CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Chapter II is written to discuss review of related literature which is based on relevant theories. It covers the definition of idiom, characteristic of idiom, translation, the difficulties of translating idiom, and idiom translation strategy.

2.1 Idiom

English, just like any other languages, has many ways to express intent and meaning. One of them is figurative expressions. Figurative expressions found both in literary work and daily life because it is bound to the culture. Therefore, the presence of figurative expressions in literary work is very natural. One of the most frequently used figurative expressions is idiom. However, some scholars have given their points of view related to the definition of idiom.

Sari (2015) says that idiom as a single unit has an extraordinary combination. In fact, idiom has figurative meaning and it is unchangeable. In addition, people have to be expert in analysis the meaning of idiom, not just looking at the single words.

Larson (1984) as cited in Adelnia & Dastjerdi (2011: 879) defined idiom has meaning is different with the individual words that people seen. Idiom is like a lace of words has a special meaning. In addition, idiom has affectionate meaning which is not described in the other lexical items (Adelnia & Dastjerdi, 2011: 879). Therefore, the main thing to be cognizant here is that idiom cannot be detected because the idiom has hidden meaning.
Mollanazar (1997, as cited in Ferdowsi 2013: 349) defines is federation of words which has a function as semantics. Once again, idiom is really hard to guess the meaning. Moreover, Mollanazar, in comparing idioms with proverbs, provides several characteristics to idioms. Mollanazar states that idioms are: (1) a part of a sentence, (2) sometimes have variant elements, (3) are not twenty two intended to teach anything, (4) are used in every type of text, (5) are figurative extensions of word meaning, (6) are more common and frequent, and (7) are sometimes used literally (Ferdowsi, 2013: 350)

Baker (2001: 63) states that idioms have neither flexible patterns nor transparent meaning. Instead, they are frozen patterns of language which do not let any kind of variation in form under normal conditions unless a speaker or writer wants to make a joke or attempts a play on words. Then, she lists five items which cannot be done on idioms which are: the first thing that we have to do is change the order of the words, second is erase the words from it, third is adding a word to it, fourth is replace the words with another, and fifth is change the grammatical structure.

In a nutshell, from the definitions above, idiom is an unchangeable extraordinary phrase which has meaning cannot be investigated from the meaning of the constituents. However, idiom as an expression has an extraordinary meaning which it cannot be understood by people and we cannot guess the meaning of the idiom by looking at the single words and the written language of the idiom (Feare, 1980).
2.2 Characteristics of Idiom

Meryem (2010) mentions several features related to the idioms. These features are essential in this research later on especially for the purpose of explaining how an English idiom or idioms will be translated into Indonesia language. Meryem mentioned five features in this case as follows:

2.2.1 Alteration of grammatical rules

Idiom usually defies common rules of grammar such as what a person says to an old friend “I cannot say I like the job or not. It’s early days yet (meaning: too soon)”. Grammar rules out that verb “is” must be follow by singular noun which is ‘day,” not “days’. However, because this phrase is an idiom, the grammatical rule does not apply here.

2.2.2 Conventional phrase

Idiom is made out of convention like making certain sound to mean something or to refer to an object. Idioms such as “once in a blue moon “ has been understood to mean “infrequently or rarely” just as the word “chair” has been made up to refer an object we usually sit on.

2.2.3 Alteration of word order

Idiom also does not respect word order. In idiomatic expression like “frankly speaking” (speaking in forthright manner) one can see no object and no reason for adding “ing” at the end of ‘speak’ except that is an idiom.
2.2.4 Figurativeness

The entire expression of an idiom is figurative that it cannot be understood literally. Sometimes figurative also means that the literal meaning gives a clue what an idiom means. As Ifill (2002) explains,

…..Gibbs (1995) takes discussion with this exposition. He states that idioms are still a real figurative thing that we cannot guess the meaning from the single word….. (2002:25).

Ifill (2002) offers an interesting example about expression idiom as a figurative. Take the proverb, “every rose has its thorn.” it is meaning quite compositional that true that rose has a thorn, the meaning so very clear. But when we used, it metaphorically applies to non-rose situation or the meaning of rose is not what we think in the real situation which is rose has a thorn. Meaning is like all good things have bad side.

2.2.5 Phrasal verb

Idiom mostly happens in the form of phrasal verb. For example, “You don’t want to take back your city, right?” “Step aside, Sir!,” all idioms are phrasal verbs even though many idioms of non-phrasal verbs in nature also exist.

2.3 Translation

Definition of translation is very complicated. There are so many definitions about translation from many experts. They express the definitions about translation in many ways because they have different opinion about translation.

Wiratno (2003) says that translation is an activity to replace the information from original text to target text which original text is the material
come up from, while the target text is a language modified by the translator in order to get the result of translation process.

According to Wills (as quoted in Choliludin 2007: 3), translation is a step from the original language to target language and it needs an understanding of morphology of language by the translator of the original text. In a nutshell, translation is a process to change the language style from source text to target text.

