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## **Translation Strategies of English Idiomatic Expression in *The Shawshank Redemption* Movie Subtitle**

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**Abstract:** *The Shawshank Redemption* movie is a meaningful movie which needs to know more about. The objective of this research is to examine the translation strategy of idiomatic expressions used by the translator in *The Shawshank Redemption* movie subtitle. The data is obtained by watching closely *The Shawshank Redemption* movie repeatedly, note-taking, compare the idiomatic expression used by the characters and its translation strategies in the subtitle from the movie. The data that has been collected is translated using Baker's Theory but descriptively outlined. The result of this research showed that there are 19 utterances of idiomatic expressions found in *The Shawshank Redemption* movie based on Seidl and McMordie's (1988). All of 19 idiomatic expressions are classified based on Baker's (1992) translation strategies into 4 idioms of similar meaning and form, none of idioms of similar meaning but dissimilar form, 10 translations by omission, and 5 translations by omission.

**Keywords:** Idiomatic Expression, Movie Subtitle, Translation Strategies

## **INTRODUCTION**

Translation is the process of transmitting meaning from one language to another (Newmark, 1984). According to Munday (2001), a translation should be literal (word-for-word), which means it should be as similar to the original as possible, free (sense-for-sense) and creative. Larson (1984) identifies two types of translation: literal and idiomatic. A literal translation is a form-based translation that attempts to preserve the original language's form. Meanwhile, idiomatic translation is a meaning-based translation that attempts to understand the meaning of the source-language material in the target language's forms.

Kovacs (2016) stated that process of translation does not only involve the delivery process of oral conversation but also includes conveying the meaning of the idiomatic expression. Several idiomatic expressions in the source language (SL) are confusing if understood literally by the target language (TL) and not by recognizing its meaning and its usage. Kovacs (2016) states that even competent translators who are very expert to the target language and its grammatical structure still does not have the ability like a native speaker of target language in deciding whether the translation object is considered as an idiomatic expression or not

based on the context of the text.

Idioms are expressions of words or phrases with a metaphorical meaning that may be understood in terms of the common usage of the expression that is separate from the literal meaning. Idiomatic expression is a part of the language that incorporates words and phrases that cannot be translated literally (Peaty, 1983). She also says that certain idiomatic phrases are more generic than others, maybe easily translated, and have a clear idiomatic meaning. According to Hornby (1995), an idiom is a phrase or expression whose meaning is not explicit from the meaning of its individual words and must be learned as a whole unit. According to Seidl and McMordie (1988), an idiom is a grouping of words with meanings that differ from the individual meanings of the words.

The researcher aims to examine the type of idiomatic expression and its translation strategies that used by the characters of *The Shawshank Redemption* movie. *The Shawshank Redemption* is an American drama film about Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins), who, despite his claims of innocence, is condemned to live in Shawshank State Penitentiary for the murder of his wife and her boyfriend.

In order to be able catching truly messages by funs and order, its need a strategy of translation which help filmmaker's aims

ambiguous. Baker's theory instead be closely a starategy of translation in this study.

Furthermore, this research is conducted for translation strategy of the idiomatic expressions from any movie subtitle. This research can be used as a resource for other researchers who want to perform research on idiomatic expression and its translation strategies.

## METHODS

This research used descriptive qualitative method to translate 19 idioms found in *The Shawshank Redemption* movie. The subject of this research focuses on types of idioms found in *The Shawshank Redemption* movie. The Object of the study is Indonesian subtitle of English idioms in *The Shawshank Redemption* movie. Then, the object of the study focuses on idioms which are represented as subtitle of the utterance from the character. Those idioms are classified what types of idioms and the translation strategies used by the translator. After the data were collected, then they were classified.

Firstly, coding the data based on their types of idiom. Secondly, it is data reducing; the data came from watching the movie and transcribing. The result shows the data about the types of idiomatic expression and its translation

strategies in the movie subtitle. In this step, the irrelevant data is reduced, and the needed data is included. The next step was data display. After reducing the data by selecting the utterances that related with idiomatic expressions to be analyzed, the next step is displaying the data. In this step, the selected data will be identified and classify as idiomatic expression based on Seidl and McMordie's (1988) theory of idiomatic expression and examine the translation strategies are used in the translation of idiomatic expressions in the subtitle of *The Shawshank Redemption* movie according to theories taken from Baker (1992). Last step is drawing conclusion, the results related to the types of idiomatic expressions and the translation strategies used in the translation of idiomatic expressions in the subtitle of *The Shawshank Redemption* movie obtained through the data analysis will be used for drawing conclusion.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### The types of idiomatic expression found in *The Shawshank Redemption* movie

As result, the writer only found 19 data classified as idiomatic expression. The following table described types of idiomatic expression based on Seidl & McMordie's (1988).

