Exploring Strategies and Perceptions of Quality in English to Indonesian Translation of Idioms in the Short Story "Dear Life"

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ABSTRACT - One of the challenges that Indonesian translators face in translating English literary texts is the translation of idiomatic expressions. The purpose of this descriptive study is to explore the strategies used in translating idioms in the English to Indonesian translation of Alice Ann Munro's short story *Dear Life* by Tia Setiadi and explore readers' perceptions of the translation accuracy and acceptability of the translated idioms. Purposive sampling was used to explore 131 Indonesian EFL students, 21 Indonesian EFL teachers, and 3 Indonesian translators' perceptions towards the accuracy and acceptability of the translations. The in-depth meaning of idioms and the type of strategies were explored based on strategies proposed by Baker (2011). The findings of this study indicate that the dominant strategy in the Indonesian translation of idioms in *Dear Life* is paraphrase, and the translation of idioms is accurate and acceptable from the readers' perspective. The implications of these findings are significant for Indonesian translators, offering insights that could enhance the fluency and naturalness of idiomatic translations from English to Indonesian. Moreover, the study suggests avenues for future research to expand the scope of evaluation beyond mere accuracy and acceptability. It recommends examining factors such as readability, encompassing considerations spanning word choices, technical terminology, phraseology, clause structures, sentence composition, and overall text translation. Such holistic evaluations would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the translational process and its impact on the reception of literary works in the target language.

1.0   INTRODUCTION

The Indonesian literary landscape has been profoundly shaped by translations of Western literature, with a notable genre appealing to young female readers and exploring themes of romance, culture, and contemporary life (Murtisari, 2015; Sunardi, 2017). However, ensuring the accurate translation of idiomatic expressions remains a critical challenge for Indonesian translators due to their inherent linguistic and cultural nuances (Cooper, 1998; Kovács, 2016). A notable literary niche within Indonesia caters to young female readers, exploring themes encompassing romance, culture, lifestyle, and contemporary thought patterns. The genesis of this literary genre in Indonesia can be traced back to 2003, marked by the surge in Western literary translations (Ismah, 2012). This genre, colloquially referred to as "chicklit", (Agustina, 2017) although criticised for its perceived sexism, frequently adopts a diary-style narrative, engaging the first-person perspective to provide a natural structural foundation for its storyline (Ismah, 2011). Typically, the authors and readers of this genre fall within the 25-40 years old, and the central characters in the stories are often depicted as diligent, self-reliant single women or young mothers (Ismah, 2012).

This popular literary genre serves as a medium for individuals to indulge in fantasies about their lives, exemplifying Indonesia's penchant for imaginative escapades and catering to the desires of readers who might not be well-versed in English literature (Putten et al., 2017). This phenomenon has evolved into a catalyst in the development of Indonesian literary creations. Moreover, this genre plays a significant role in disseminating values related to the women's movement, fostering awareness about women's roles and positions within society (Jordan & Weedon, 1995). Furthermore, in the realm of figurative expressions, idioms are the most ubiquitous, and frequently encountered by translators (Cooper, 1998). Ensuring the accurate translation of idioms is crucial to avert potential mistranslations. To this end, a translator must possess expertise, ingenuity, and a profound understanding of the target language, along with cultural insights for idiomatic translation (Kovács, 2016). Baker (2001) posited that idioms adhere to rigid linguistic patterns, resisting alteration under normal circumstances, unless the speaker or writer intends to employ humour or wordplay. She enumerated five fundamental alterations that are incompatible with idioms: (1) rearranging their word order, (2) removing words from them, (3) appending words to them, (4) substituting their constituent words, and (5) modifying their grammatical structure.

The applicability of different translation strategies across various genres or text types, considering factors such as readability, technical terminology, and overall text composition have been explored in previous studies. However, this study focuses on exploring the strategies used in translating idioms from English to Indonesian within Alice Ann Munro's short story collection Dear Life, translated

by Tia Setiadi in 2015. The purpose of this descriptive study is to describe these strategies and examine readers' perceptions regarding the accuracy and acceptability of the translated idioms (Baker, 2011). This research is particularly relevant as it sheds light on how these strategies contribute to the fluency and naturalness of the translated text, thereby impacting the reception of literary works in Indonesian translation. Such investigations would contribute to a deeper understanding of how translation strategies influence the effectiveness and reception of literary translations. This research contributes to the discourse on translation theory and practice by highlighting the importance of strategic decision-making in idiomatic translation.

The primary aim of this research is to investigate the strategies used in translating idiomatic expressions from English to Indonesian, specifically in the context of Alice Ann Munro's short story collection *Dear Life*. The study seeks to:

1. Analyse the specific strategies employed by the translator, Tia Setiadi, in rendering English idioms into Indonesian.

2. Explore how readers, including Indonesian EFL students, teachers, and translators, perceive the accuracy and acceptability of these translated idioms.

3. Determine the most frequently used translation strategies for idioms in this literary work.

4. Provide insights and implications for Indonesian translators to enhance the quality of idiomatic translations.

These objectives can contribute to the field of translation studies by offering an analysis of idiom translation strategies and their reception among Indonesian readers. By addressing these research objectives, we aim to provide valuable insights for translators and researchers interested in enhancing the quality and impact of Indonesian literary translations.

