indonesian in *Crazy Rich Asians* novel by Kevin Kwan. The novelty of this research

is this novel also contains many idioms which are totally different from Indonesian when it comes to the context of use. Besides, the diversity of idioms this novel provides will give advantages to the writer because the more idioms founds the more accurate date will be resulted. This study is crucial to be carried out because this novel is considered as a best-selling novel but after reading it, there are some idioms which translated incorrectly. Thus, it is important to know that strategies used in translating idioms are appropriate to deal with problem of equivalence found in English idioms.

The aim of the research is to describe what types of idioms found and then to analyze what strategies applied in translating the idioms in *Crazy Rich Asians* novel. Therefore, this research, theoretically, will help to improve the knowledge of strategies in translating idioms in novels. Practically it can be used as a guidance to comprehend the realization of translation strategies in translating idioms. Pedagogically, this study will be advantageous to the students in improving the knowledge about the realization of translation strategies in translating English idioms into Indonesian.

METHODS

This research used descriptive qualitative method to analyze 325 idioms found in Crazy Rich Asians novel. The subject of this research focuses on the two versions of novels, the original version written by Kevin Kwan entitled "*Crazy Rich Asians*" and the Indonesian version "*Kaya Tujuh Turunan*." The Object of the study is Indonesian translation of English idioms in the novel of *Crazy Rich Asians* and its original book. Then, the object of the study focuses on idioms which are represented in the two novels. Those idioms are analysed

to know what types of idioms and the translation strategies used by the translator and how it realized.

After the data were collected, then they were analyzed step by step. Firstly, identifying and selecting the idioms by italicizing and bolding the words. Secondly, after the data was identified, then it was classified to its idiom types based on Fernando and Flavel's theory. Thirdly, it is reducing. There were some data that were reduced because it was found that the same idioms occurred more than once. Thus, those idioms were removed, so that the main focus was on the problem at hand. The next step was interpreting. After classifying the data, I explained the analysis of how the implementation of translation strategies were being applied in translating English idioms into Indonesian in Crazy Rich Asians novel into the data sheet, then interpreted it. Fourthly, reporting the result of the analysis and the last step is drawing the conclusion about the implementation of translation strategies in translating idioms in *Crazy Rich Asians* Indonesian translation novel and giving suggestions related to the result of the problem.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The aim of the research is to describe what types of idioms and to analyze the strategies in translating idioms in *Crazy Rich Asians*. After conducting the analysis, it can be found that there are 325 idioms. They are categorized into four types of idioms as proposed by Fernando and Flavel (1981). Those idioms are classified into transparent expressions (TE), semi-transparent expression (SE), semi-opaque phrase (SO) and opaque phrase (OP) which are summarized in the table below.

Table 1. The Summary of English Idiom types found in Crazy Rich Asians

Chapter	Types of idioms				Total
	TE	SE	SO	OP	
Part 1	30	37	31	60	158
Part 2	16	24	17	26	83
Part 3	14	18	24	28	84
Total	60	79	72	114	325

Based on the table above it can be seen that there are 325 idioms found in *Crazy Rich Asians* novel by Kevin Kwan. Those are divided into opaque phrases which dominate the whole idioms with 114 data, followed by semi-transparent phrase idioms which have 79 data. While the total idioms of semi-opaque phrase are 72 and the least amount of all idioms is transparent expression with 60 data.

After identifying it is described the realization of translating strategies in translating idioms. According to the result of the analysis, it is found that four out of five idiom translation strategies proposed by Baker (2006) are used to translate idioms. They are using an idiom of similar meaning and form (UISMF), using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form (UISMDF), translation by paraphrase (TBP) and translation by omission (TBO). One strategy that cannot be found in the translation of idioms is compensation strategy (COMP). Besides those strategies, it is also found the other strategy proposed by Newmark (1988). It is that the translator also applies literal translation (LT) in translating idioms. The analysis of the strategies used for translating idioms can be seen in the table below.

