

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Distribution of films keeps growing until today. As the world's famous film factory, Hollywood, USA, releases so many world-class films. Such Hollywood films recently released are: *Iron Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*, *The Dark Knight*, *Burn After Reading*, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *Hancock*, *Body Of Lies*, *Kungfu Panda*, *Tropic Thunder*, and many more. The distribution of these films is not only to American and European countries which use English as native language, but also to worldwide which many countries speak non-English. In overcoming the language barrier for those who have not use English as their first language, language transfer is involved to facilitate people's comprehension about the source language (SL) of one film into the target language (TL). Therefore, it should be translated in order that people understand the idea, story and message delivered by the film.

There are two main forms of film translation or "language transfer" in film or television: subtitling and dubbing. Subtitling is "the written translation of the spoken language (source language) of a television program or film into the language of the viewing audience (the target language); the translated text usually appears in two lines at the foot of the screen simultaneously with the dialogue or narration in the source language" (www.museum.tv/archives/etv/S/htmlS/subtitling/subtitling). Dubbing is "a voice over which closely approximates the lip movement of the original picture; to place an existing visual talking head in a foreign language"

(www.alsintl.com/services/subtitling). This simultaneous provision of meaning in two different languages, one in oral and the other in written text, is thus a new form of language transfer created by film and further developed by television.

When a foreign film is released in a country that uses different language, subtitle is sometimes added to the film. Furthermore, subtitle is a written translation of the spoken language or “language transfer” at the bottom of the screen during the scenes of a film or television show in a foreign language. This is due to in broadening the selling market of the film. The demand for subtitling was growing in the mid-1990s outside North America, especially in Europe. In 1994, one company, the Subtitling International Group centered in Stockholm with branches in six capital cities, produced 26,000 hours of subtitles for cinema, video and television.

The aim of subtitling and dubbing is to make people comprehend the idea, story and message from the original film which makes equivalent into the target language (TL). Idiom or an idiomatic expression is one of terms which are not understood by the viewers.

Idiom is a phrase or sentence whose meanings cannot be inferred from the meanings of the words that make it up. In fact, there are a lot of idiomatic expressions whose meanings are found in a film. Idioms are unique to each language (usually hard to translate into other languages). To make people understand about idioms, it needs help of subtitling to convey the message into the target language (TL). Thus, in translating those idioms appropriately in terms of subtitling, a certain technique is needed so as to be understood by the viewers.

The English language has many idiomatic expressions. Idiomatic expressions are expression whose meaning is completely different from the literal meaning; do not follow any grammatical rules of a language or from the usual meaning of its constituent elements. However, idioms and idiomatic expressions have become widely used because they convey clear and meaningful messages in very few words that would otherwise be lengthy to explain in non-idiomatic manner. Idioms are previously considered informal expressions but because of their widespread use idiomatic expressions have found acceptance in formal communications as well. In addition, a figurative expression that can usually be interpreted literally but that takes a non-literal meaning when used in a specific context is refers to an idiom. Therefore, idioms cannot be translated word-for-word because they are different from the individual words forming it.

Hockett (1958:310-318) points out types of idioms based on the forms. In this case, he divides them into six types: Substitutes, Proper Names, Abbreviations, English Phrasal Compounds, Figures of Speech and Slang. The writer found the application of idiomatic expressions in the film subtitle.

Based on the explanation above, it encourages the writer to do the translation analysis of idiomatic expressions in the film entitled *Tropic Thunder* directed by Ben Stiller.

The subject of this study is a show-business satire comedy film entitled *Tropic Thunder*. It was directed by Ben Stiller from DreamWorks Pictures and performed by Ben Stiller, Jack Black, Robert Downey, Jr., and Tom Cruise. The casts are notable names in Hollywood, and the film has original story about Hollywood film-making which mostly load huge budgets.

Tropic Thunder is a 2008 Hollywood satire comedy film directed by Ben Stiller and written by Etan Cohen, Ben Stiller, and Justin Theroux. It was a box-office hit and gained many positive acknowledgements by film critics. The story tells about five actors set out to make the most expensive war film. After accidentally loses one of the most hefty-budget scene, the project are forced to be turned down. The frustrated director who is responsible refuses to stop shooting, and find a solution by leading his casts into the jungles of Southeast Asia, where they encounter real-time war with Asian drug-manufacturing gang.