1.1 Translation Process and Strategies

The process of translation often refers to the translators' decision-making and the involved procedures (Tee et al., 2022). It is a process wherein the original linguistic form is transmitted into another language, guided by a semantic meaning (Goh et al., 2022). This is explained by Larson (1998), who highlighted the depth of this transition by differentiating between the source language (SL) and the receiver language. Newmark (1988) unfolded a practical perspective by delineating two operational pathways for translators, emphasising the indispensability of textual, referential, cohesive, and naturalness, as they navigated the labyrinth of translation. Translation goes beyond simple word substitution and becomes a sophisticated procedure that requires a series of careful processes, talent, and devotion to accurately and palatably shift words and encapsulate meaning from source language (SL) to target language (TL) (Batmanathan et al., 2022; Chai, et al., 2022). Chesterman (1997) defined translation strategies as conceptual tools used to manipulate linguistic materials to produce appropriate TT.

The lack of standardised methods degrades translated works' quality and confuses readers trying to understand translated language. Notably, concerns regarding the quality of Indonesian translations mostly are about the difficulties in understanding translated books to unnatural sentence structures and lexicons influenced by the ST. This underscores the imperative need for effective translation strategies to improve the translation of idioms from English to Indonesian. In the present study, strategy refers to a specific method or procedure of solving a translation problem. Studying the overall approach or the process is beyond the scope of this study.

1.2 Equivalence in Translation

Equivalence is a fundamental translation principle that concerns maintaining value between the source text (ST) and the target language (TT) (Pym, 2014). Catford (1965) analysed translation equivalence, distinguishing between formal correspondence and textual equivalence. Textual equivalence encapsulates the fidelity between the text and its translation (Lea, 2009), while formal correspondence delves into the alignment of linguistic categories across SL and TL, encompassing grammatical units, class, structure, and elements of structure (Catford, 1965; Yaqubi et al., 2018; Kanan et al., 2022). Formal correspondence is concerned with linguistic systems and not specific ST-TT comparisons (Hatim & Munday, 2004). Shifts, occurring at the grammatical and lexical level, take centre stage when the TT deviates from formal correspondence with the SL (Hee et al., 2022). Nonetheless, it is argued that Catford's emphasis on textual material equivalence neglects the equivalence in terms of meaning (Panou, 2013). Newmark (1988) posited that the paramount objective of translation is to evoke an equivalent effect on the TT audience as that experienced by the readers of the original text. Larson (1998) highlighted the difficulty faced by translators in trying to find lexical equivalents for ideas outside of the TT culture. This difficulty is made worse by cultural differences in terms of geography, beliefs, and practices (Larson, 1998; Lau et al., 2022).

Baker (2011) divided equivalence into two distinguishable levels: above-word equivalence, which looks at the relationships between words and expressions in more expansive contextual units, and word-level equivalence, which focuses on the meanings of particular words and phrases. Because words are complex and can have different meanings in different languages, this distinction is necessary. Grammatical equivalence is a basic translation concept that deals with the complex interactions between grammatical categories in different languages. Finding equivalents in the target text (TT) that conform to the grammatical nuances of the ST is a difficult task that translators frequently face. This intricacy is further exacerbated by the intrinsic variety of grammatical rules among languages. Gaps in grammatical structures can impact communication significantly, changing the way information is conveyed or the message itself. Translators might have to add or remove certain aspects from the ST. Notably, translators frequently face significant challenges when it comes to several crucial categories, including voice, person, gender, tense, and aspect. Textual equivalence refers to the possibility of alignment between ST and TT concerning coherence and informative content. Baker (2011) emphasised how important textual elements are because they help translators understand and analyse the ST and create a TL text that is logical and cohesive.

The translator's crucial decision on whether to maintain or modify the cohesive ties and overall coherence of the ST depends on three factors: the text's genre, its intended audience, and its purpose. Pragmatic equivalence, a concept primarily anchored in implicature, draws upon Grice's (1975) theoretical framework. According to Baker, implicature captures the inferred rather than the actual meaning. According to Wan et al. (2018), the translator's main goal is to carefully recreate the ST's intended meaning so that the target audience may understand and utilise it. Baker's contribution to the realm of translation studies garners widespread acclaim, chiefly for her systematic approach to equipping translators with specific strategies to navigate the challenges they encounter. In line with Pym's (2014) observations, House (2018) emphasised the importance of pragmatic equivalence in translation, where "equivalence" denotes equality in the interactions between the ST and TT. As a result, the information in the ST ought to remain equivalent in the TT, signifying semantic congruity. According to House (2018), pragmatic equivalence broadens its definition to include facets like the translated text's style, formality, and how its many parts work together.

1.3   Classification of Idiom

The term "idiom" could have multiple interpretations, sparking debates regarding its definitions. Idioms are characterised as "expressions functioning as cohesive units with meanings that defy deconstruction into individual components" (Richards, 2010, p. 270), or, as Baker (2011) defined them, "frozen linguistic patterns exhibiting minimal form variation and often harboring meanings inscrutable from their constituent elements" (p. 67), represent a type of non-literal or figurative language (Adelnia & Dastjerdi, 2011). This figurative nature of idiomatic language can pose a challenge for TT readers idioms, collocations, and proverbs can be distinguished from one another based on how flexible their structural patterns are and how clear their meanings are. Distinguishing idioms from proverbs in the ST can perplex translators due to their lack of familiarity with these linguistic expressions (Farahani & Ghasemi, 2012). For example, Kovecses (2010) categorised idioms into nine types, such as metaphors, metonymies, pairs of words, similes, and grammatical idioms, contributing to the array of challenges faced by translators. In addition, translating idioms necessitates specialised skills, distinct from literal translation (Newmark, 1988; Larson, 1998).

