

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### **Basic Consideration**

Language is a system of communication that used by a particular community of the speakers. Then, language has literal and figurative meaning. Therefore, to understand one language with the other human should do translation. One of the examples is English department students, who learn English as their foreign language are usually do translation for their project or an assignment in academic life such as do translation from English into Indonesian language. However, some students as translators are unable to produce a decent translation output due to several difficulties. One of the difficulties in translation based on Ordudari (2007) is to understand a semantic analysis to some terms and common lexical problem as idiom. Likewise, Cain and Towse (2008) assert that idioms are figurative expressions that can often take both in literal and figurative meaning, for example: “*to get hold of wrong end of the stick*” is common idiom in British English. In one context, it could be used literally and could refer to picking up a piece of wood; in another, it could be used figuratively to mean a misunderstanding. Therefore, the students will get confuse to distinguish when the idiom meaning can be translated literally, when it can be translated figuratively, and when it can be translated both of figuratively and literally.

In order to deal with the case, the students should understand several translation strategies due to reach the equivalence in translating idioms, because

as Sanggam and Shinoda (2007) state that idioms are not only in a group of words or phrases that come in spoken expression but also there is in written expression such as in a narrative text (p. 73). Then, a narrative is any written English text in which the writer wants to entertain people, and to deal with actual or vicarious experience in different ways including the style of language. Thus, idioms also used as style language in a narrative text. Then, Prastowo (2012) admits that idiom is often appearing in TOEFL, where it as one of the important items in the test for students' academic life as well. Nevertheless, this study is only focus to translate idioms in a narrative text and find out the proper strategies to translate the idioms, because translating idiom in a text and translating idiom in a conversation or in speaking is different.

For instance, the students translated idioms in a conversation such as there are two employs talk about their career, and one of them said to his friends an idiom as “you are **on top of the tree** now” that has meaning “you are **in a good job position**”. In Indonesian language, its equivalent was produced by figuratively as “kamu sedang naik daun” and it be defined by literally as “posisi jabatan kamu sangat bagus sekarang”. However, the implication of the idiom is easier to get in the conversation form or spoken than in a text form or written, because in a conversation the translator can be help by the context, body language and intonation from the speaker pragmatically. The students will get confuse to recognize idioms and distinguish between idiomatic and non-idiomatic usage for the idiom that there is in a text. Meanwhile, misinterpretation may be happen in translation idioms in a text, where the students translate “on top of the tree” idiom becomes “diatas pohon” because the

students just focus on words in the idiom constituents and guessing the meaning based on their vocabulary comprehension without consider about the accuracy of idiom meaning based on the context in the text. Further, the students also imagine something that related to the story and producing the idiom meaning in a sentence becomes “kamu di atas pohon sekarang”. It means that one employ stated that his friend was climbing a tree until on the top of the tree in the story. Unfortunately, the result of translation is not appropriate based on the idiom context, idiom meaning and it changed the main idea that the writer wants deliver to the reader.

Based on the example, the students as translators should do a semantic analysis in translating idioms in a text. Besides, know about semantic analysis, the students should understand about translation methods that apply in translating and the strategies that should use in translating idioms, because according to Sadeghpour (2012) idioms is a group of word or an expression that has different meaning from a dictionary or grammar, and it cannot be translated by individual word (p. 266). Furthermore, Larson as cited in Ntou (2006) distinguishes two major translation methods that may be apply in translating idioms, there are literal translation method and idiomatic translation method. Likewise, Newmark as cited in Ordudari (2007) defines that literal translation method is used for literal meaning, where literal meaning has meaning that the sentence means what it says and also known as “utterance” meaning. Moreover, idiomatic translation method is used for figurative meaning, where figurative meaning does not mean exactly what it says and it cannot be translated by literal sense.

A part of that, there are some strategies that may be applying in translating idioms that related with the translation methods by Baker as cited in Meryem (2010) such as the literal translation that consists of translation strategy by word for word, translation strategy by paraphrase using related words and translation strategy by omission. Whereas, the idiomatic translation is regarding translation strategies by more neutral and less expressive word, and by paraphrase using unrelated words. On the other hand, the knowledge of translation methods and the strategies in translating idiom has great importance for the students to get the correct meaning from what they are going to translate. Thus, this case is very important to carry out. There are some misinterpretation occurs when the students do not understand the translation methods, the strategies that should use in translating idioms are unknown, and they confused to decide or choose equivalent that appropriate for idioms meaning in the target language cause of using inaccurate strategy.

