CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents several topics related to the definition of translation, the definition of idiom, translating translation, and the definition of fable.

2.1 The Definition of Translation

Translation has been characterized from multiple points of view by various writers in the field, contingent upon how they see dialect and translation. As indicated by Wills in Choliludin (2007), translation is a procedure which leads from a written source language text to an optimally equivalent target language text and requires the syntactic, semantic, stylistic and text pragmatic comprehension by the translator of the original text.

According to Catford (as cited in Machali, 2009), translation is replacing textual material in one language into another language equally. In addition, Nida and Taber (as cited in Zuchridin Suryawinata & Sugeng Hariyanto 2003) say, “translating consists of reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalence of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style.” According to the two definitions, translation is not only transferring the message or meaning from source language to target language, but translation is also finding the most equivalent message or meaning and style on the target language.

By and large, translating includes the act of exchanging a text from the source text to the target text. The aim of translation is to find the equivalent meaning
of the source language expression in the target language. Thus, meaning is important in translation and it must be held constant. Furthermore, translating a literary work into another language is creating a new literary work in another language.

2.1.1 Types of Translation

Brislin (in Choliludin, 2007) categorizes translation into these following types.

a. Pragmatic Translation

Make reference to the translation of a message with an interest in accuracy of the information that was meant to be conveyed in the source language form. It is not concerned with other aspects of the original language version.

Example :

SL: For baby: After bathing, dust generously over the skin, taking special care where the skin folds and creases. Use after baby’s bath and every change.


According to the example above, it can concluded that the translator used the general word or netral word to represent the origin word which are familiar for TL reader. For example: dust generously which is translated by translator becomes taburkan bedak. Taburkan bedak here
represent the *dust generously* itself and actually the original meaning of *dust generously* is debu murah hati. So, overall the translation above is good and it can be understood for TL reader and from the explanation above can be called pragmatic translation.

b. **Aesthetic-poetic Translation**

This refers to translation in which the translator takes into account the affect, emotion, and feelings of an original agnate version, the aesthetic form used by the original author, as well as any information in the message. The examples of this type are the translation of sonnet, rhyme, heroic couplet, dramatic dialogue, and novel.

**SL :** *Today*

As I humble myself
forgetting my arrogance
defeating my head
As I'm occupied motionless
at the front of the window of your heart
waiting for your forgiveness to open for me

**TL :** Hari ini

kurendahkan diriku
kulupakan kesombonganku
kutundukkan kepalaku
lalu kududuk terpaku
di depan jendela hatimu
menanti pintu maafmu terbuka untukku

From the example above, the translator used word that can make so osculate the emotion and feeling of the TL reader. For example: As I humble myself which is translated by translator become kurendahkan diriku. It can make easy and clear for the TL reader to understand what message which is contained in the sentence. So, according to explanation above can be called aesthetic-poetic translation.

c. Ethnographic Translation

The aim of ethnographic translation is to explicate the cultural context of the source language and target language versions. Translators have to be sensitive to the way the words are used and must know how the words fits into cultures. The example is in using the word “yes” versus “yeah” in America.

d. Linguistic Translation

This is concerned with equivalent meanings of the constituent morphemes of the source language and grammatical form.

Example:

SL: If the message editing is interrupted by incoming calls or alarm clock, the message editing screen will be back after you end the call or alarm clock.

TL: Jika penulisan pesan terganggu oleh panggilan masuk atau alrm jam, layar penulisan akan muncul kembali setelah panggilan atau alarm jam berakhir.
Brislin says that basically, based on the kinds of texts to be translated, there are two types of translation namely factual and literary translations. Factual translation refers to translating to convey information with precision, without involving the emotions or feelings of the translator but only based on the real facts such as translating scientific field, reports, newspaper, etc. Literary translation refers to the translation of the art work.