Baker (2011) explained that idioms often carry meanings that cannot be deduced from their components. According to Baker (2011), collocations allow for a certain amount of linguistic flexibility by allowing for several form alternatives. Idioms follow the same path, becoming fossilised and ending up in sentences that no longer have any meaning on their own. Proverbs, on the other hand, represent traditional values and succinct, figurative wisdom that has been passed down through the ages. Five essential aspects of the classification of idiom characteristics are the fixed word order, the restriction against word deletion, the restriction against word insertion, the possibility of word substitution, and the maintenance of grammatical structure. Baker's (2011) classification encompassed idioms that violate truth conditions, those that appear structurally flawed, and idioms commencing with "like," each requiring distinct translation approaches.

1.4   Challenges in Translating Idioms

The translation of idioms introduces an intriguing layer of complexity. Idioms, characterised as expressions where the whole assumes a meaning that transcends the sum of its parts, often defy a literal interpretation, confounding translators with their unpredictable semantics. Baker (2011) highlighted two primary challenges in translating idioms: accurately identifying and interpreting idioms and conveying the nuanced meanings they carry in the TL. The complexity amplifies when dealing with "ill-formed" idioms that defy conventional grammatical rules, rendering precise translation elusive. The obstacles faced in translating idioms differ from those encountered in interpreting them. Bunchutrakun (2014) embarked on an exploration of the challenges confronted by translators in rendering English idioms into Thai, unveiling the strategies. The main challenge was identified as cultural differences. Translators interpreted the context before translating idiomatic phrases into non-idiomatic language.

Beyond the identification of idiomatic expressions, translators confront other challenges, as Baker (2018) elucidated. These challenges include 1) the absence of equivalent expressions in the target language, 2) contextual variations in the use of idioms despite potential similarities, and 3) the dual nature of idioms, encompassing both literal and figurative meanings. Consequently, translating idiomatic expressions becomes an intricate task that transcends simple word-by-word examination. Therefore, for translators, EFL instructors, and EFL students, classifying idiomatic phrases can be a difficult task because these expressions represent distinct semantic units and diverge from the literal meanings of their constituent words (Howwar, 2013; McCarthy et al., 2010). The translation of a single word requires careful consideration of properties like number, gender, and tense (Baker, 2011).

Furthermore, successful idiom translation entails preserving idiomatic forms while ensuring grammatical correctness and cultural sensitivity (Larson, 1998). Translators operating in a foreign language often struggle to attain the nuanced idiomatic competence of native speakers (Wong et al., 2019). These challenges include the absence of equivalence in the TL, contextual disparities, simultaneous literal and idiomatic usage, and variations in idiomatic conventions across languages. Translation strategies serve as conscious problem-solving tools utilised by translators (Lorscher, 1996). They represent a repertoire of potential procedures for navigating linguistic obstacles and crafting suitable TT.

1.5   Previous Studies on Idiom Translation and Strategies

Idioms are the subject of research in many different fields, such as applied linguistics, pragmatics, corpus-based studies, and education. Nevertheless, idiom translation goes beyond dictionary definitions and is a difficult task for translators and EFL educators. The qualitative study conducted by Straksiene (2009) compares idioms in English and Lithuanian, highlighting the main techniques translators use to translate idioms from Agatha Christie's books into Kirvaityle's translations. The results highlight how common paraphrasing — which includes stylistic and explanatory modifications, is as a method of choice.

In their 2011 case study, Motallebzadeh and Tousi investigated the difficulties encountered when translating Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" into Persian. The study used the idiom translation techniques proposed by Baker (1992). It clarified that the method that both translators mainly use is converting an SL non-idiom into a TL idiom. Nonetheless, a minor disparity in the frequency of these translations is noted, which might compromise the Persian version's idiomatic integrity. Straksien (2009) cited Fernando (1996), who divided idioms into three categories: literal idioms, semi-idioms, and pure idioms. Pure idioms are well-established, nonliteral, multiword statements with little change that might be difficult to understand. They frequently have an opacity to them. Literal idioms are less complex than semi-idioms, which contain one or more literal components together with non-literal sub-senses. Brenner (2011) emphasised how difficult it is to define idioms in the context of the ever-changing English language. These colloquial expressions are frequently divided into discrete groups to aid in understanding and interpretation. Farahani and Ghasemi (2012) examined strategies employed in translating idioms and proverbs, focusing on their prevalence in translating "The Adventure of Pinocchio" from English to Persian. Their corpus-based analysis reveals paraphrasing as the most applied strategy.

