# AN ANNOTATED TRANSLATION OF IDIOMATIC EXPRESSION IN NOVEL SEE ME BY NICHOLAS SPARKS

**Ariza Purnawati**

Faculty of Letters and Cultures, arizapurnawati86@gmail.com, Gunadarma University

**Abstract:** *This research is an annotated translation of idiomatic expression. The object of the research is a novel entitled See Me by Nicholas Spark. This novel contains many idioms which have different form in target language (Indonesian) when it comes to the context of use. The purposes of this research is to find out the difficulties faced by the researcher as a translator while translating idiomatic expression in the texts of novel See Me by giving plausible solution of the difficulties. The researcher uses the introspective and retrospective methods in conducting this annotated translation research. This research uses translation of idiomatic expressions of Baker's idiomatic translation strategies to find the proper translating of idiomatic expressions. The result of this research is that from 10 data, there are 3 data of similar meaning but dissimilar form, 6 data translation by paraphrase, and 1 datum of similar meaning and form.*

*Keywords: Annotated, Translation, Idiomatic Expression, Translation Strategies, Novel.*

## INTRODUCTION

Translation is the communication of meaning from one language as a source language to another language as a target language. As it refers to written information, the aim of translation is to convey the original tone and intention of a message, taking into account cultural and regional differences between source and target languages. Some experts explain the definition of translation. Cartford (1978:20) stated that "Translation may be defined as the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL)". Nida and Taber (1982:12) stated, "Translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style". In this case, the term translation itself has several meanings: it can refer to the general subject field, the product (the text that has been translated) or the process (the act of producing the translation, otherwise known as translating) (Munday, 2008:4). As translation consists of transferring the meaning of the source language into the receptor language, the source text eventually contains a message that is equivalent to the message in the target text (Larson, 1984:3; Hoed, 2006:24). Therefore, to replace a written message and/or statement in one languange by the same message and/or statement in another language needs to know or serendipitously hit on the appropriate collocation (which will not always be in the dictionary)" (Newmark, 2001:5; Fawcett, 2003:7-8).

There are some difficulties in grammatical, lexical, stylistic, phonological, and cultural problems that challenge translators to find the proper strategies to solve these problems. Idiomatic translation is one of the hard translations as the equivalence between source language and target language rarely happens. In her research entitled An *Annotated Translation of Idiomatic Expression in Mary Stewart's This Rough Magic,* Savana (2019) used the strategy *Translation in Paraphrase* because a lot of idioms in the source text do not

have the equal idioms in the target text. Larson (1998:157) stated that "Idioms are special collocations or fixed combination of words which have a meaning as a whole, but the meaning of combination is not the same as the meaning of the individual words". It is based on what Nida and Tiber (1982:106) said that idioms are some of the most obvious candidates for semantic adjustment, for the very fact that they are idioms mean it is unlikely that the same type of distinctive form will have the same meaning in another language. The adjustments are quite understandably of three types: (a) from idioms to non-idioms, (b) from idioms to idioms, and (c) from non-idioms to idioms. Frequently idioms are shifted to non-idioms in the process of transfer. As in her research entitled *An Annotated Translation of Simple Ways to Make Your Family Happy,* Simanjuntak (2015) found that the translator can use Duff's principle of translation in doing idiomatic translation by using a non-idiomatic or plain prose translation. Duff (1990) stated that one of the ways to translate idiomatic expressions if it cannot be directly translated is by using a non-idiomatic or plain prose translation. The two previous researches of idiomatic translation are strengthened by the other annotated translation of idiomatic expression done by Wulnadari. In her research entitled *An Annotated Translation of The Sea Wolf*, Wulandari (2019) also found that an idiom in the target text is not used to translate an idiom in the source text. In this case, some of translators prefer to translate idiomatic expressions to a non-idiomatic translation as their consideration of grammatical and other cultural aspects.

