CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background of the study, statements of problem, purpose of the study, scope and limitation, significance of the study, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

We are familiar with a language, because it is a part of our daily activities to transferring our mind. Language is important thing in human life; it is functioning to give expression to our thought. Language based on Chomsky (2002: 1) is point of view of the human mind that is significantly represented in the brain and part of the biological contribution of the species, so as he says that language is a natural thing. From the explanation of Chomsky, language relates to brain because it functions as drawing human thoughts. According to Brown (1994: 4), language is the way to communicate and interact in the form of vocal symbol based an arbitrary system; that authorizes the society in a given culture.

From the explanation above, we know that language focuses on vocal symbol, human thought; and it is an arbitrary system. Language cannot be separated from communication; both are interrelated. Humans being are social creatures that need something as a delivery of their mind. Based on Field (2003: 4), it could be said communication if two or more individuals exchange information. Language is one type of communication; but there are some other types as well. Fields further takes
the example of traffic lights; it is one of the types of symbolic communication to inform people that red color means “stop” while green = “go”. Facial expression, body language, nods, hand signal, smile and winks are forms of communication that draw or convey ideas and feelings of human to the others. In general, the forms of communication are divided into two kinds: verbal and non verbal communication. In this case, we are concentrating on verbal communication which is divided into two kinds: oral and written. Oral and written communications are based on vocal and non vocal. Oral communication deals with vocal as spoken language. In contrary, written communication deals with non vocal. In this study, we focus on written communication.

English is an internationally accepted language. Based on Crystal as cited in Rohma (2005: 3), thirty regions use English as their first language, including USA, Canada, Britain, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and several Caribbean countries. But not for that single reason English becomes a global language. Although other countries do not use English as their first language, they give special credibility to English. The countries that do not speak English provide special status for English as a second language (ESL) or as a foreign language (EFL).

From the explanation above, English becomes an important language in the entire world, because it is the world language of government, diplomacy, computing, business, banking, science, technology, medicine, aviation engineering, Hollywood films, tourism and so many other things. Every country should learn the knowledge and the progressive of other countries in order to expand technology and increase the science and the other things.
Every country has a different culture and language. In this case, translation is an important thing to bridge the difference between countries that have different language and culture. According to Wills as cited in Hartono (2003: iv), around a decade ago, about two million scientists in the world published their research from all of sectors in science, but from the results of these studies 50 percent incomprehensible, because the reader does not have the ability to understand a foreign language. That is why translation is one of important studies. With translation, we can open our firmament of the world.

In the process of translation, sometimes the translator confuses to grasp the meaning of writer in Source Language (SL). In fact, to become a good translator, a translator should know the purpose of writer in SL. Based on Finlay (1974: 3) said that the translator should understand fully about what the writer meant in SL, and also understand the subject-matter of the source text. Moreover, the translator should be able to expresses the thoughts of the source text in the target text. Therefore, a translator should carefully digest the notion from the writer. Getting the notion for a translator means a translator should understand the meaning or the purposes of writes. And also, a translator could convey the purpose of writer to the reader as if the reader read the original text.

Some language expressions are compositional; while some others are non-compositional. Compositional expressions are understandable from the general reading. Differently, the meanings of non-compositional expressions cannot be predicted from the meaning of its constituents. In this case, idioms are included into
non-compositional. Based on Kadden (1999: vi) idioms cannot be understood with only translating a single word in idioms, because when the words are joined together the meaning will be changed. We must learn them as a whole. An idiomatic expression is a frozen pattern that no variation in form and often their meaning cannot be translated by individual word (Baker: 63). Therefore, idioms are included into non-compositional.

Idioms are frequently used in daily language. It can be said that, idioms are important and natural part of all languages as well as a well-known part in everyday conversation. Lim (2004) said that English is wealthy of idioms as Chinese and other great languages. English idioms could be established in dissimilar situation of life and are used in language skill as writing and speaking, in formal style and informal style.

For translating idioms, translator cannot translate them by simply translating word for word. Idioms such as metaphors have concealed meaning. Thus, we need to know them as a whole; not word for word or phrases. Baker (1992) distinguishes idiom from collocation by the flexibility of patterning and transparency of meaning; idioms carry of unpredictable meaning which cannot be translated by individual meaning.

In the previous research, Maharani (2008) investigated the ability of seventh semester student in English Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang in translating English idiom into Bahasa Indonesia. She found that the students’ ability in translating English idiom into Bahasa Indonesia was good. She also found the other students who have difficulties in finding the closest meaning of English idioms
by using unsuitable strategy. The students used word for word translation method and omitted the meaning of idiomatic words.

The shortcoming of Maharani’s thesis is not mentioning and investigating specific strategies for translating idioms. The strategies used Maharani are too general, because she only uses word for word and omitted strategies. Moreover, she does not explain what is meant in unsuitable strategy that is used by students. In this study, the researcher wants to reveal strategies that are used by students in English Department, University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

In this study, the researcher used the specific strategies of translating idioms based on Baker (1992). The strategies cover various aspects of process in translating idioms. Baker (1992: 71) said that not only about the problem of whether an idiom with a similar meaning is obtainable in the TL, but many factors that make idioms can be translated into another language. In this research, the researcher used the strategies for translating idioms suggested by Baker to find out the strategies that are used by students of English Department of University Muhammadiyah of Malang.

1.2 Research Problems

In this study, the researcher wants to solve the following problems:

1. What are the strategies of translating English idioms in recount text into Bahasa Indonesia that is used by English Department students of Muhammadiyah University of Malang?

2. What are the strategies of translating that are frequently used by English Department student of Muhammadiyah University of Malang?
1.3 Research Objectives

Related to the statement of the problem above, this study is intended to:

1. find and analyze the strategies of translating English Idioms in recount text that are used by English Department students of Muhammadiyah University of Malang.

2. find the strategies of translating that are frequently used by English Department student of Muhammadiyah University of Malang.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

In this study, the researcher analyzes strategies of translating idioms and the strategies that are often used by English Department students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang, especially in translating recount text.

Moreover, this investigation relies on five strategies in idiom analysis based on Baker (1992) in the process of research. The strategies are tools to limit the researcher in analyzing what the strategies are used by English Department student of University of Muhammadiyah Malang. For the text, the researcher chooses recount text in order to make the research more specific. The researcher will analyze the writing of English Department students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang in the seventh semester especially translation class.
1.5 Significance of the Research

The finding of this study contributes information and knowledge that can be significant both for the students and the lecturer. For the students, the specific description of this study is expected to enlarge knowledge on strategies of translating English idioms, especially in strategies of translating idioms used by English Department students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

For the lecturers, this study is expected to give contribution in teaching translation studies especially the strategies of translating idioms that are commonly used by English Department students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang. Furthermore, this study enhances the lecturer appreciation on translation studies of idioms.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

The researcher provides the classification of the key term in order to avoid misinterpretation in understanding the terms related to the study:

1. *Translation* consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style (Nida and Taber as cited in Safi, 2011: 9).

2. *Idioms* are frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form and, in the case of idiom, often carry meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual component (Baker, 1992: 63).

3. A *translation strategy* is a procedure for solving a problem encountered in translating a text or a segment of it (Baker as cited in Safi, 2013: 54).
4. *Recounts* is telling about a series of events happening one after the other (Grenville, 2001: 194).