Khosravi and Khatib (2012) investigated the translation of English idioms into Persian within novels, highlighting the dominance of paraphrasing. They also explored the challenges posed by "troublesome idioms" in conveying cultural nuances. Hashemian and Arezi (2015) explored strategies in the translation of idioms within American subtitled movies, identifying the prevalence of the omission strategy. Susanti and Kuswardani (2015) evaluated idiom translation strategies using accuracy, acceptability, and readability scales. Their analysis of the short story "Man from the South" indicated paraphrasing as the most frequently used strategy. Kovacs (2016) delved into the factors influencing the appropriateness of idiom translation in George R.R. Martin's "A Game of Thrones", finding that students often resort to paraphrase. However, a substantial portion of translations is deemed "unacceptable" due to misinterpretation and linguistic inaccuracies. Miandoab (2018) explored strategies for translating Persian idioms into English in the subtitling of Iranian drama movies, revealing the prevalence of similar-meaning and form idioms in the translation process. Quantitative research was conducted by Neshkovska (2018) to scrutinise the translation strategies implemented for rendering idioms from the English language into Macedonian to compare Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" and its Macedonian translation, titled "Od Vlakno Ortoma", as crafted by Dragi Mihajlovski. The study unearthed a total of 89 idioms, with the most prevalent strategy being the utilisation of idioms possessing similar connotations but distinct linguistic forms.

1.6   Quality and Evaluating Translations

Translation is intrinsically associated with the notions of evaluation and assessment, often used interchangeably. Translators are entrusted with the responsibility of conveying the closest possible semantic essence from the SL into the TL, as elucidated by Mustonen (2010). The preservation of translation quality holds paramount importance, from the perspectives of scholars such as Schäffner and Adab (2000), and Lauscher (2000). This is pivotal, as it enables reviewers to detect and rectify any discrepancies that may arise during the process of transposing content from the ST to the TT. House (2001) posited that translation evaluation predominantly entails methods rooted in reader response, thereby involving an assessment of whether the readers react to the TT in a manner akin to their response to the ST (House, 2001). The domain of evaluation can be categorised into three distinct facets: assessment of published translations, evaluation within the sphere of professional translation practice, and assessment pertinent to translation pedagogy. Therefore, the quality of a translation depends on its merits and demerits, and potential solutions. Furthermore, Nababan et al. (2012) elucidated that a meritorious translation meets the twin criteria of accuracy and acceptability. Accuracy serves as the benchmark for appraising the equivalence achieved during the translation process from ST to TT (refer Table 1). The concept of equivalence underscores the semblance in content or message between the two textual iterations. Consequently, a text may rightfully be labeled a translation if it preserves the same meaning or message as conveyed in the ST.

Table 1

The instrument of Accuracy Assessment by Nababan et al. (2012)

Category	Score	The qualitative parameter
Accurate	3	The meaning of a word, technical term, phrase, clause, sentence, or SL text is accurately transferred into the TL. There is no distortion of the meaning.
Less accurate	2	The vast majority of the words, technical terms, phrases, clauses, sentences, or SL texts have been accurately transferred into the TL. However, there is still a distortion of meaning that disturbs the integrity of the message.
Inaccurate	1	The meaning of the word, technical term, phrase, clause, sentence, or SL text is transferred inaccurately. The meaning was lost.

Table 2

The instrument of Acceptability Assessment by Nababan et al. (2012)

Category	Score	The qualitative parameter
Acceptable	3	Translation is natural, technical terms used are commonly used and familiar to the reader. Phrases, clauses, and sentences which are used following the rules of the Indonesian.
Less acceptable	2	In general, translations sound natural, but there is a little problem with the use of technical terms, or a few grammatical errors have occurred.
Unacceptable	1	Translation does not sound natural or feel like a work of translation. The technical terms used are not commonly used and are not familiar to the reader. The phrases, clauses, and sentences used do not conform to the Indonesian rules.

Conversely, acceptability translation pertains to the harmonious adaptation of the ST into the TT (refer Table 2), with its meaning being faithfully conveyed within the framework of the rules, norms, and cultural paradigms pertinent to the target language. If the translated output in the TT fails to align with the norms and values of the target language culture, it may face the risk of rejection or critique, thus being deemed "unacceptable". This study is primarily concerned with the assessment of published translations, with its theoretical framework (refer Figure 1) drawing from two key sources mainly from Baker's comprehensive framework of strategies, as illustrated in Figure 2. These strategies serve as the foundational tools for identifying the specific strategies employed in the translation of idiomatic expressions.

Figure 1

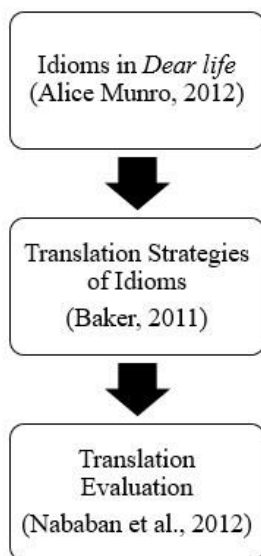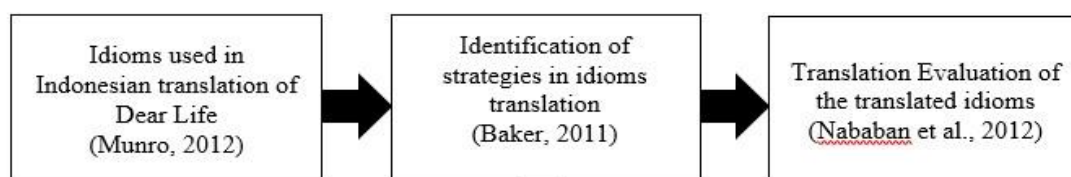*Theoretical framework of the study*

Figure 2

The proposed conceptual framework

In the current investigation, we focused on the translation of idiomatic expressions from English (ST) into Indonesian (TT) with the primary aim of discerning the prevalent strategies employed by translators. Furthermore, an assessment was conducted to ascertain the effectiveness, in terms of acceptability and accuracy, of the strategies advocated by Baker (2011). The evaluation of these strategies was executed by considering the parameters of accuracy and acceptability as delineated by Nababan et al. (2012). In

addition to this, a panel of three expert raters was convened to independently appraise the accuracy and acceptability of the translated idiomatic expressions.