This research has the same way in annotated translation. However, in this research, the translator will focus the analysis in idiomatic translation of a different object from the previous researches. The object used in this research is the novel entitled *See Me* from Nicholas Spark. In this research, the researcher/translator aims to find out the difficulties faced by the researcher as a translator while translating the texts from source language into target language which is Indonesian. One of the hardest parts in translation of this text is idiomatic expression. The problems encountered by the researcher/translator in translating idiomatic expression from English into Indonesian are solved by using the strategies. Therefore, the topic of this research is "An Annotated Translation of Idiomatic Expression in Novel *See Me* by Nicholas Spark".

## METHODOLOGY

This research belongs to the area of analysis of the source text and its translation which covers a study of annotated translation. An annotated translation includes introspective and retrospective method. According to Nunan (1992:115), introspective method is "the process of observing and reflecting on one's thoughts, feelings, motives, reasoning processes, and mental states with a view to determining the ways in which these processes and stated determine our behavior." Nunan (1992:124) also stated that the retrospective research is conducted when the retrospective data are collected some time after the event under investigation has taken place.

The data of this research are taken from the novel *See Me* by Nicholas Spark published in New York by Grand Central Publishing in 2013. This novel is chosen to be translated because Bookreporter.com says that this book is "Powerful proof that Nicholas Sparks is a masterful story teller who remains at the top of his game" (Sparks, 2015:i). Besides, the novel consists of some idiomatic expressions as the contemporary language in use. In addition, this research is included of qualitative research because the data are taken from words or phrases considered as the idiomatic expressions. According to Larson (1998), idiom is a string of words whose meaning is different from the meaning conveyed by the individual words. Therefore, idiom is an expression whose meaning is different from the usual meaning that cannot be translated literally.

Fernando (1996) stated that idioms can be group into three sub-classes: pure idiom, semi-idiom, and literal idiom. Pure idiom is a type of conventionalized, non-literal multiword expression whose meaning cannot be understood by adding up the meaning of the words that make up the phrase. Semi-idiom has at least one literal element and one with a non-literal meaning. Literal idiom is semantically less complex than the other two, and therefore easier to understand even if one is not familiar with these expressions (Fernando, 1996). In translation strategies, Mona Baker (1992) divided her strategies in translating idiom into four different strategies: using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, and translation by omission. Based on Baker's strategies and the categorization of idioms by Fernando, this research will be analyzed to find the proper translation of idiomatic expressions. The technique of collecting data is purposive and randomly sampling as the process of selecting the data that will be translated and analyzed and have an equal and independent chance of being selected for analyzing and being annotated.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this research, the researcher discussed the data and analysis by the strategies and the categorization of idioms. By using Baker's strategies in translating idiomatic expression, the data will be classified based on the categorization idioms in source language and idiom translation in target language. There are a lot of

idioms discovered in this analysis. However, due to the limitation of the research, there are only a few of idioms can merely be described and presented in this research.

**Data 1**

| Idiomatic Expression in SL | Idiomatic Expression in TL | Categorized idioms in SL | Idiom Translation Strategies in TL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Shifting his eyes from left to right, he wondered how many of these students even **gave much thought to the lives** they were going to lead. (Spark, 2015:3) | Sambil melirik ke kanan dan ke kiri, dia bertanya-tanya berapa banyak dari para mahasiswa ini yang **memikirkan kehidupan** yang akan mereka jalani kelak. | Literal Idiom | Similar meaning but dissimilar form |

The data above shows that the translation of idiomatic expression of **gave much thought to the lives** is *memikirkan kehidupan*. The words **gave much thought to the lives** is considered as a literal idiom. According to Oxford Learner's Dictionary, the meaning of "give" is hand or provides something. Thought is something people think. And lives is the plural form of life. To get the proper meaning ini target language, these words are translated into the closest meaning *memikirkan kehidupan.*

**Data 2**

| Idiomatic Expression in SL | Idiomatic Expression in TL | Categorized idioms in SL | Idiom Translation Strategies in TL |
|---|---|---|---|
| She'd mapped out her future by seventeen, but he could remember thinking that there was something tentative about the way she'd talked about it, and he'd had the sense that she didn't quite believe in herself or **the face she showed to the world**. (Spark, 2015:3) | Cassie telah memetakan masa depannya sejak usianya tujuh belas tahun, tapi dia bisa ingat ketika dia berpikir bahwa ada sesuatu yang tidak pasti tentang cara Cassie berbicara mengenai hal itu, dan dia memiliki perasaan bahwa Cassie tidak cukup percaya diri atau **yakin kepada dirinya sendiri**. | Pure Idiom | Translation by paraphrasing |

The data above shows that the translation of idiomatic expression of **the face she showed to the world** is *yakin kepada dirinya sendiri.*. The words **the face she showed to the world** is considered as a pure idiom. This type of idiom cannot be understood from individual words. In this case, to get the proper meaning in target language, the translator uses Baker's strategy which is translation by paraphrasing. Therefore, the translation of this idiomatic expression becomes *yakin kepada dirinya sendiri*.