2.2 The Definition of Idiom

Before exploring the possible strategies regarding the translation of idioms, it is necessary to describe some of those features which can be responsible for the difficulties in their translation. The first difficulties would be related to their definition which as Cacciari states, is a difficult and controversial task, along with the description of their acquirement and understanding (Cacciari 1993). She mentions several factors which are responsible for these difficulties as, for instance, the fact that idiomatization is a process, meaning that structures acquire their idiomatic gradually or the fact that they are analysable and holistic at the same time, meaning that they are built of more constituent words, but their universal meaning cannot be reduced to the meaning of these words, and the fact that there are different types of idioms, some of them retaining the original meaning of their constituent words, others having a completely different meaning. However, in Longman dictionary of language teaching and applied linguistics, the term idiom is defined simply as “an expression which functions as a single unit and whose meaning cannot be worked out from its separate parts. For example: She washed her hands
of the matter means She refused to have anything more to do with the matter” (Richards & Schmidt : 2010).

Brenner believes that native English speakers simply use idioms without being aware what constitutes them. He points out that in dictionaries certain confusion and disagreement can be observed regarding the definition of idioms. However, the most common one is “two or more words together that, as a unit, have a special meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the words separately” (Brenner 2003). These units sometimes are not only different in meaning from what the words would mean separately but they are also considered more effective or gripping in certain contexts.

2.3 Translating Idioms

In order to translate idioms from the source language into the target language, the translator has to choose the most appropriate strategy, taking into consideration the peculiarities, function, culture-specificity, semantic and structural unpredictability of these expressions. In Baker’s opinion, the most fortunate and ideal situation would be that they find an idiom with a similar meaning in the target language. However, if they do not, there are other factors to consider. For example, the significance of the specific lexical items which constitute the idiom, whether they are manipulated elsewhere in the source text, as well as the appropriateness or inappropriateness of using idiomatic language in a given register in the target language. The acceptability or non-acceptability of using any of the strategies
described below will therefore depend on the context in which a given idiom is translated. Questions of style, register, and rhetorical effect must also be taken into consideration (Baker 1992).

2.3.1 Strategies in Translating Idiom

Concerning translation strategies, Baker (2001) offers four strategies for translating idioms:

a. **Using an idiom of similar meaning and form**

In this strategy, the idiom in source text is rendered equivalently, not only in meaning, but also lexical items. 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 quite true. In translating idiom, one has to consider the style, register and rhetorical effect that the idiom has.
b. Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form

There are many idioms in one language that has their equivalents in another language with difference in form. Translator is allowed to use different lexical items to translate idiom as long as the meaning remains the same. 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 differs in lexical items.

c. Translation by paraphrase

This strategy is often used when no equivalent idiom can be found to translate an idiom. This strategy is applied due to different stylistic preferences of the source and target languages. Below is the example of the usage of this strategy:

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.

d. Translation by Omission

Omission is allowed only in some cases: first, when there is no close equivalent in the target language; secondly, when it is difficult to paraphrase; finally, an idiom may be omitted for stylistic reasons. For example:

SL: He might get up the juice to kiss me, which means ‘find the courage or motivation to do something’. This idiom can be translated by omission into dia mungkin akan mencium saya.

2.4 The Definition of Fable

A fable is a short tale which involves animals as essential characters in it and carries a moral for the readers. The animals are described to be talking to people or to one another wisely, foolishly, cunningly, and in ways human beings do. Aesop's Fables are a very good example. The lessons imparted by fables are very useful and practicable. They can impart guidance in most difficult situations and lead one out of them. Fables are a good source of wisdom, tact, and other noble means. Thus they go a long way to put one onto the road to success and well-being if their morals are translated into daily life. Fables should not be read for amusement only, but for learning to be a successful person as well. Derived from the Latin fabula, which means tale in English, a fable is a short story that teaches a moral
lesson. Fables typically use non-human creatures as their primary characters, almost all of whom have been anthropomorphized, or given some human characteristic.