The multifaceted nature of literary translation emphasises the intricacies and strategies involved in the process (James et al., 2018), especially when dealing with idioms. Translation is depicted as a complex decision-making journey where meaning is transmitted from the source language to the target language through various nuanced procedures. Equivalence, both formal and textual, plays a crucial role in ensuring that translations maintain fidelity to the original text's meaning and structure. The translation of idioms, with their figurative and often culture-specific meanings, presents significant challenges, requiring translators to employ specialised skills and strategies to convey the intended message accurately. Various studies have highlighted common techniques like paraphrasing and contextual interpretation used to tackle these challenges. The evaluation of translation quality, focusing on accuracy and acceptability, is crucial in assessing whether the translated text resonates with the target audience as the original does with its readers. Likewise, the need for effective translation strategies to improve the understanding and naturalness of translated works, particularly in the context of translating idioms from English to Indonesian is emphasised.

2.0   METHODOLOGY

A descriptive qualitative design was employed to answer the research questions. The evaluations of perceptions towards the idiom translations' accuracy and acceptability were accomplished through three distinct rating scales. The assessment was structured in a manner that entailed the solicitation of responses from the expert raters, combining close-ended questions that prompted their evaluations concerning accuracy and acceptability across the three designated scales. Furthermore, open-ended questions featured in the survey allow them to substantiate their judgments with reasoned justifications. Thus, descriptive statistical techniques, encompassing percentages, were employed to reinforce the deductions drawn from the data (Kumar, 2011). The inclusion criteria for the panel of raters were meticulous. First, they were required to demonstrate proficiency in both English and Indonesian, a competence that was validated through the attainment of an IELTS score of 6 evidence or equivalent. Second, raters should hold a Master's degree or above in Translation or relevant fields, ensuring their competence in the language and translation domain. Last, their eligibility was contingent upon possessing a minimum of five years of experience as English educators. The cohort of raters was selectively sourced from reputable institutions of the Indonesia Australia Language Foundation (IALF), The British Institute (TBI), Active English Bali (AEB), and Seminyak Language School (SLS) situated in Bali, Indonesia. All raters had advanced to intermediate levels of proficiency in the English language.

Figure 3

The procedure of data collection

In this study, data materials comprising idioms extracted from Alice Munro's short story collection, "Dear Life", and its Indonesian translation were collected and analysed. The English version, "Dear Life", published in 2012 by McClelland and Stewart, served as the primary data source. The Indonesian translation by Tia Setiadi, published by Bentang in 2015, was also analysed for comparison. Purposive sampling was employed to select the materials and participants. This group consisted of 21 Indonesian EFL instructors, 131 Indonesian EFL students, and three Indonesian translators who assumed the role of raters. These raters possessed substantial experience in translation and demonstrated proficiency in multiple facets of translation, including grammar, vocabulary, and cultural knowledge in both the source and target languages. This selection process was guided by the principles of experts with specialised knowledge that facilitated a comprehensive comprehension of the central phenomenon, as emphasised by Bernard (2002).

The research instrument, adapted from Nababan et al. (2012) as well as Susanti and Kuswardani (2015), was meticulously calibrated to prioritise accuracy and acceptability. These two criteria were aligned with the study's objectives and represented pivotal parameters for gauging the perceptions about the quality of translation. The survey, in its printed form, was disseminated among

students, teachers, and translators, yielding 155 completed questionnaires out of the 200 distributed. Supplementary tools in this study encompassed the employment of the Cambridge dictionary (McIntosh, 2013) for referencing English idioms and Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia for discerning the Indonesian interpretations of these idioms, as authored by (Setiawan, 2012). These resources were instrumental in verifying the precise meaning of each idiom.

In this study, qualitative insights from the open-ended questions were integral to complementing the quantitative data derived from the rating scales. These questions were designed to elicit detailed justifications and nuanced explanations from the expert raters regarding their assessments of the accuracy and acceptability of the idiom translations. This dual-method approach allowed us to triangulate the findings and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the perceptions towards the translations. Specifically, after completing the rating scales, raters were prompted with open-ended questions that encouraged them to elaborate on the reasoning behind their ratings. Their responses were systematically analysed using thematic analysis techniques to identify recurring themes and patterns in their qualitative feedback. This methodological rigor ensured that both the quantitative metrics and qualitative insights were synthesised effectively, enhancing the robustness of our conclusions.

3.0   RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings are presented in descriptive quantitative and qualitative phases.

3.1   Analysis of Quantitative Data

In this study, the study's respondents (refer Table 3) encompassed individuals of both genders, spanning an age range from 15 to 46 years. To ensure a comprehensive and equitable cross-section, participants were drawn from diverse backgrounds, with a predominant representation of individuals with backgrounds in the English language.