**Table 1.** Classification of Idiomatic Expression

NO	Types of Idiomatic Expression	Total
1	Idioms with Adjectives and Nouns	4
2	Idiomatic Pairs	1
3	Idioms with Preposition	1
4	Phrasal Verb Idiom	2
5	Verbal Idiom	9
6	Idioms Based on Special Categories	2
TOTAL		19

According to Table 1. Above there are six types of idiomatic expression which occur in the movie namely idioms with adjectives and nouns, idiomatic pairs, idioms with preposition, phrasal

verb idiom, verbal idiom, and idioms based on special categories.

Based on collected data, the researcher presented detailed data, as following:

### a. Idioms with Adjective and Nouns

TIME	SL	TL
00:12:11	That <b>tall drink of water</b> with silver spoon up his ass	<b>Minum dari gelas besar</b> dengan sendok perak di pantatnya

From the data shown above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Idioms with Adjective and Noun based on

Seidl and McMordie theory (1988) because the word *tall* is adjective and *water* is noun.

TIME	SL	TL
00:26:21	So, I'm a <b>rock hound</b>	Aku adalah <b>pemburu batu</b>

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Idioms with Adjective and Noun based on Seidl and

McMordie theory (1988) because the word *hound* is adjective and *rock* is noun.

TIME	SL	TL
01:44:52	Outside, all you need is <b>The yellow pages</b>	Diluar semua yang kau perlukan adalah <b>Yellow pages</b>

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Idioms with Adjective and Noun based on Seidl and McMordie theory (1988) because the word

*yellow* as an adjective and *pages* is a noun, the term is represent a phone book or a section of one that listing businesses and other organizations.

TIME	SL	TL
01:53:18	I see you two all the time. You're <b>thick as thieves</b> , you are	Aku melihat kalian berdua sepanjang waktu. Kau <b>dungu seperti pencuri</b>

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Idioms with Adjective and Noun based on Seidl and

McMordie theory (1988) because the word *thick* as an adjective and *thieves* is a noun.

#### b. Idiomatic Pair

TIME	SL	TL
00:52:21	Well, I'll give you the <b>dime tour</b>	Baik, aku akan memberimu <b>tur murahan</b>

From the table above, the data is classified as an idiomatic expression with the type of Idioms with Adjective and Noun based on Seidl and McMordie theory (1988) because the word is

*dime* is American coin that worth ten cents which is a noun, meanwhile *tour* is also a noun. The term is use to show someone around.

#### c. Idioms with Preposition

TIME	SL	TL
02:15:39	I could use a good man to help me get my <b>project on wheels</b>	Aku bisa menggunakanmu untuk membantu <b>proyek yang sedang berjalan</b>

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Idioms with Preposition based on Seidl and McMordie theory

(1988) because the idiom shown above begins with *project* as a noun connected with preposition *on to wheels* which is a noun.

#### d. Phrasal Verb Idiom

TIME	SL	TL
01:37:33	There can't be the least <b>little shred of doubt</b>	Tidak boleh ada <b>keraguan sedikitpun</b>

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Phrasal Verb idiom based on Seidl and McMordie theory

(1988) because the idiom shown above used intransitive verb phrase and a preposition *of*.

TIME	SL	TL
02:00:04	A man nobody ever laid eyes on before <b>strode into</b> the Maine National Bank	Lelaki yang tidak ada seseorangpun mengetahui sebelumnya <b>melangkah menuju</b> Maine National Bank

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Phrasal Verb idiom based on Seidl and McMordie theory

(1988) because the idiom shown above used intransitive verb *strode* which came past form from the word *stride* and a preposition *into*.

### e. Verbal Idiom

TIME	SL	TL
00:27:05	If I were you, I'd <b>grow eyes in the back of my head</b>	Jika aku adalah kau, aku akan <b>memasang mata di punggungku</b>

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Verbal Idiom: verb+noun based on Seidl and

McMordie theory (1988) because the idiom shown above used verb *grow* and noun *head*.

