

# Baker's Strategy in Translating Idiomatic Expressions in Fast & Furious: Hobbs and Shaw's Movie Subtitles

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**Abstract**---Translating idiom needs proper strategies since the source language and the target language has a different context and culture in understanding the idioms' meanings. In conducting the data, the descriptive qualitative design formed by document analysis is employed in this study. The idioms are supposed to clearly translate the source language into the target language since it also consists of a culture that plays a pivotal role in delivering meaning. Following Baker's (1992) classification, this study tries to find out the strategy used in translating the idioms into a similar meaning to avoid ambiguity in order to show naturalness and readability since it has unpredictable meaning and grammar. Thus, the strategy used in translating the idioms will specify the quality of their meanings). Based on the findings, the most dominant strategies used in the movie is Translation by Phrase with the frequency 82 data (37.8%). The second is Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form with the frequency of 79 data (36.4%). The third strategy is Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form with the frequency of 42 data (19.3%) then followed by Translation by Omission which has 14 data (6.5%).

**Keywords:** Idiom, translation strategy, subtitles.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Process-oriented research in translation occurs on how the translators finish translation process by using observation, interview, and thinking aloud. Process-oriented present translators' mind in processing the translation product. Translator will report their idea and perspective in completing translation process using thinking aloud protocol and observation (Lorscher, 2021). Munday (2008) also states that process-oriented research related to the psychology of the translation and analyse the translators' mind that has influence dealing with translation process. The process-oriented research can be used as a supporting analysis to deliver the equivalence of the source text into the target text. It is not only spontaneous in translating a product, but also reflection, memories, explanations, experiences, justification, and emotions are supposed to be presented in translating the source text. The theoretical concepts also can be combined during the process-

oriented research about the strategies and procedure of translation (Vilceanu, 2013). Based on Nida and Taber's (1969) theory, process-oriented applies transfer, analysis, and restructure related to translators' mind.

Talking about process-oriented research, it can be used to analyse translators' mind and perspective in translating idiom which can be found in daily life. Particularly, in this more globalized and modern era, movie becomes the biggest industry among people in the world which used many idiomatic expressions to create fun language. Specifically, movie entertains audiences through the setting, plot, and also actor to give not only the quantity of the movie, but also to give the quality of the story through idiomatic expressions. The rapid growth of the movie started becoming grander and technologically advanced in America, India, France, and United Kingdom which are the countries that lead in foreign movies production. In Indonesia, for instance, the numbers of foreign movies which are translated into Indonesia always rise because of the easiness of watching foreign movies that can be reached by downloading them through the internet. Talking about foreign movies which become the favourite thing in Indonesia, most of Indonesian audiences still depend on the subtitles when they watch them. Although people have got English knowledge, but it is not enough to have a deep understanding about the movies' conversation, contents and terms. Therefore, they still need subtitles to understand the content of the movies which are provided on several websites in internet, namely Lebah Ganteng, Pein Akatsuki, Subscene and Subtitleseeker that have a paramount role to render the idea and meaning from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL) in the movies.

The movie subtitles will take a position in order to omit the gap between the source language (SL) and the target language (TL) since two languages have different feeling, structure, culture and style. Suzanne (2016) also argues that in the process of translating the subtitles, it is not simply about changing the word-for-word of the source language (SL) into target language (TL), but in fact, translating the source language can

be seen as a formidable task dealing with the particular language and sense of the foreign language. A good translation of idiom is expected to avoid errors that may occur in the process of translating which can be managed by using common sense and sensitivity of languages. In other words, the movie subtitles should be as naturally as possible to make the audiences feel like they read their own language without changing the original characteristic and style of the source text since naturalness deals with how the translation “taste” likes the target language. It means how the native of the target language understand the translation that it is a literature in their own language, not a literature written in foreign language and be translated. Idioms as a part of figurative language share common similarities with other figurative language elements where they characteristically convey different meaning from their constituent lexical meaning and difficult to be translated. According to Baker (1992), idiom is defined as frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form and often carry meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual components.

Dealing with translated idioms, the translator can use various strategies that have been developed by many translation experts in order to tackle the issues of translating idiomatic expressions which are basically difficult to be translated. Translators may choose specific strategies, depending on what goal they want to achieve. However, as idioms are hard to be understood based on their constituent words, even a native speaker of the SL sometimes is confused in understanding what the idioms mean. Thus, translators should emphasize the communicative function rather than the aesthetic function of the idioms. Idioms can be analysed in any syntactic construction, such as words, words cluster, phrase, and sentence which can be realized in full idiom and partial idiom.