Table 3

Respondents' demographics

Demographics	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age		
15-23	118	76.1
24-32	25	16.1
33-46	12	7.7
Gender		
Female	85	54.8
Male	70	45.2
Occupation		
Student	131	84.5
Instructor	21	13.5
Translator	3	1.9
Field of study	64	41.3
English Language	17	11.0
Study	19	12.3
Graphic design	9	5.8
Business / Accounting	5	3.2
Technology / IT	7	4.5
Engineering	12	7.7
Architecture	15	9.7
Social Sciences	7	4.5
English level		
Intermediate	88	56.8
Advanced	67	43.2
Year of studying English		
1-10 years	48	31.0
11-20 years	96	61.9
21-30 years	11	7.1

In this study, descriptive statistics, specifically percentages, were utilised for data analysis. The translation strategies were evaluated, and their perceived accuracy and acceptability were quantified. The classification system for idiom translation assessment included nine categories: 1) Inaccurate & Unacceptable, 2) Less Accurate & Less Acceptable, 3) Accurate & Acceptable, 4) Unacceptable & Less Accurate, 5) Unacceptable & Accurate, 6) Less Acceptable & Inaccurate, 7) Less Acceptable & Accurate, 8) Acceptable & Inaccurate, and 9) Acceptable & Less Accurate.

In Figure 4, The x-axis (horizontal) shows different translation strategies used in a study and the y-axis (vertical) shows the percentage of participants who used that strategy. In this diagram, Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form refers to translating an idiom in the source language (SL) to an idiom in the target language (TL) that has a similar meaning and structure. An Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form refers to translating an idiom in the SL to a phrase in the TL that has a similar meaning but a different structure. Borrowing refers to borrowing a word or phrase from the SL and using it directly in the TL. Paraphrase refers to rephrasing a sentence or phrase in the SL to say the same thing in different words in the TL. Omission of the SL Idiom refers to simply leaving out an idiom from the SL when translating to the TL. While Omission of the Entire Translation refers to omitting an entire sentence or phrase from the SL when translating to the TL, Literal Translation refers to translating a word or phrase in the SL to the closest word or phrase with the same meaning in the TL. The percentages on the y-axis represented proportion of particular strategy that the participants used. For instance, according to the graph, 100% of the participants used paraphrase, while only a small percentage (between 0% and 10%) used the other strategies.

Figure 4

The percentages of identified translation strategies
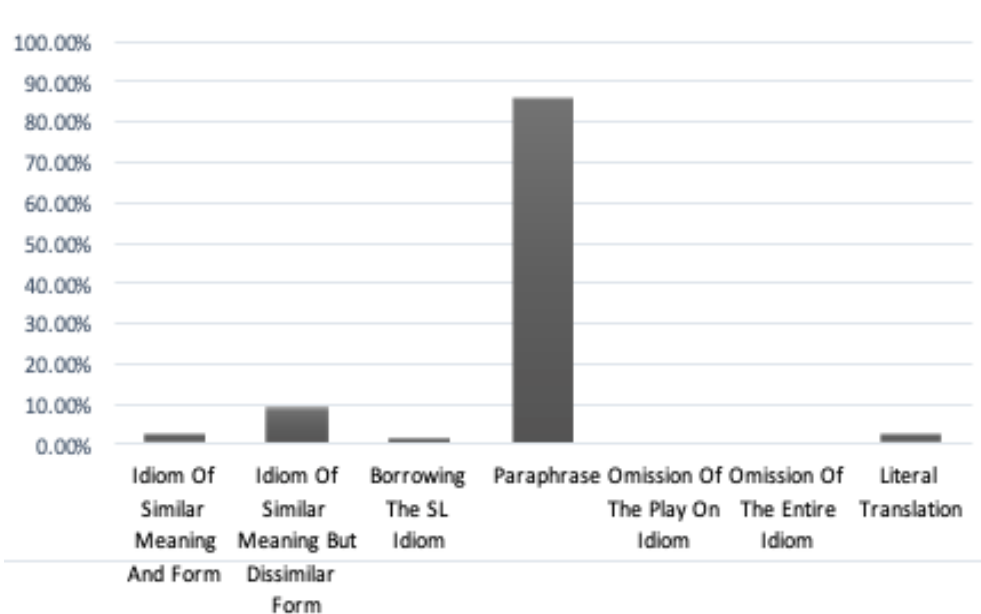
A total of 89 idiomatic expressions were identified for analysis. The selection criteria were rooted in considerations of diversity, word count, and the intricacy of idioms. Notably, paraphrased idioms constituted a substantial majority at 86%. The dominance of paraphrasing raises several implications for translation practice. Firstly, it highlights the importance of flexibility and creativity in adapting idioms to suit the stylistic and cultural preferences of the target language. This strategy not only preserves the essence of the source text but also ensures that the translated idioms resonate authentically with Indonesian readers. The choice of translation strategy hinged upon factors such as the translatability of the text, the genre of the target language, and the characteristics of the source language. This strategic approach involves an extended rendering of the ST to faithfully capture the intended meaning. Paraphrasing is deemed the most fitting approach when there exists no direct equivalent idiom in the target language, aligning with Baker's (2018) assertion that the challenges in idiom translation arise from the accurate recognition and interpretation of idiomatic expressions and the comprehensive conveyance of their multifaceted meanings in the translated context. Furthermore, respondents provided feedback through the utilisation of a scale assessing accuracy and acceptance, in addition to offering their insights through open-ended questions.