TIME	SL	TL
00:32:10	I wish I could tell you that Andy <b>fought the good fight</b>	Aku berharap bisa mengatakan padamu Andi <b>bertarung hebat</b>

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Verbal Idiom based on Seidl and McMordie theory

(1988) because the idiom shown above used past form of verb *fight*, which *fought* and adjective phrase *good fight*.

TIME	SL	TL
00:47:25	Now...I'm <b>gonna open up my fly</b>	Sekarang... <b>aku akan membuka burungku</b>

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Verbal Idiom based on Seidl and McMordie theory

(1988) because the idiom shown above used the verb *gonna open up* and a noun *my fly* which refer to male reproductive part.

TIME	SL	TL
00:51:24	The truth is, Norton wanted to <b>size Andy up</b>	Kebenarannya adalah Norton ingin <b>menilai Andy</b>

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Verbal Idiom based on Seidl and McMordie theory

(1988) because the idiom shown above used the verb *size up* and a noun *Andy*.

TIME	SL	TL
00:52:19	<b>Ain't that kick in the head?</b>	<b>Bukankah itu membuka matamu?</b>

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Verbal Idiom based on Seidl and McMordie theory

(1988) because the idiom shown above used the verb *kick* and a noun *head*.

TIME	SL	TL
01:24:31	Hey, come on old boys, <b>moving like molasses</b> , making me look bad	Ayolah bocah tua, <b>bergerak seperti gula tebu</b> , membuatku terlihat buruk

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Verbal Idiom based on Seidl and McMordie theory (1988) because the idiom shown above used the

verb *moving* and a noun *molasses*, which refer to a thick, dark brown syrup obtained from raw sugar during the refining process.

TIME	SL	TL
01:31:16	I got me this job one time, <b>bussing tables</b> at a country club	Aku mendapatkan pekerjaan ini satu kali, <b>membersihkan meja</b> di klub country

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Verbal Idiom based on Seidl and McMordie theory

(1988) because the idiom shown above used the word *bussing* which mean and *table* that worked as a noun.

TIME	SL	TL
01:40:03	<b>Catching my drift?</b> Or am I being obtuse?	<b>Mengerti maksudku?</b> Atau aku menjadi lamban?

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Verbal Idiom based on Seidl and McMordie theory

(1988) because the idiom shown above used the verb *catching* and noun *my drift*.

TIME	SL	TL
02:15:42	I'll <b>keep an eye out</b> for you	Aku akan <b>menunggu</b> dirimu

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Verbal Idiom based on Seidl and McMordie theory

(1988) because the idiom shown above used verb *keep an eye out* and the word *you* as a noun.

#### f. Idioms Based on Special Categories

TIME	SL	TL
00:25:23	Rumor has it, you're a real <b>cold fish</b>	Rumor mengatakan kau adalah <b>ikan dingin</b> sebenarnya

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Idiom based on Special Categories: Animal Idiom based on Seidl and McMordie theory (1988) because the

idiom shown above using *fish* to express idiom, in this type idiom animal become a main subject rather than just complimentary.

TIME	SL	TL
00:36:36	I don't need no smart wife-doing banker to tell me <b>where the bear shit in the buckwheat</b>	Aku tak perlu kau untuk menagtakan padaku dimana <b>beruang buang air di soba</b>

From the table above, the data is considered as an idiomatic expression with the type of Idiom based on Special Categories: Animal Idiom based on

Seidl and McMordie theory (1988) because the idiom shown above *bear* as its main subject rather just complimentary.

**The translations strategies of idiomatic expression found in *The Shawshank Redemption* movie subtitle.**

**Table 2.** Translation Strategies of Idiomatic Expression

NO	Types of Idiomatic Expression	Total
1	Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form	3
2	Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form	-
3	Translation by paraphrase	11
4	Translation by omission	5
TOTAL		19

According to table 2. Above this study applied Baker;s (1992) theory of translation strategies, Mona Baker describes the following ways of interpreting idioms in her book *In Other Words* (1992):

**a. Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form**

Baker (1992) defines using an idiom of similar meaning and form as a strategy that involves an idiom in the target language that expresses about the same meaning as the source language and also contains equivalent lexical items. There are 3 data using an idiom of similar meaning and form translation strategies, which are;

Source language	Target language
If I were you, I'd <b>grow eyes in the back of my head</b>	Jika aku adalah kau, aku akan <b>memasang mata di punggungku</b>
I could use a good man to help me get my <b>project on wheels</b>	Aku bisa menggunakanmu untuk membantu <b>proyek yang sedang berjalan berjalan</b>
Now...I'm <b>gonna open up my fly</b>	Sekarang...aku akan <b>membuka burungku</b>

The data above is classified as an idiom with the similar meaning and form, because the translation is accurate and natural.