Translating the subtitle of movies also focus on the various linguistics features which need strategies and methods to translate the movie subtitles as close as possible to target language in order to make natural subtitles. In line with rendering the message in source language into target language in a movie, Farahani and Ghasemi (2012) explains that it is a prime element to make a good translation in applying the appropriate translation methods. The appropriate methods used in translating the movie subtitles will produce natural and readable subtitles that will assist the audiences to catch the message, idea, information and plot from the movie to increase audiences’ interest. The naturalness translation of idiom in subtitles could be seen by using natural form of the target language, having fluency in communicating the message of the source language as much as possible exactly as the writer wants to convey to the receptor’s language, and having equivalent

effects and responses to the reader and listener of the translation product from both of the source and receptor language (Larson, 1984). It means that the translation should be able to use appropriate words in the appropriate context for the object that will be described.

This study is aiming at explaining the idiom strategy used *Fast and Furious: Hobbs and Shaw* movie based on Baker’s theory. *Fast & Furious: Hobbs and Shaw* counted as an American action movie which explain about the existence of super virus that can create strength and power. This movie is counted as the box office movie Indonesia which contains many dramatic conversations and shows various idioms expression. It attempts to classify the idioms strategy used in rendering the storyline from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL) and to find out how the meaning of the idiomatic expression can be understood by the readers. While the subtitles of idiomatic expression sound unnatural, the possible of misunderstanding and misinterpretation are potential to happen. Furthermore, most of Indonesia audiences still depend on the movie subtitles as the main element of translating subtitles that should be accurate, clear and natural (Larson, 1998). It can be mentioned that reading the subtitles as an alternative way to enjoy watching movies without too much concerning with the language problems. Due to some considerations of the source language (SL) and the target language (TL), there are some translation strategies to translate the idiomatic expressions proposed by Baker (2007) namely idiom of similar meaning and form, translation by paraphrase, idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, and translation by omission.

In conducting this study, the writer uses some references that have been conducting by some researchers dealing with the translation methods and naturalness in movie subtitles. Related to subtitle movie, Zang and Junyan (2009), Altahri (2013) and, Fathi and Reza (2014) believe that subtitling is more authentic since it does not hide the original sound. As the main methods of translating movies, subtitling contributes to experience the flavour of the foreign language.

Using subtitle as a process of translating the foreign film without forcing the original dialogues which also can be used in dubbing. Simply defined, in this modern era, movie industry has recently become an extremely popular media to gather the audiences. In particular, the movie industry not only creates movies which has a good quality, but also faced a translation problem since only small percentage of the world’s population understood English. Translator will face some problems while translating the subtitle. In line with the translating problems, the translator has some rules that they should establish an equivalent

translation from English to Indonesian since they have different style and structure. Thus, a growing need to find appropriate screen translation approaches.

The study about translation method have been reviewed among Hartono (2012), Fadly (2013), Fitria (2015), Purwanti & Mujiyanto (2015), Dewi (2016), Yolanda & Yuliasri (2016), Kuncoro & Sutopo (2015), Suzanne (2016), and Al-Kharabshah & Yassin (2017). In a general overview, translation is a part of language to deliver message from source language into target language. It requires subtitles to deliver the message to be acceptable and readable to the target audiences. Translating is a complex task in order to set up its equivalence, such as in English change into Indonesian or vice versa since those languages have different style and structure. The system and the structure in source language (SL) and target language (TL) may become obstacles if the audiences face or realize the difficulties to discover the equivalence of both languages. Another research of the naturalness in a movie also have been discussed have been discussed the naturalness of subtitling movie by Fadaee (2011), Elghobshawi (2016), and Sari & Soerjowardhana (2016) in analysing the naturalness of translation in short story and movie. It is briefly explained that naturalness is also important thing that must be considered in translating the subtitle. While the subtitles of the movies have been translated accurately and clearly but the sentence of the target language sounds awkward and unnatural, it will make the audiences difficult to follow up the meaning or the message of the movie. In that case, the movie subtitles should be able to choose the suitable words which have the closest meaning with the original text.

In conducting this study, the writer provides the dissimilar findings to find out the correlation of each translation methods with the naturalness of the subtitles. In the final results, it can be seen which translation strategies that often used in analysing the subtitles. In collecting the data, the subtitles are classified in the forms of sentences which are gathered based on the translation strategies proposed by Baker (2007).

## II. METHODS

The subject of this study is the translated of idioms' subtitles of an American action movie of *Fast & Furious: Hobbs and Shaw*. The duration of the movie is about 150 minutes. The source of the data are taken from the subject of the analysis. There are two types of data used in this research. There are primary and secondary data. The primary data is all the words of the conversations and dialog and their translation in the form of subtitles. In order to be specific, the writer

used the subtitles from <http://dunia-lebah.blogspot.com>.