Table 4

Accuracy and acceptability percentage

Category	Percentage (%)
Inaccurate & unacceptable	2.23
Less accurate & less acceptable	13.42
Accurate & acceptable	72.84
Unacceptable & less accurate	0.18
Unacceptable & accurate	0.28
Less acceptable & inaccurate	0.73
Less acceptable & accurate	0.54
Acceptable & inaccurate	0.18
Acceptable & less accurate	9.60

Table 4 shows the accuracy and acceptability percentage of different categories of the scale. The table divides the scales into four categories: Less Accurate & Less Acceptable, Unacceptable & Less Accurate, Less Acceptable & Accurate, and Acceptable & Inaccurate. It also has a category for scale that is Accurate & Acceptable. The largest category is Unacceptable & Less Accurate, which makes up 72.84% of the scale. The smallest category is Accurate & Acceptable, which makes up only 0.18% of the scale. The results showed that the translation was generally deemed accurate and acceptable.

Table 5

Examples of the strategies used in the translation of idioms in "Dear Life"

No.	Idiom	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7
1.	Going with the flow				x			
2.	Hedge your bets							x
3.	Tan your hide			x				
4.	Off the hook				x			
5.	Get under their skin		x					
6.	Tear a strip off				x			
7.	Tearing a strip off				x			
8.	Take someone's at his/word				x			
9.	Bits and pieces				x			
10.	Set in stone				x			
11.	All to the good				x			
12.	Be in the card		x					
13.	The bare-bones				x			
14.	For good measure				x			
15.	Bits and pieces/bobs				x			
16.	Take it easy				x			
17.	Keep your eyes open		x					
18.	Get in touch				x			
19.	Face the music				x			
20.	Take something into account				x			

Total (N=89) **Strategies applied: S1= Idiom with similar meaning and similar form; S2= Idiom with similar meaning but different form; S3= Borrowing SL Idiom; S4= Paraphrase; S5= Omission plays on idiom; S6= Omission entire idiom; S7= Literal translation.

3.2   Analysis of Qualitative Data

In total, 32 suggestions about the use of strategies for translating idioms were given by the raters. For example, get under their skin; be in the card; keep your eyes open; We'll cross the bridge when we come to it; take her words at face value; out of the blue; and bold as brass were originally translated using "idiom with similar meaning and similar form". Hence, the paraphrase strategy was suggested as more appropriate as "it would make the translation easy to understand". This strategy is considered most common when there is

no match in the target language due to differences in stylistic preferences of the source and the target language. This approach is popular due to its flexibility to modify idioms in the target language.

In another example, tan your hide was originally translated into Indonesian by using a borrowing strategy. The suggestion given by the raters to improve translation was to use paraphrase due to the lack of corresponding equivalent meaning. They believed paraphrasing could create more coherence and cohesion TT would sound more natural. Despite the literal translations used for hedge your batch, and see their guests in the eye, several raters seemed unfamiliar with the words in the translated idioms in Indonesian, and some found them unnatural. Therefore, paraphrase was believed to provide "a better understanding in Indonesian context". Paraphrase strategy was considered adequate for some of the following idioms, bits and pieces; a song to dance; make do; the straight and narrow; all to the good; for good measure; take it easy; take something into account; keep track; by words of mouth; fits and starts; in one fell swoop; taken for granted; on the off chance; ring the bell; what the hell; make up your mind; put my mother's in the shade; and keep tabs on.

Nevertheless, instances of grammatical infelicities and the use of unconventional lexical choices in idiom translation had the potential to undermine the evaluations, leading to reduced acceptability, decreased accuracy, or even complete unacceptability. Given that paraphrasing emerged as the predominant strategy employed in idiom translation, it is apparent that the consensus among raters favoured this approach as the most viable means to achieve precision and acceptability in translation. In cases where alternative strategies, such as mirroring idioms in terms of both meaning and form or aligning them based on meaning but diverging in form, were not amenable for ensuring an accurate and acceptable idiom translation, paraphrasing stood as a reliable alternative strategy. Indonesian translators can, in light of these findings, avail themselves of the proposed framework to navigate the challenges encountered in idiom translation. The strategic application of translation techniques can serve as a bridge between the cultural and linguistic nuances inherent in the source and target languages. The synthesis of shared elements, both culturally and linguistically, facilitates a seamless transition between the source and target languages.

Furthermore, in exploring idiom translation within the context of "Dear Life", a multitude of strategies emerged, including "utilising idioms of similar meaning and form", "employing idioms of similar meaning but dissimilar form", "borrowing idioms from the source language", "paraphrasing", and "literal translation". Notably, the absence of strategies such as "omission of play idioms" and "omission of the entire idiom" was identified. Among these strategies, paraphrasing stood out as predominant when translating idiomatic expressions. This prevalence can be attributed to various factors, including the incongruity in stylistic preferences between the source and target languages, the dearth of equivalent idioms or lexical components in the target language, and the potential influence of the ST on grammar and vocabulary. The significance of the paraphrase strategy lies in its ability to convey the essence of English idioms into Indonesian while fostering a more fluid and authentic narrative in the target language. This outcome resonates with prior research, exemplified by Straksiene (2009), Farahani and Ghasemi (2012), Khosravi and Khatib (2012), and Susanti and Kuswardani (2015), who identified paraphrasing as the predominant idiom translation strategy in various literary works. The dominance of paraphrasing raises several implications for translation practice. Firstly, it highlights the importance of flexibility and creativity in adapting idioms to suit the stylistic and cultural preferences of the target language. This strategy not only preserves the essence of the source text but also ensures that the translated idioms resonate authentically with Indonesian readers. An examination of literal translation revealed its inherent limitation, with several raters expressing negative "sense". The translator's attempts to adhere closely to the source language and maintain the original idiomatic expressions led to some loss of meaning in the TL. Interestingly, the results of this study differ from those of Miandoab (2018) and Neshkovska (2018) where the translator can significantly influence idiom translation. These findings underscore the need for translators to judiciously select and adapt strategies based on the linguistic context and communicative intent of the source text. By acknowledging the dominance of paraphrasing and its implications for fluency and naturalness in translation, we aim to enhance the discourse on effective translation practices.