**b. Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form**

According to Baker (1992), using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form is a strategy that uses an idiom in the target language that has a similar meaning to the source language (idiom) which consists of distinct lexical items. A translator will use an idiom in the target language that has the same meaning as the source language idiom, even if the form is different. There are no data used using an idiom of similar meaning but

dissimilar form translation strategies.

**c. Translation by paraphrase**

Translation by paraphrase is a strategy used when the translator cannot identify an idiomatic form in the target language. According to Baker (1992), those strategies are used when there is no meaning in the target language or when the use of the idiomatic expression in the target text is unsuitable due to stylistic differences between the source and target languages, however, this is not always the case. There are 11 data that are using translation by paraphrase translation strategies, which are;

Source language	Target language
So, I'm a <b>rock hound</b>	Aku adalah <b>pemburu batu</b>
I wish I could tell you that Andy <b>fought the good fight</b>	Aku berharap bisa mengatakan padamu Andi <b>bertarung hebat</b>
The truth is, Norton wanted to <b>size Andy up</b>	Kebenarannya adalah Norton ingin <b>menilai Andy</b>
<b>Ain't that kick in the head?</b>	<b>Bukankah itu membuka matamu?</b>
Well, I'll give you the <b>dime tour</b>	Baik, aku akan memberimu <b>tur murahan</b>
I got me this job one time, <b>bussing tables</b> at a country club	Aku mendapatkan pekerjaan ini satu kali, <b>membersihkan meja</b> di klub country
There can't be the least <b>little shred of doubt</b>	Tidak boleh ada <b>keraguan sedikitpun</b>
<b>Catching my drift?</b> Or am I being obtuse?	<b>Mengerti maksudku?</b> Atau aku menjadi lamban?
I see you two all the time. You're <b>thick as thieves</b> , you are	Aku melihat kalian berdua sepanjang waktu. Kau <b>dungu seperti pencuri</b>
A man nobody ever laid eyes on before <b>strode into</b> the Maine National Bank	Lelaki yang tidak ada seseorangpun mengetahui sebelumnya <b>melangkah menuju</b> Maine National Bank
I'll <b>keep an eye out</b> for you	Aku akan <b>menunggu</b> dirimu

The data above are categorized as an idiom translation by paraphrase since none of the data has a proper idiom in the target language, just a phrase or sentences with the same meaning as the idiom.

#### d. Translation by omission

According to Baker (1992), idiom may be omitted entirely in the target language. This

might be because it has no close equivalent in the target language and its meaning is difficult to paraphrase. So, when there is no close equivalent in the target language and it cannot be simply paraphrased, this method is applied. Finally, the translator may choose to leave out the idiom in the translation. There are 5 data that using translation by omission translation strategies, which are;

Source language	Target language
That <b>tall drink of water</b> with silver spoon up his ass	<b>Minum dari gelas besar</b> dengan sendok perak di pantatnya
Rumor has it, you're a real <b>cold fish</b>	Rumor mengatakan kau adalah <b>ikan dingin</b> sebenarnya
I don't need no smart wife-doing banker to tell me <b>where the bear shit in the buckwheat</b>	Aku tak perlu kau untuk mengatakan padaku dimana <b>beruang buang air di soba</b>

Hey, come on old boys, <b>moving like molasses</b> , making me look bad	Ayolah bocah tua, <b>bergerak seperti gula tebu</b> , membuatku terlihat buruk
Outside, all you need is <b>The yellow pages</b>	Diluar semua yang kau perlukan adalah <b>Yellow pages</b>

Because none of the data has a proper idiom or anything that has the same meaning and form as the target language, the data above is classified as an idiom translation by omission.

## CONCLUSION

The result of this study is indicate that not all idioms concluded that not all idioms from SL (Source Language) has the same meaning and lexical items with TL (Target Language). The researcher only found three of the four idiomatic translation strategies used to translate the idiom: translation by similar meaning and form, translation by paraphrase, and translation by omission. The most common idiomatic translation strategy used in the movie is the translation by paraphrase. Because they are the most common strategy to translate idioms, using such strategies is quite helpful for translators. The researcher suggest that to translating idiom from SL (Source Language) to TL (Target Language) is used the most common strategies due to the differentiates of lexical items of each language.

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