This study is a descriptive-qualitative research which presents the data with a content analysis method. Creswell (2011) explains the typical characteristics of qualitative research in investigating the literature, such as the researcher is the key of instrument that participants' view are pivotal elements to be analysed, the study is done descriptively which elaborated in the form of words or pictures than numbers, and the process is more priority than result which contains of extensive data collection to convey the complexity of the process or phenomenon. A library research was also used in conducting the study in order to find out some theories through books, journals, articles and other sources that are relevant and related to the topic of this study. By using descriptive-qualitative design, the writer observed the translation strategies used in *Fast & Furious: Hobbs and Shaw* movie, the naturalness scale of the subtitles, and the dominating translation methods which is natural. This study contains of 217 idiomatic expressions of the subtitles taken from a website called <http://dunia21.tv/translator/lebah-ganteng/>. In conducting the data, the first step was the writer put the sentences of idiomatic expression of *Fast & Furious: Hobbs and Shaw* in English and Indonesian in a table side by side. Then the writer analysed the translation method in each sentence. After analysing, the writer classified and gathered the data based on the translation methods. After having classified, the data are counted to know the frequency and percentage of each translation method.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings discuss the analysis of the idiomatic translation strategies used on the the subtitle of *Fast & Furious: Hobbs and Shaw*. The writer choose to use four idiomatic translation strategies proposed by Baker (2007), namely using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, and transation by omission.

### Idiomatic Translation Strategies in *Fast & Furius: Hobbs and Shaw*

From the data analysis, the writer found 217 idiomatic expressions with 4 translation strategies namely using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, and transation by omission. The percentage of the translation methods used would be presented as follows:

Percentage of the Translation Strategies of Idiomatic Expression

No.	Translation Strategies	Frequency	No.	Idiomatic Expressions	Percentage	Meaning
1.	Translation by paraphrase	82	1.	But not paying them enough to keep their mouth shut	37.8 %	Tapi tak dibayar untuk tutup mulut.
2.	Using idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form	79	1.	Time flies	19.4 %	Waktu berjalan cepat.
3.	Using an idiom of similar meaning and form	42	2.	Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form	6.5 %	
4.	Translation by Omission	14			100%	
	Total	217				

Based on the data above, it can be concluded that the subtitle of *Fast & Furious: Hobbs and Shaw* movie shows of 37.8 % of translating idiom by phrase. The writer believes that this method is very clear in order to translate the source language (SL) into the target language (TL). Translating idiom by phrase not only should be able to keep style of source language, but also has to be flexible and elegant in changing the structure which can be acceptable in target language. The source language (SL) of grammatical constructions in those idioms expressions are converted to the nearest of target language (TL) equivalents and the lexical words are translated as near as possible to the target language in order to give understandable and acceptable subtitle to the target audiences and it is usually considered as an ideal translation.

The results also find five translation methods which used in translating the movie. There are using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form (36.4%) means that the source language (SL) of word-order is preserved and the words translated are as close as possible by their most common meanings and it has to provide the equivalent of the lexical meanings. Using an idiom of similar meaning and form related to translated the idiomatic expressions which is very similar in its meaning and form of the source text of idioms presented by 19.3% in the movie. Meanwhile, translation by omission presents 6.5% describing some idiomatics expression which are very complicated to be paraphrased and have no equivalent translation of target text.

Based on the analysis, there are various examples of idiomatic expression that can be analysed used Baker's Strategy (2007). This translation strategies really assist readers to understand the meaning of idiomatic expressions shown in the movie. Idiomatic expressions should be translated clearly since they have different meaning from the source text that can lead misunderstand. The idiomatic translations cannot be translated word-by-word that can give unnatural meaning to the readers. These are some examples found in the idiomatic translation of *Fast & Furious: Hobbs and Shaw* movie that can be seen as below:

The use of an idiom of similar meaning and form is found in the source text and the target text which have equal meaning from the style and structure. There no difficulties in translation idiom using similar meaning and form since it also uses in daily life and it is common and familiar to the target readers. The statement of keep the mouth shut is an idiom that lexically and semantically equal with "tutup mulut" in Bahasa Indonesia. Meanwhile, the words "time flies" is very familiar and common in Indonesia which translated into "waktu berjalan cepat".

2. Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

No.	Idiomatic Expressions	Meanings
1.	It's freaking me out right now.	Aku jadi kaget.
2.	All right touchdown in two	Kita akan mendarat.
3.	if you can't break out of a shitty prison like this	Kalau ibu tak bisa kabur dari penjara jelek ini
4.	I can't pull this off we both know it	Kita tak bisa lakukan ini berdua
5.	We didn't mean to knock things down	Kami tak sengaja menjatuhkan barang-barang

Those examples above use idioms of similar meaning but dissimilar form to presents natural subtitles in the movie. The words freak me out is similar with crack up that shows the meaning of an emotional breakdown. It is similar with touchdown that can be translated into arrival which has the same meaning of having a moment of an aircraft's landing. Meanwhile, break out also can be translated into escape that breaking free of control. Those idioms present the same meaning from the source language that can be identified as using idioms of similar meaning but dissimilar form.