Table 2. The Application of Idiom Translation Strategies

To Id.	UISMF	UISMDF	TBP	TBO	COMP	LT	Total
TE	-	-	-	-	-	60	60
ST	16	1	52	2	-	8	79
SO	7	3	57	2	-	3	72
OP	8	4	87	3	-	12	114
Total	31	8	196	7	-	83	325

From the data provided in the table above, it can be perceived that the highest frequency of translation strategies applied is translation by paraphrase which the total of occurrence is 196. Evidently, semi-transparent phrase, semi-opaque phrase and opaque phrase are translated by paraphrase. Surprisingly, in second place, the literal translation is applicable in some cases of idiom. It appears that literal translation is used to translate transparent expressions with 60 data. However, this strategy is also applied in translating semi-transparent phrase, semi-opaque phrase and opaque phrase. The other frequent strategy used is using an idiom of similar meaning and form with 31 data, and followed by using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form with 8 data. Rarely does the translator translate the idiom by omission, which in this novel, the total of data translated by omission is only 7. The only one strategy that does not occur in this study is compensation.

Types of Idioms in the Translation of *Crazy Rich Asians*

Related to the types of English idiom, there are 325 English idioms found in Crazy Rich Asians. With 114 data, opaque phrases are the highest number of idioms, then it is followed by semi-transparent phrase with 79 data, semi-opaque phrase with 72 data and transparent expression with 60. Those types of idioms have changed in forms after translated into Indonesian. Nevertheless, there are four English idioms that have equivalent idioms in Bahasa Indonesia, but for some reasons, the idioms are not translated using the similar idioms. For example:

SL: *Nick was over **bright and early**.*

TL: *Oh tidak, Nick sudah datang **pagi-pagi.***

(Chapter 11, p.392)

The idiom **bright and early** means very early, and it has a similar idiom in Bahasa Indonesia *pagi buta*. *Pagi buta* means very early before the sun rises. So, instead of using pagi-pagi to render the idiom bright and early, the translator can use *pagi buta* to make the translation has the same impact as in SL text.

Transparent Expressions

Transparent expression is the type of idiom which is close in meaning to the literal one (Dumitascu, 2007, p. 4). The meaning of an idiom of this type can be inferred from the meaning of its constituent. That is why this kind of idiom is considered to have a clear meaning or easily predicted. In the novel, there are 60 units of data of transparent expressions. One of the example is:

SL: Nick said, turning around reflexively to **make sure** no one in the cozy little spot had overheard him.

TL*: Kata Nick, secara reflex berbalik untuk **memastikan** tidak ada orang di sudut*

yang nyaman itu mendengar perkataanya.

When **make sure** is translated into Bahasa Indonesia some of the element of the idiom words have a literal meaning that can be predicted from its constituent words. **Make sure** means *memastikan* has the meaning that is derived from one of individual words of make sure. The meaning of the idiom is to find out or do something so that one has no doubt about whether something is true, correct, will happen, etc.

Semi-transparent Phrases

Semi-transparent phrase is a kind of idiom that has a component that links the literal and figurative meaning or it can be regarded as metaphors that have a counterpart with a literal meaning (Saputro, 2012, p. 26). In *Crazy Rich Asians*, there are 79 data that belong to semi-transparent phrase. For example,

SL: "Well, until *something* happens, there's no point **making a big deal** out of it**,**"

TL: "*Yah, sampai sesuatu terjadi, tidak ada gunanya **membesar-besarkan hal ini.**"*

Make a big deal means to treat (something) as very important or too important which the Indonesian translation of the idiom is ***membesar-besarkan hal ini*** (to exaggerate this matter). This idiom can be translated literally and it still has a logical meaning. Meanwhile, the figurative meaning is close to the literal one. If we break down each word of **make a big deal**, it consists of **make, a, big**, and **deal**. **Make** means create, **big** of considerable size and **deal** a particular form of treatment given or received. When all those words combined and translate literally, it means to create a great compromise which shows that the literal meaning has the similarity that of figurative. Therefore, the idiom **make a big**

deal is semi-transparent expression because the figurative meaning has a counterpart in literal meaning.