3.3   Summary of Analysis

The evaluation of idiom translation in "Dear Life" was, on the whole, both precise and satisfactory. The variance in evaluation percentages, denoting degrees of accuracy and acceptability, within the context of "Dear Life" could be attributed to several plausible factors. First and foremost, the preponderance of evaluators demonstrated the ability to discern the intended meaning of English idioms when transposed into the Indonesian language. In essence, the translation of idioms in "Dear Life" faithfully preserved the essence of the ST idioms, thus attesting to their inherent accuracy. Moreover, in terms of acceptability, the rendered meanings of English idioms harmoniously adhered to the linguistic norms, cultural sensitivities, and linguistic conventions of the Indonesian norms and values. The open-ended responses obtained from the evaluators unveiled a consensus regarding the judicious selection of lexical items, syntactic structures, and the conveyed significance of the translated idioms. It was evident that the translated idioms seamlessly integrated into the Indonesian narrative, sounding natural within the cultural and linguistic context.

Likewise, this collective body of research underscores the efficacy of paraphrasing in rendering idiomatic expressions across languages. The less favored strategies included omission and the use of idioms with similar meanings and forms. This preference can be attributed to the limited compatibility of certain English idioms within the Indonesian linguistic landscape, as not all idiomatic expressions have direct equivalence in the target language. However, in some cases, the borrowing strategy yielded translations that were often perceived as unfamiliar to Indonesian readers. The response from raters indicated a tendency towards negative evaluations when the borrowing strategy was employed. In response to these findings, raters recommended a greater reliance on the paraphrase strategy to facilitate a deeper comprehension of idioms within the Indonesian context. Some disparities in idiom translation may be attributed to differences in text types, genres, languages, and situational contexts. Additionally, individual factors, such as language proficiency, knowledge of cultural nuances, and familiarity with idiomatic expressions, could have influenced the evaluation outcomes.

By delving into these factors, future research can provide a more nuanced understanding of idiom translation and the efficacy of various strategies across different contexts.

In sum, the findings underscore the significance of paraphrasing as a predominant strategy, while also acknowledging the limitations and challenges associated with literal translation and borrowing strategies. The study's approach provides valuable insights for translators and researchers, contributing to the ongoing discourse on effective idiom translation practices.

4.0   CONCLUSION

Translation as an effective cross-lingual and cross-cultural communication of meaning, form, and sense is viable by combining a variety of strategies and processes. Finding universal strategies in translating idioms can be a subtle art that goes beyond a one-size-fits-all approach. This study contributes to the understanding of idiom translation strategies and provides practical insights for translators working across different linguistic and cultural boundaries. Language educators can effectively utilise a range of translation strategies to illuminate disparities in language and culture while teaching idioms. For example, considering that the Grammar Translation Method remains a prevalent instructional approach in the Indonesian EFL context, the insights from this research could be valuable for EFL educators.

Indonesian translators are encouraged to refer to the evaluation criteria concerning accuracy and acceptability, as employed in the analysis of translated idioms in "Dear Life", to enhance their proficiency in translating idiomatic elements in literary works. Consonant with the views of Larson (1998), and Nababan et al. (2012), an efficient translation should aim to achieve accuracy and acceptability, mirroring the source text's meaning as closely as feasible and preserving the idiomatic content's natural flow. Consequently, the framework encapsulating idiom translation strategies, accuracy, and acceptability, as posited by Nababan et al. (2012), can guide Indonesian translators, ultimately elevating the quality of translation within Indonesia, at least from readers' point of view.

It is worth noting that in terms of quality evaluation, this study only focused on the readers' perceptions of translation accuracy and acceptability, i.e., reception. In other words, there was no translation quality "assessment" involved. The findings suggest avenues for future research to explore the effectiveness of different translation strategies across various genres or text types. Different literary genres may demand distinct approaches to idiom translation; for instance, the nuanced poetic form may require a more literal adherence to idiomatic expressions compared to the narrative prose examined in our study. Investigating these nuances could contribute to a deeper understanding of how translation strategies interact with genre-specific conventions and reader expectations. Future studies are recommended to expand the evaluation to encompass readability, word choices, technical terminology, phraseology, clause structures, and sentence composition. Moreover, translators are encouraged to explore diverse translation methodologies, which delve beyond the literal and figurative interpretations to discern implied meanings.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

AUTHOR(S) CONTRIBUTION

Oskarina Dagusti Effendi (Writing - initial manuscript; Introduction; Methods; Results; Discussion)

Latha Ravindran (Draft - reviews and feedback; Data collection; Manuscript - revisions and edits)

Mansour Amini (Conceptualisation; Supervision; Research methodology - reviews and approvals; Results; Conclusions; Manuscript - preparation and submission)

Maryam Alipour (Draft - reviews and feedback; Data collection; Draft - revisions and improvements; Manuscript – revisions and edits; Project management)

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