Meanwhile, the sentence *I didn't mean to knock things down* is an idiom in English. If the idiom

“knock things down” is translated literally, it would become “mengetuk barang ke bawah”. It was sound awkward for the target readers. That is why the translator should translate the sentence “knock things down” into the closest meaning of the target language. We would understand that the expression 'knock down' means menjatuhkan. Normally, we obviously wouldn't associate the word 'knock down' as “mengetuk ke bawah” in Bahasa Indonesia. Therefore in this context, it's a well-known idiom.

3. Translation by Paraphrase

No	Idiomatic Expressions	Meaning
1.	You might call a champagne problem	Kau bisa menyebutku pembawa masalah.
2.	Then you'll seriously slip in mum	Berarti ibu sudah tak ahli
3.	You cheeky bugger	Dasar anak nakal
4.	Decks, i'm just having a bit	Decks, ibu hanya bersenang-senang
5.	Dont use your pea-sized brain	Jangan pakai otak kecilmu
6.	You might call a champagne problem.	Kau bisa menyebutku pembawa masalah.
7.	You taking it easy on me.	Kau tak bertarung serius.
8.	The point is we need to get on.	Intinya kita harus mengurusnya sekarang.

Translation by paraphrase often used in idiomatic expressions since it cannot completely find the equivalence in the target text. The use of translation of paraphrase will assist the translator to find the closest meaning to the target to avoid ambiguity and unnaturalness. Baker (2006) also argues that translation by paraphrase will reproduce idea and message which is natural and readable from the source text. Based on the subtitle of Hobbs and Shaw, it is found that a champagne problem translated as “pembawa masalah”. It cannot be translated word by word by indicating that champagne is a drink. However, champaigne problem means that a condition that deal with a war, disaster, and particular issues wich give many problems and dilemma. Another example can be seen form “cheeky bugger” is translated as “anak nakal”. In Indonesia, there is no equivalence meaning of cheeky bugger since it is a pure idiomatic expression of American guy which has a meaning of thoughtful and honest but innocent. In

this movie, that expression is translated into “anak nakal” since the actor tries to tease her mother by saying impolite words.

The translation by paraphrase translates the idioms expression as close as possible to the target text by changing a little bit words of them. To illustrate, the champagne problem is translated into pembawa masalah which has the real meaning of disaster and war. The second example indicates that the man does not take something seriously since his interlocutor says that he is taking it easy on her. This idiomatic expression can be created more natural using “kau tak bertarung serius” than “kamu menganggap mudah ke padaku”. Meanwhile, the last example is acceptable by using that sentence of “Intinya kita harus mengurusnya sekarang” to convey the meaning of giving performance or progress in an action.

4. Translation by Omission

No.	Idiomatic Expressions	Meaning
1.	She then proceeded to kill her entire black ops squad	Kemudian dia menghabisi seluruh pasukannya
2.	Then it's like someone lights a match, right in the middle of your chest	Lalu dadamu akan terasa terbakar.
3.	I mean you think you'll be able to put aside any petty rivalries to save the world	Apa mereka bisa mengesampingkan persaingan untuk keselamatan dunia

Translation by omission is used when there is no equivalence to replace the source text in the target text. It can be omitted since the idiomatic expression will not affect the meaning of the target text and still sound natural and acceptable. In particular, “black ops” and petty are omitted since they are not really affect the translated meaning. The meaning of black of is illegal secret military and “petty” is when someone must deal with unimportant thing or small business. Those words can be omitted because they do not give a big influence and do not change the natural translated text in the target text.

CONCLUSION

This study reveales that there are four idiomatic translation strategies used in the subtitle of “Fast and Furious: Hobbs and Shaw”. The translation strategies play pivotal role in rendering the source text into target text related to sound and sense, word order, figurative and literal translation, concision and accuracy element in order to provide natural subtitles (Newmark, 1988). Based on the findings, the most dominant stratgies

used in the movie is Translation by Phrase with the frequency 82 data (37.8%). The second is Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form with the frequency of 79 data (36.4%). The third strategy is Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form with the frequency of 42 data (19.3%) then followed by Translation by Omision which has 14 data (6.5%). It can be concluded that the translation by phrase dominates the strategy used in *Fast & Furious: Hobbs and Shaw* movie to presents the closest meaning to the readers in order to provide the natural subtitles of the movie. The meaning of the idiomatic expressions are supposed to be acceptable and readable in order to render the meaning to the target language since idiomatic expressions also cannot be translated word-by-word.

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