Semi Opaque Phrase

Semi-opaque phrase is regarded as a metaphor idiom which is not completely intelligible (Dumitascu, 2007, p. 5). Furthermore, the expression is separated into two parts: a part of the phrase has a literal meaning and while the other part has a figurative sense. There are 69 data out of 325 idioms found in this novel. One of the example of semi-opaque phrase can be described below:

SL: Daisy said in a whisper, relishing that she was the one **breaking the news** to

Eleanor. (Chapter 2, p. 37)

TL: *Bisik Daisy, menikmati kenyataan bahwa dialah yang pertama **menyampaikan kabar** ini kepada Eleanor.*

The idiom meaning of **breaking the news** is to tell someone about some important new information. In Bahasa Indonesia, it is translated into **menyampaikan kabar** (deliver the news). If we pay close attention to the meaning of the idiom, one of the word still carries the literal meaning. In this case, the word **news** maintains its literal meaning, and **break** denotes the figurative meaning. Besides that, the action of **breaking news** is not something logical. Thus, this idiom expression belongs to semi-opaque idioms.

Opaque Phrases

Opaque phrase can be considered as a full idiom because the meaning cannot be obtained from its each word constructing it (Dumitascu, 2007, p. 6). When it is translated literally, the meaning of this idiom is completely incomprehensible. This opaque phrase is proven to be the most frequent idioms that is found in the novel. The example of this idiom can be depicted as follow:

SL: "Anyway, we were dining with all these *ang mor*[*] VIPS and MPs[‡] visiting from Singapore and as usual Cassandra Shang is **holding court**." (Chapter 7, p. 63)

TL: *"Anyway, kami sedang makan dengan semua tamu VIP dan AP ang mor yang sedang berkunjung dari Singapura, dan seperti biasa Casandra Shang **menguasai semuanya**."*

Holding court means to be the center of attention among friends or admirers. The Indonesian translation of holding court is **menguasi semuanya** (control everything). It is considered as an opaque phrase because the meaning itself cannot be derived from each of the words constructing it. **Hold** means arrange and take part in (a meeting or conversation). **Court** means the place where a court meets. The combination of **hold** and **court** create a new meaning that is totally different from when the meaning is obtained from the individual word. If it is forcefully translated literally, there is a chance that it will lose its meaning.

The Realization of Translating Strategies in Translating English Idioms

Regarding to the translation strategies used by the translator in translating idioms, there are five strategies employed by the translator found in the novel. Apparently, not only Baker's (2006) idiom translation strategies but also Newmark's (1988) is applied in the idiom translation. They are using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission and literal translation. However, there is one Baker's strategy that doesn't appear in the findings because all the

translation idioms are already covered by the implementation of those five strategies. Thus, the compensation strategy is not applied at all in idiom translation.

Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form

This strategy is applied when TL shares idioms that are equal in meaning lexical items. It means that the TL idioms have similar structures as in SL and the meaning of translated idioms is identical to the meaning of ST idioms (Habizar, 2016, p. 47). In this matter, the meaning and lexical items of Indonesian idioms are equivalent to that of English idioms. Nevertheless, it goes without saying that not every English idiom has a counterpart in Bahasa Indonesia because those two languages are different. That is why this strategy is less frequently used in translating idioms (Ili, 2016, p. 281). The example of translating strategy using an idiom of similar meaning and form is expressed below:

SL: But it all came to a shocking end nine days before the most lavish wedding Asia had ever seen when Astrid and Charlie were sighted having a screaming match **in broad daylight.** (Chapter 9 of Part One, p. 80)

TL: *Namun semua itu berakhir dengan mengejutkan Sembilan hari sebelum pernikahan palimg mewah yangpernah terjadi di Asia, saat Charlie dan Astrid sedang perang mulut hebat **di siang bolong.***