However, translation deals with the meaning. Translation with correct structure is useless without the meaning. Larson (1984:3) states that translation means displacement the meaning of the text from bestower language into receptor language. Moreover, Newmark (1988: 5) gives a point of view concerning the displacement meaning in a translation. Translation is contributing the meaning the meaning of original language into target language.

2.4 Difficulty of Translating Idiom

In fact, the activity of translating the idiom is a hardest thing faced by the translator: it is not just a replacement a text from source text into target text, but it involves many kind of language rules like grammatical and lexical item. Baker believes that:

The main problem that a translator comes across, while translating idioms are the ability to recognize and distinguish an idiom correctly and the difficulties in rendering various aspects of meaning that an idiom or a fixed expression conveys into the target language (2001:65).

Moreover, Strakiene also argues:

One of the problems which are faced by a translator in translating idioms is the lack of equivalence on the idiom level; although all languages have idioms, but it is not easy to find an equivalent in the TL that corresponds to the idiom in the ST in both form and meaning (2009:13).
The statement above means that difficulties in translating idiom generally are in the process of identifying the idioms and deduce the meanings which is correspond into form and meaning in TL.

There are some cases faced up by translator in the process of translating the idioms, especially the problem in the form and the meaning of the idioms. First, all idiom have figurative meaning that cannot be understood by looking at the individual word. Second, an idiom has different expression both in source language and target language. But sometimes, idioms have the same expression both of SL and TL. Therefore, the translator should be careful when analyze the idioms in any source of text. Third, an idiom in SL refers to literal and idiomatic sense unless the idiom in target text is appropriate with idiom in the source text both in the form and the meaning. The last is contexts can be used, the frequency of use may be diverge in the source text and target text, those things become the most usage of using idiom in written discourse (Baker, 2001).

2.5 Idiom Translating Strategy

Strategy is the way of translator gives a meaning or translates the original text into target text. Baker (1992) mentioned four strategies are workable in idiomatic translation.

2.5.1 The Similar Meaning and Similar Form.

This strategy is very easy to guess if we analyze the idiom in any written text because between source language and target language have the same form
and meaning as well as equivalent lexical items. This kind of strategy can be achieved quickly. For example:

SL: Nobody expected him to be a cold-blooded murderer.

TL: Tak seorangpun menyangka ia adalah pembunuh berdarah dingin.

The idiom cold-blooded murderer is translated literally by the translator. This move is acceptable because pembunuh berdarah dingin is the literal translation of cold-blooded murderer. Not to mention that pembunuh berdarah dingin is a natural idiom found in Indonesian. In this example, the translator successfully finds the idiom of similar meaning and form.

This strategy might seem like the most ideal strategy to be applied in translating idiom. However, this is not entirely true. In translating idiom, one has to consider the style, register and rhetorical effect that the idiom has.

2.5.2 The Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

In order to find the idiom in this strategy is rather difficult but possible to find the idiom in the target language which has similar meaning but they between source text and target text is different lexical items. Therefore, they are less some idea. For example:

SL: He was tired and he was not a kind of person who beat about the bush.

TL: Ia lelah dan dia bukan tipe orang yang suka berbasa-basi.

The idiomatic expression beat about the bush is defined as to speak or write evasively or to talk around an issue. This definition definitely matches the meaning of berbasa-basi in Indonesian. In addition, berbasa-basi is a natural and
familiar idiom in Indonesian. This translation is an example of how an idiom equivalent has the same meaning but different in lexical items.

2.5.3 Paraphrasing

This strategy is the common strategy used by translator in translating the idioms. This fact is in accordance with the statement of Mona Baker’s (2011:80) states that translation by paraphrase is the most common way to translate the idiom where idiom in the source text cannot be found in the target text. For example:

SL: This is not the time to lie down on the job.

TL: Sekarang bukan saatnya untuk mengabaikan tugas.

There is no Indonesian idiom that has equal meaning and lexical items like the idiom in the example above. Therefore, translator has to express the idiom with different words. Mengabaikan tugas is not an idiom, but it is acceptable because it conveys the same meaning as the original idiom. Translation by paraphrasing is used to avoid misunderstanding through the readers, to make readers easily understand the intention, and to make the translation natural.

2.5.4 Omission

This strategy is a way where the idioms omitted in the target text. The translator did not translate the idiom in the source text into target text. Those idioms are omitted because the meaning of those idioms is difficult to be paraphrased or it cannot be found in the target text. However, it has no close match in the target language because the meaning is hard to be paraphrased. For example;
SL: I kick my car again for good measure.

TL: *Aku menendang mobilku lagi.*

The expression for good measure is omitted in the translation. This is caused by the fact that there is no equivalent of this idiom in Indonesian. Not to mention that the expression cannot be easily paraphrased. As seen in the example above, this strategy may affect the style of writing.