**Data 3**

| Idiomatic Expression in SL | Idiomatic Expression in TL | Categorized idioms in SL | Idiom Translation Strategies in TL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Where Serena **was outgoing to a fault**, Maria had always been quieter and driven, the more serious and studious of the two. (Spark, 2015:7) | Sementara Serena **ramah terhadap siapa pun hingga mudah dimanfaatkan orang lain**, Maria selalu lebih pendiam dan tekun, lebih sungguh-sungguh dan rajin dibanding adiknya. | Pure Idiom | Translation by paraphrasing |

Data 3 has the same categorization and strategy used. The words **outgoing to a fault** is considered as a pure idiom. This type of idiom cannot be understood from individual words. According to collindictionary.com, "outgoing" is to describe a person in charge of something who is soon going to leave that position. "Fault" is a bad and undesirable situations. These words will not be understandable if they are translated in individual

word. Therefore, the translation in Indonesian use translation by paraphrase. To get the meaning as *ramah terhadap siapa pun hingga mudah dimanfaatkan orang lain*.

**Data 4**

| Idiomatic Expression in SL | Idiomatic Expression in TL | Categorized idioms in SL | Idiom Translation Strategies in TL |
|---|---|---|---|
| "You get my point, though. Sometimes, you need to… **stretch the truth** to get along with people." (Spark, 2015:13) | "Tapi kamu mengerti maksudku. Kadang-kadang, kamu **tidak perlu terlalu jujur** untuk bergaul dengan berbagai orang." | Pure Idiom | Translation by paraphrase |

The data above shows that the translation of idiomatic expression of **stretch the truth** is *tidak perlu terlalu jujur*. In this translation, the translator use Baker's strategy which is translation by paraphrase. According to collindictionary.com, stretch is over an area or distance covers or exists in the whole of that area or distance. Truth is something is all the fact. These words will not be understandable if they are translated in individual word. Therefore words **stretch the truth** is considered as a pure idiom. From the context of the text, "stretch the truth" means you need to not saying the truth directly to someone for a certain purpose. The translator uses the first Baker strategy – translation by paraphrase – to get the proper meaning in target language. Therefore this Indonesian idiomatic expression is translated as "*tidak perlu terlalu jujur*".

**Data 5**

| Idiomatic Expression in SL | Idiomatic Expression in TL | Categorized idioms in SL | Idiom Translation Strategies in TL |
|---|---|---|---|
| "I promise to **stay out of sight**," Colin offered. (Spark, 2015:14) | "Aku berjanji untuk **bersembunyi** dulu," Colin menawarkan. | Literal Idiom | Similar meaning and dissimilar form |

The data above shows that the translation of idiomatic expression of **stay out of sight** is **bersembunyi.** The words **stay out of sight** is considered as a literal idiom. According to Oxford Learner's Dictionary, the meaning of **stay out of** is to avoid something. Sight is ability to see. Therefore, stay out of sight is to avoid of being seen. In Indonesian, these words are translated into *memikirkan kehidupan.* The meaning is similar to the source language but dissimilar form.