The writer chooses this film as the research subject because the film was very popular as one of the best comedy film in 2008. This film placed at the 19th widest release in the United States for 2008. The film also won “Hollywood Comedy of the Year Award” at the 12th annual Hollywood Film Festival on October 27, 2008. And Robert Downey Jr., as one of the casts, was nominated in 81st Annual Academy Award 2009 as “The Best Supporting Actors”. After releasing the film on August 13, 2008, *Tropic Thunder* reached more than \$180 million gross worldwide.

Related to the film, the research is limited to identify, list, classify, and describe the idiomatic expressions available in the film entitled *Tropic Thunder* based on Hockett’s (1958) theory of types of idioms.

1.2 Research Questions

The following research questions are proposed to be answered. They are:

- 1) What types of idiomatic expressions are found in the film entitled *Tropic Thunder*?

- 2) What translation methods are employed by the translator in translating the idiomatic expressions in the film entitled *Tropic Thunder*?

1.3 Aims of the Study

Answering the questions above, the aims of the study are:

- 1) To find out the types of idiomatic expressions which are mostly found in the film entitled *Tropic Thunder*.
- 2) To find out the methods of translation employed by the translator in translating the idiomatic expressions in the film entitled *Tropic Thunder* based on Newmark's criteria of translation methods.

1.4 Significance of the study

This study is expected to investigate about idiomatic expressions. Thus, the result of the study is expected:

- 1) To make people through idiomatic expressions learn English as second language learners.
- 2) To give valuable information for people who are interested in learning English and using idiomatic expression both in speaking and writing.
- 3) To analyze the types of idiomatic expressions and translation methods used in the film *Tropic Thunder* subtitle.
- 4) To give other researchers information used as an additional reference especially for those who conduct a study on the idiomatic translation.

1.5 Research Method

In conducting a research, deciding an appropriate method is of great importance. Collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data by observing what people do and say refers to qualitative research. According to Frankel and Wallen (1993:380) qualitative research is understood as a research studies that investigate the quality of relationships, activities, situations, or materials.

In this case, a descriptive one is the methodology used to conduct this research in the process of analyzing the data. Gal R.L. as cited in Anggraeni (2004) says that a method of research that involves collecting data in order to test hypothesis or to answer question concerning the current status of the subject of the study is defined as descriptive method. In addition, as quoted from Alwasilah (2002):

Peneliti kualitatif lazimnya berkonsentrasi pada sejumlah orang atau situasi yang relatif sedikit dan perhatiannya terkuras 'habis-habisan' pada analisis kekhasan kelompok atau situasi ini saja (p. 108)

Para peneliti berupaya untuk lebih memahami proses (daripada produk) kejadian atau kegiatan yang diamati. Proses yang membantu permujudan fenomena itulah yang paling berkesan, bukannya fenomena itu sendiri.

Thus, it is believed that descriptive method is the appropriate method because the goal of this research is systematically, factually, and accurately describes or illustrates the fact, characteristics and relationship of the researched elements.

1.6 Data Collection

In conducting the research, there are several steps to be taken:

- 1) Watching the *Tropic Thunder* DVD.
- 2) Copying the English film script from the film dialogue, both the English and Indonesian version.

- 3) Reading the script of *Tropic Thunder* and its translation.
- 4) Compiling, classifying, and describing the usage of idiomatic expression on film subtitle of *Tropic Thunder*.
- 5) Doing library research in order to get relevant theories.

The writer will transfer the film dialogues into script both film dialogues and subtitle script, and then try to analyze and find out the types of idiomatic expressions, the methods of translation employed by the translator in translating the idiomatic expressions and the implications of using the idioms in the film entitled *Tropic Thunder*. The sources of the data used by the writer were taken from the film entitled *Tropic Thunder* and related information.

1.7 Data Resources

The main data of the research is taken from the DVD of comedy film "*Tropic Thunder*". Its script is taken from the film's dialogues and the subtitle script is also taken from the film. The researcher transfers both dialogues and subtitle into written text.

1.8 Organization of the Paper

The organization of the paper is divided into five chapters as follows.

Chapter I which presents introduction which is divided into background, limitation of the study, significance of the study, research questions, the aims of the study, research method, data collection and data resources, and organization of the paper.

Chapter II contains with literature review, which serves a set of the relevant theories as a basis for investigating the research problem, which relate to the study of translation, the definition of translation, translation method, idioms, types of idiom, definition of idiom, and subtitling.

The procedures of the research consisting of method of the research, subject of the research, research problem, data collection and data analysis technique presents at **Chapter III**.

Chapter IV reports the data analysis including the findings and the discussions and **Chapter V** contains the conclusion of the paper, and some suggestions.