In broad daylight is an idiom which means it happens during the day, when it could have been seen and prevented. This idiom is translated into *siang bolong* which also belongs to an idiom in Bahasa Indonesia. We can see it from the Back Translation above that **in broad daylight** is translated into **in the middle of the bright day**. And *siang bolong* means in the middle

of the day when the sun shines so bright. The idioms in both language also share the equivalent lexical units in terms of forms. In English **in broad daylight** is a prepositional phrase and in Bahasa Indonesia *di siang bolong* is also a prepositional phrase. So, it is clear that between **in broad daylight** and *di siang bolong* are idioms that lexically and semantically equal.

Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

Besides the strategy explained above, the other strategy used in translating idioms is using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. This strategy is used when the translator encounters the idiom which has no similar lexical items in TL, but still shares the similar meaning (Baker, 2006, p. 74). From the data provided by those two strategies, it can be said that the occurrence of those two strategies are very rare because of the difficulty in translating idioms as explained by Winarto and Tanjung (2015).The examples are described below:

SL: He was absolutely **head over heels in love** with Rachel… (Chapter 4 of Part One, p.49)

TL: *Nick **jatuh cinta setengah mati pada Rachel**…*

According to online Cambridge Dictionary, **head over heels in love** means completely in love with another person. This meaning is similarly shared with its translation that is *jatuh cinta setengah mati*. It means to completely fall in love. The meaning of both idioms is similar as it is shown in the back translation above. However, there is a difference in the lexical form. The form of **head over heels in love** is an adjective phrase, while Bahasa Indonesia *jatuh cinta setengah mati* the form

becomes verbal phrase, i.e. **to completely fall in love**.

Translation by Paraphrase

Translation by paraphrase is the most preferred strategies in translating English idioms into non-idiomatic expression in Bahasa Indonesia. Baker (2006) states that translation by paraphrase is the most common way of translating ST idioms which do not have the equivalent in TT. It is not easy to find the equivalent of SL idiom or there is no appropriate idiom and then transferred it into TL idiom. Hence, the translator tries to render the meaning of ST idiom using words in TL which are similar or close in meaning to ST, but the words do not make up an idiom. In other words, almost the whole idioms of all type are translated using this strategy because it can enable the translator to reproduce message in TL which is equivalent to SL idiom (Kovacs (2016, p. 76; Saputro, 2012, p. 27; Ahmadi, 2017, p. 114). The examples are described below:

SL: Maybe he had always been shielded by their grandmother, since he was **the apple of her eye.** (Chapter 4 of Part one, p.49)

TL: *Mungkin Nick selalu dilindungi oleh nenek mereka, karena merupakan **cucu kesayangan.**)*

The apple of her eye is an English idiom, which according to online Cambridge Dictionary means the person who someone loves most and is very proud of. If we analyze word by word, the meaning has no relation with words forming it. The Indonesian translator may not have been able to find the idiom with an equivalent meaning and form in Indonesian, and simply paraphrase it into *cucu kesayangan*. If the words are back translated, **the apple of her eye** changes into **beloved grandson**. Even though, the Indonesian translation is not in the form of

idiom, but it can convey the message contained in the SL.

Translation by Omission

The omission strategy is when the translator chooses not to translate the idioms because the equivalent is not available in TL, the meaning is not easy to be paraphrased and it is omitted because of the stylistic reasons. Therefore, the use of this strategy can be regarded as justifiable, if the omission is to avoid the lengthy explanation and the inexistence of idiom does not affect the whole meaning of the text (2018, p. 135). Besides that, according to the result of the findings, translation by omission is the least used strategy as stated by Lafta (2015). From the analysis of the idiom translation in the novel, there are some idioms translated by omission. One of the example of idioms translated by omission can be seen as follow:

SL: Now Rachel was absentmindedly rubbing her index finger ***back and forth*** over her upper lip, her brow slightly furrowed. (Chapter 4, p. 45)

TL: *Sekarang Rachel tanpa sadar menggosok-gosokkan jari telunjuk kebibir atasnya, alisnya sedikit mengerut.*

The idiom meaning of back and forth is backward and forward. This expression is decidedly omitted from the Indonesian translation because without the existence of this idiom the meaning is still clearly perceived and does not affect the whole message of the text.