**Data 6**

| Idiomatic Expression in SL | Idiomatic Expression in TL | Categorized idioms in SL | Idiom Translation Strategies in TL |
|---|---|---|---|
| More often than not, they'd spent the night at each other's houses, until Evan's family moved to Chapel Hill and Colin's life **went** completely **in the toilet**. (Spark, 2015:16) | **Biasanya**, mereka akan menghabiskan malam di rumah masing-masing, hingga keluarga Evan pindah ke Chapel Hill dan kehidupan Colin benar-benar **kacau balau**. | Pure idiom | Similar meaning and form |

The words **went in the toilet** is considered as a pure idiom. This type of idiom cannot be understood from individual words. According to collindictionary.com, **go in the toilet** has a meaning as to become worthless or profitless. It is usually used by British In this case, to get the proper meaning in target language, the translator uses Baker's strategy which is similar meaning and form. Therefore, the translation of this idiomatic expression becomes *kacau balau*. According to online KBBI, "*kacau balau*" means very messy or worthless.

**Data 7**

| Idiomatic Expression in SL | Idiomatic Expression in TL | Categorized idioms in SL | Idiom Translation Strategies in TL |
|---|---|---|---|
| He had a great teacher in third grade who made things better for a while, but in fourth grade, he | Dia mempunyai seorang guru hebat di kelas tiga yang membuat perilakunya menjadi | Pure idiom | Translation by paraphrase |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| started **going downhill** again. (Spark, 2015:16) | lebih baik untuk sementara waktu, tapi di kelas empat, dia mulai **memburuk** lagi. | | |

The words **going downhill** is considered as a pure idiom. This type of idiom cannot be understood from individual words. According to collindictionary.com, **go downhill** has a meaning as to decline, deteriorate, or fail. It is usually used by British. In this case, to get the proper meaning in target language, the translator uses Baker's strategy which is translation by paraphrasing. Therefore, the translation of this idiomatic expression becomes *memburuk*.

**Data 8**

| Idiomatic Expression in SL | Idiomatic Expression in TL | Categorized idioms in SL | Idiom Translation Strategies in TL |
|---|---|---|---|
| So what if his folks had finally **thrown in the towel** and shipped him off to military school? (Spark, 2015:18) | Jadi bagaimana jika orangtuanya akhirnya **mengakui kekalahan** dan mengirimnya pergi ke sekolah militer? | Pure idiom | Translation by paraphrase |

The words **thrown in the towel** is considered as a pure idiom. This type of idiom cannot be understood from individual words. According to collindictionary.com, throw in the towel has a meaning as stop trying to do something because you realize that you cannot succeed. In this case, to get the proper meaning in target language, the translator uses Baker's strategy which is translation by paraphrasing. Therefore, the translation of this idiomatic expression becomes *mengakui kekalahan*.

**Data 9**

| Idiomatic Expression in SL | Idiomatic Expression in TL | Categorized idioms in SL | Idiom Translation Strategies in TL |
|---|---|---|---|
| The man whom Colin had beaten in the bar was a longtime confidential informant of Margolis's, and as a result of the fight, a high profile case Margolis was working on **had gone suddenly south**. (Spark, 2015:19) | Dia mempunyai seorang guru hebat di kelas tiga yang membuat perilakunya menjadi lebih baik untuk sementara waktu, tapi di kelas empat, dia mulai **memburuk** lagi. | Pure idiom | Translation by paraphrase |

The words **had gone suddenly south** is considered as a pure idiom. This type of idiom cannot be understood from individual words. According to collindictionary.com, **go south** has a meaning as to decline, deteriorate, or fail. This idiom has the same meaning as "go downhill", but "go south" is mostly used by American. In this case, to get the proper meaning in target language, the translator uses Baker's strategy which is translation by paraphrasing. Therefore, the translation of this idiomatic expression becomes *memburuk*.

**Data 10**

| Idiomatic Expression in SL | Idiomatic Expression in TL | Categorized idioms in SL | Idiom Translation Strategies |
|---|---|---|---|
| These days, it seemed like Mr. Rights tended to **fly off the shelves**, perhaps because they were as rare as California condors. (Spark, 2015:43) | Belakangan ini, sepertinya Mr. Right cenderung **cepat sekali laku**, mungkin karena itu mereka sama langkanya dengan burung condor California. | Pure Idiom | Similar meaning but dissimilar form |

**Fly off the shelves** is a pure idiom. These words will be awkward if they are translated in individual words. To find the proper translation of these words, the translator use similar meaning but different form.

