# CHAPTER I

# INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains a brief introduction of the study. It consists of the background of the research, statement of problems, aims of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, clarification of the key terms and the organization of the paper.

## 1.1 Background

Translation as stated by Newmark (1988) is defined as transferring the meaning of a text to another language in the way that the author intended the text. In translation, the translator plays an important role in transferring information from the source language to the target language because the process of translation is not about translating sentence per sentence, but the meanings that contain in the text must be equivalent. So, translation becomes the main tool to convey the message of the source text to the target text and make the readers understand the translation of the text. However, there are some problems that will be faced by the translator, one of them is translating an idiom in a novel.

Saputro (2010, as cited in Novianti, 2012) said that idioms are one of the most important aspects of language. Idioms are used in many kinds of conditions, in conversations, in the media and written text, and one of them is in literary text. Idioms are also called powerful expression. It is because even if idioms only consist of just a few words, they can convey a lot of information (Literary devices, 2015). Due to this role of idioms, many literary texts such as novel uses a lot of idioms. The use of the idioms is to make the work more creative, more impressive and help the writer in delivering the meanings to their reader. However, when it comes to translation, Pedersen (1997, as cited in Hashemian, 2015, p.91) said that "the translation of idioms is as difficult as it is central". There are often problems in translating idioms. In fact, as stated before, idioms have significant role in

literary text. Thus, it is highly necessary to translate idioms properly in order to convey the subtle meaning to the reader.

Newmark (1988) suggests that the difficulty in translating idioms comes because words of an idiom should not be translated literally, idioms are never translated word for word. Baker (1992) also states that in translating the idioms, the translator has two main concerns: the ability to recognize and interpret idioms correctly and the difficulties in translating the meaning that an idiom conveys into the target language. These problems arise when the translator faces a difficulty in finding the proper word, expression or idiom in the target language. In the end, the translator must do some modifications in their translation without ignoring the norms.

Considering the difficulties above, there is a need of appropriate strategy to translate idioms found in the novel. Baker (1992) suggests some strategies that can be used to translate idioms. The strategies are classified into four categories: using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, and translation by omission.

Previously, there are several researchers who investigate idiom translation in novel which are related to the present study. Novianti (2012) analyzed translation strategies of idiomatic expression in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* and its translation by Khairi Rumanti. This study analyzed all types of idiom proposed by J. Seidl and W.Mc. Mordie (1980). In addition, Saputro (2012) conducted a research entitled "Idioms and strategies of Translation in *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows"*, this study used all types of idiom proposed by Chitra Fernando (1996) which consist of pure idiom, semi literal (transparent) idiom, and literal idiom. Unlike the studies that have been done by these researchers, this study focuses on one type of idioms which is pure idioms. According to Fernando (1996), pure idiom is an idiom that does not easily show connections between its meaning and the literal meanings of individual words which make them up, for example 'kick the bucket' which means to die. The reason why this study only focused on pure idiom is because pure idiom is the hardest idiom. As stated earlier pure idiom cannot be understood directly from the

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meanings of individual words, so to translate pure idiom into the target language is quite difficult since sometimes the match of the idiom cannot be found in the target language. Moreover, this study is not only focused on what strategies that are used and applied by the translator in translating pure idioms, but also emphasizes the types of equivalent meaning in translating pure idioms in the novel *Tell Me Your Dreams.*According to Karimi (2006), equivalent meaning occurs when the source language text and the target language text carry the same intended meaning or the same message encoded. Finding equivalents is the most problematic stage of translation because the translator may face the problem of not finding a translation equivalent since sameness of meaning cannot easily exist between the source language and the target language.

In relation to this study, pure idioms in the novel *Tell Me Your Dream* by Sidney Sheldon and the Indonesian translated version of the novel by Listiana Srisanti were chosen as the data for the study. The reason why *Tell Me Your Dreams* novel is taken as the object of this study is because this novel contains a great deal of idiomatic expressions especially pure idioms. It is important to know how the translator employs translation strategies that affect the meaning equivalences on the idiomatic translation in both novels.This study uses strategies in translating idioms proposed by Baker (1992) and the types of equivalent meaning mentioned by Bell (1991).

The findings of the study are expected to give a contribution to the field of translation, especially for those who will conduct research in finding the strategies in translating pure idioms. In addition, hopefully this study would be more useful for those who want to learn about idioms in both English and Indonesian language.

## 1.2 Statement of Problems

This research is guided by the following questions:

1. What strategies are used by the translator in translating pure idioms?

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2. What types of equivalent meaning of idioms translation are found in the translated novel?

### 1.3 Aims of the Study

Based on the questions above, this research aims to:

1. Find out the strategies which are used by the translators in translating pure idioms based on the strategies proposed by Baker (1992).
2. *Investigate the types of equivalent meaning of idioms translation found in the translated novel by using the types of equivalent meaning proposed by Bell (1991).*

### 1.4 Scope of the Study

This present study is limited to the analysis of translation strategies used by the translator in translating pure idioms from English into Bahasa Indonesia and the types of equivalent meaning of idiom translation which occurs both in Sidney Sheldon's *Tell Me Your Dreams* as SL text and Listiana Srisanti's *Ceritakan Mimpi-mimpimu* as the TL text.

### 1.5 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, the result of the present study would enrich the knowledge in pure idioms and how to translate pure idioms from English to Indonesian properly. Practically, this study is also significant to improve translation skill, especially in translating idioms.

### 1.6 Clarification of the Key Terms

There are some terms in this study which are important to define in order to avoid misunderstanding. The terms are as follows:

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**1. Pure Idiom:** An idiom that does not easily show connections between its meaning and the literal meanings of individual words which make them up. (Fernando, 1996).

**2. Translation Strategy:** A procedure for solving a problem found in translating a text. (Baker, 1992).

**3. Equivalent Meaning:** Equivalent meaning occurs when the source language text and the target language text carry the same intended meaning or the same message encoded. (Karimi, 2006)

## 1.7 Organization of the Paper

This research is divided into five chapters as follows:

## CHAPTER I

This chapter contains background of the study, statement of problems, aims of the study, significance of the study, clarification of the key terms and organization of the paper.

## CHAPTER II

It consists of literature review, which presents a set of relevant theories as a basis for investigating research problems. Previous studies are also disscussed in this chapter.

## CHAPTER III

This section contains the research methodology, discussing the steps and procedures of the study, and the data resources in conducting the study.

## CHAPTER IV

In this part, the result of the research will be presented. This chapter contains the research findings and discussion.

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## CHAPTER V

This last provides the conclusion and suggestion of the research finding based on the findings and discussion.