Literal Translation

Besides those strategies above, in this research, it is also found the literal translation. There are 83 out of 325 data translated literally. This strategy proposed by Newmark (1988) is unavoidable in the idiom translation especially when idioms of source language is similar to those of the

target language in terms of words choice, collocation and social meaning (Chen, 2009, p. 166). 60 out of 83 data are literally translated correctly. Even though being translated literally, the meanings of the idioms are not distorted and still maintain the idiomatic expressions. However, 23 idioms which are translated literally are not able to preserve the SL idiom meaning. As a result, the Indonesian idiom translation sounds unnatural and the impact of the intended message form the SL cannot be successfully received by the readers. Oualif (2017, p. 30) also adds that the translator should avoid the literalism because in translating idiom, there are cultural aspects that should be considered. The example of idioms is described as follow:

SL: …swathed in an airy confection for what seemed like ten hours, guzzling down Diet Cokes to **fight off** her jet lag. (Chapter 4, p.48)

TL: … *terbalut dalam baju rancangan halus untuk rentang waktu yang rassanya sudah sperti sepuluh jam, dan sibuk menenggak Diet Coke untuk **melawan jet lag**.*

The idiom **fight off** means fighting or struggling. When it is translated into Indonesian, it becomes *melawan* (fight). **Fight off** is a word combination from **fight** and **off**. Fight means struggle to overcome, eliminate, prevent and off is a preposition. In Bahasa Indonesia, **fight off** is translated literally because the idiom does not form a new meaning. Even though the literal translation is used, there is not any loss in meaning.

The similar studies have been conducted in dealing with strategies in translating idioms. Those studies, found that the common strategies used for translating idioms were using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form,

translation by omission, and literal translation. For example, in Habizar (2016) who investigated the strategy used in translating idioms in "Ziarah" from Indonesian into English, while Lafta (2015) conducting the similar study which aimed to analyze the strategies used in translating idiom from English to Arabic in "Animal Farm." Besides, Winarto and Tanjung (2015) carried out study to analyze the strategies used and the degree of meaning equivalence in Transformer III-Dark of the Moon. My study is in line with them because it is also investigating the strategy used in translating idioms. Those studies reached conclusion that the best way to deal with translating idioms by strategies proposed by Baker, they are using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, and translation by omission. The differences between my study and those studies are that my study analyze from English into Indonesian translation. Besides that, the object of the study is also different, which is the novel analyzed is from English into Indonesian.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that opaque phrase appeared more frequently in the novel. When opaque phrases were translated into Indonesian, the translator used translation by paraphrase strategy to deal with them. Besides that, this strategy can be used to translate semi-transparent phrase and semi-opaque phrase. Apparently, literal translation comes after translation by paraphrase. This strategy is applicable in dealing with transparent expressions, but it is not applicable when translating other types of idioms, especially opaque phrase because, when translators forcefully

employ literal translation to translate opaque phrases, the meaning will be distorted and the intended meaning will not be received by the recipients. In addition to the findings, the translation of English idioms into Indonesian applies translation by paraphrase to almost the idioms shows the greater gap of culture between English and Indonesian.

However, in some cases, the English idioms can be translated using an idiom of similar meaning and form and using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. The number of the idioms which were translated using these two strategies are small. Due to the difference of culture, these idioms cannot be found the equivalent in Bahasa Indonesia. It also occurs in translation by omission. The translator used this strategy when the existence of the idioms does not affect the meaning of the message of the text. The last strategy which does not appear is compensation strategy. It is due to when translating the idioms, the other five strategies can cover the problems of translating idioms.

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