According to www.phrases.com, the meaning of **fly off the shelves** is to be sold in <u>large</u> quantities or very rapidly. In Indonesian language, it can be translated as ***cepat sekali laku.***

**CONCLUSION**

After translating the text from English to Indonesian and then analyzing the data, the researcher concludes that translating idiomatic expressions is not an easy way. Translator should know the strategies to come up with the problems in doing translation of idiomatic expression. As it is explained by some experts, idiomatic expressions are translated mostly to a non-idiomatic translation. It is because idioms have different meaning from the meaning conveyed by the individual words. Before translating the words, translator is suggested to know the categorization of the idioms. Categorization of the idioms helps the researcher to classify the idiom expressions before translating them. Using translation strategies of Mona Baker in translating idiomatic expression, the researcher found that from 10 data analyzed there are only three strategies used by the researcher/translator. They are 1 datum of similar meaning and form, 3 data of similar meaning but dissimilar form, and 6 data of translation by paraphrase. The most frequent idiomatic translation strategy used by the translator in this research is translation by paraphrase. By using the idiomatic translation strategies, translating idiomatic expression will be easier. It is because these strategies can help translator to find the way to translate the words in proper way.

**REFERENCES**

[1]. Baker, Mona. (1992). *In Other Words: a Coursebook on Translation.* USA and Canada: Routledge.
[2]. Catford, J.C. (1978). *A Linguistic Theory of Translation.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.
[3]. Chesterman, Andrew. (2000). *Memes of Translation.* Philadelphia: John Benjamins North America.
[4]. Collin Dictionary. Definition of *Throw in the towel.* Accessed from https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/to-throw-in-the-towel.
[5]. Collin Dictionary. Definition of *go downhill.* Accessed from https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/go downhill.
[6]. Collin Dictionary. Definition of *go south.* Accessed from https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/go south.
[7]. Collin Dictionary. Definition of *outgoing.* Accessed from https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/outgoing.
[8]. Collin Dictionary. Definition of *stretch.* Accessed from https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/stretch.
[9]. Collin Dictionary. Definition of *truth.* Accessed from https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/truth.
[10]. Duff, Alan. (1990). *Translation.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.
[11]. Fawcett, Peter. (2003). *Translation and Language: Linguistic Theories Explained.* Manchester: St. Jerome Publishing.
[12]. Fernando, C. (1996). *Idiom and Idiomaticity.* New York: Oxford University Press.
[13]. Hoed, Benny (2006). *Penerjemahan dan kebudayaan,* Bandung: Pustaka Jaya.
[14]. KBBI. Definition of *kacau balau.* Accessed from https://kbbi.web.id/kacau-balau.
[15]. Larson, Mildred L. (1998). *Meaning-Based Translation.* Maryland: University Press of America.
[16]. Munday, Jeremy. (2008). *Introducing translation studies: Theories and applications.* London: Routledge Nunan, David. (2001). *Research Method in Language Learning.* New York: Cambridge University Press.
[17]. Newmark, Peter. (1988). *A Textbook of Translation.* New York: Pergamon Press.
[18]. Nida, Eugene A. & Charles R. Taber. (1982). *The Theory and Practice of Translation.* Leiden: E. J. Brill.
[19]. Nunan, D. (1992). *Research Methods in Language Learning.* New York: Cambridge University Press.
[20]. Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. Definition of *stay out of.* Accessed from https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/stay out of.
[21]. Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. Definition of *sight.* Accessed from https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/sight.
[22]. Phrases. Definition of *fly off the shelves.* Accessed from https://www.phrases.com/phrase/fly-off-the-shelves_25632.
[23]. Savana, Gevonny D. T. (2019). *An Annotated Translation of Idiomatic Expressions in Mary Stewart's This Rough Magic.* Tesis. Salatiga. Satya Wacana Christian University
[24]. Simanjuntak, Herlina L. (2015). *An Annotated Translation of Simple Ways To Make Your Family Happy.* DEIKSIS: Jurnal Ilmiah Bahasa dan Seni. Vol. 07. No.02:79-170.

[25]. Sparks, Nicholas. (2015). *See Me*. New York: Grand Central Publishing.
[26]. Wulandari, Ratna. (2019). *An Annotated Translation of The Sea Wolf.* Accessed from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332110912.