CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers research background, research problems, research objectives, scope and limitation, research significances, and definition of key terms. Each of them is described in the following sections.

1.1 Research Background

Information is shared in the world wide into different languages, so that it is essential to master some languages in order to gain the messages in recent times. In gaining the messages, it is sure that translation process occurs. In fact, only some of people are able to master the source language. Hence, good translators are considered very essential to bridge two different languages.

Interesting issue in translation process is idiom for, according to Langlotz (2006: 1), it is a peculiar linguistic construction that has elevated many eyebrows in linguistics and often gives confusions to newcomers in a language. Idiom itself is a frozen pattern of language carrying meanings that cannot be understood by partially translating individual components (Baker, 2011). Its hidden meaning often makes translators stuck in when they are trying to find the closest and equivalence meaning. Therefore, studying idiomatic translation is important because a good translator is able to convey the intended meaning of idiom by the writer (of literature works) in order not to lead readers into different interpretation.

Dealing with idiomatic expressions, it requires translators to comprehend theories about it and also the strategies to translate it. An appropriate translation strategy is needed to have a better result. As proposed by Baker (2011), some
strategies are applied in the translation of idiom namely using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, borrowing the source language idiom, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission of a play on idiom, and translation by omission of entire idiom.

As it is found from the previous studies, the translator applies several translation strategies in translating idiomatic expressions. A study done by Rasus S. Basarang entitled *Strategies Used in Translating Sherlock Holmes’ Idiomatic Expressions in the Film “Sherlock Holmes (2009)”* showed that three translation strategies are applied, namely using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, and translation by omission. In addition, another study with the title *Idioms and Strategies of Translation in Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* by Rizky F. Saputro found that four translation strategies are applied, which include idioms of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, and translation by omission.

This study analysed a novel entitled *The Housekeeper and the Professor* that is translated by Maria Lubis into Indonesian in the same title. This novel is worthy to be researched for it brings the notion of sincerity. It is shown by the housekeeper who ingenuously takes care of the professor of mathematics whose memory only lasts for eighty minutes.

### 1.2 Research Problems

Based on the research background above, the research problems are stated as follows.
1. What are the English idioms found in *The Housekeeper and the Professor* novel by Yoko Ogawa?

2. What are the translation strategies used to translate English idioms in *The Housekeeper and the Professor* novel by Yoko Ogawa into Indonesian?

1.3 Research Objectives

According to the research problems above, this study has several objectives as follows:

1. To discover the English idioms found in *The Housekeeper and the Professor* novel by Yoko Ogawa,

2. To find out the translation strategies used to translate English idioms in *The Housekeeper and the Professor* novel by Yoko Ogawa into Indonesian.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

This study is focused on the strategies used in translating idiomatic expressions in the novel entitled *The Housekeeper and the Professor* written by Yoko Ogawa from English into Indonesian. In other words, the English version of the novel, translated by Stephen Snyder, is taken as a Source Text (ST) while the Indonesian version, translated by Maria Lubis, is taken as a Target Text (TT). The researcher analyses the strategy in translating idiom by using Mona Baker’s theory. Furthermore, this study is limited on chapter one through chapter five of the novel.
1.5 Research Significances

The results of this study are expected to contribute from two (2) aspects, namely theoretical and practical aspects.

1. As a theoretical aspect of significance, the findings of the study are presumed to give positive contributions to the translation studies as part of applied linguistic specifically in idiom translation. In addition, the study is expected to be a useful reference for English Department students who are eager to conduct similar research.

2. As a practical aspect of significance, the findings of this study are deemed to give informative feedback to the translators and English Department students to comprehend the meaning of each idiom. In addition, the findings could be used as materials in vocabulary class, and in the writing class to colour students’ diction and writing style.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding of the terms used in this study, the following terms are defined:

1. Translation is an operation performed on languages: a process of substituting a text in one language for a text in another (Catford, 1965:1 as cited in Malmkjaer, 2005).

2. Translation Strategy is translator's potentially conscious plans for solving concrete translation problems in the framework of a concrete translation task (Krings, 1986 as cited in Dimitrova, 2005).
3. Idioms are frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form and often carry meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual components (Baker, 2011).

4. Idiomatic expressions are group of words in the form of phrase concealed its own meaning different from its literal meaning.

5. *The Housekeeper and the Professor* is a title of novel in English and Indonesian version that is written by Yoko Ogawa in 2003 entitled *Hakase no Aishita Sūshiki* in Japan. It is translated into English by Stephen Snyder in 2009 and has taken as the source text. Its Indonesian version which is translated with the same title by Maria Lubis in March 2016 has taken as the target text.

6. Yoko Ogawa is a Japanese writer that has published many works of fiction and non-fiction since 1988. One of her novel, *The Housekeeper and the Professor* has been made into a movie entitled *The Professor and his Beloved Equation*. The novel has received the Hon’ya Taisho Award (Japan Booksellers Award).