For instance, in the sentence “*anyone who is interested is welcome to join the competition*” by Riyanto and Triyantiningasih (2010), the words “*is welcome to*” is kind of idiom, where the students translated it through literal translation method by using word for word translation strategy through vocabulary comprehension as “*selamat datang ke*” into Indonesia language. Besides, the students can be translated it by omission strategy through grammar comprehension becomes “*siapa saja yang tertarik untuk datang bergabung di pertandingan itu*”. Moreover, both of the word for word translation and the omission strategies that use in translating the idiom are translation strategies that refer to the literal translation method. By using those strategies, it is produced less accurate meaning because not at all idioms’ meaning

can be translated by lexically and grammatically. Furthermore, plenty strategies may be used in translating the idiom, including the some strategies that available in idiomatic translation method, where the meaning of idiom “*is welcome to*” become “*boleh saja*” into Indonesian language by using more neutral and expressive word strategy. Definitely, the sentence has meaning of “*siapa pun yang tertarik boleh saja ikut pertandingan*”. Therefore, the translator should consider about the strategies that use in translating idioms, because it will be direct to the translation output.

Based on the examples, it can be concluded that different methods that apply in translation will bring different translation strategies that students used in translating a text or idioms. Then, using different strategies in translating, it will be able to make a different meaning from the source language into the target language or producing different result of meaning from the actual meaning. Therefore, the misinterpretation or translation error in translating idioms cannot be occur, if the students have great knowledge about translation methods, and the strategy that use is important to translate idioms correctly and efficiently in order to minimize error-translating idioms. In addition, the important part in translation is not only what are the translation strategies that used in translation, but also how the translators’ knowledge about the translation strategies itself and the application of the strategy and method usage. Therefore, the English department students had better emphasize the knowledge about translation comprehension and the method and strategy usage for translating idioms, because English is a language particularly rich in idioms, where the high number of idioms and their high frequency in discourse make them as an assensial aspect of vocabulary. Hence, learn about idiom for the student is crucial

because idiom as a unique vocabulary in English. Then, the students had better recognize and understand about the types of idiom first, before they are going to find out idioms in a text and translating it. Moreover, the types of idioms in this study are idioms of encoding and idioms of decoding by Fernando as cited in Meryem (2010) have studied; idioms of encoding are identifiable idiom and this type of idioms could be the best recognized through identifying the idioms constituent by literally sense from the source language into the target language. Whereas, idioms of decoding are non-identifiable idioms because the interpretation to the idiom constituent cannot figure out the idiom meaning in the target language and tend to produce figurative implication. However, the important thing in this study is the appropriate strategy that be used by students to get accurate meaning in the translation output. Thus, this study is crucial to investigate for the students. Moreover, the application of knowledge in translation is necessary, because it will be seen how the students' ways in translating idioms in narrative text, their comprehension in using translation strategies and their language skill to translate idioms in narrative text by the proper way to find out the correct idioms meaning without error translation.

### **Problem Statement**

Based on the basic consideration above, the problem statements is “what are the students' strategies in translating idioms in a narrative text”.

### **Scope of Study**

This study limited on the students' strategies in translating idioms in a narrative text. Whether they use some strategies from the literal translation method that consists of word for word translation strategy, paraphrase using related words

strategy, and translation strategy by omission, or they use some strategies from the idiomatic translation method that encompass translation strategy by more neutral and less expressive word, and translation strategy by paraphrase using unrelated words.

### **Research Question**

Based on the basic consideration above, this research intends to answer these questions:

1. What is the translation method applied in translating idioms in a narrative text?
2. What are students' strategies in translating idioms in a narrative text?

### **Aims of Research**

Aims of this research are:

1. To find out which the translation method applied in translate the idioms in a narrative text.
2. To find out which strategies that the students use to translate the idioms in a narrative text

### **Significance of Study**

There are some significances of this research. They are divided into two; theoretical and practical.

#### **Theoretical significance**

Theoretically, the result of this research can be a figure for the lecturers and foremost for the lectures that hold translation subject about how the students' ability in applying their knowledge about linguistics and translation. However, the equivalentents had been produced based on social context and culture context that focus on method applied, strategies used and idioms implication in narrative text are can be

seen in this study. Moreover, the result of this research can be a reference for the development of strategies in idioms translation. Especially for the students at State University of Gorontalo who want to learn more about it, and the students in English department who wants to conduct a another research about the development of some strategies in translating idioms can use this research as their guide. This research also can help the students to understand more about the related theories of translation and the theory of idioms by giving contribution of knowledge to understand and to know more about the translation strategies that apply in translating idioms and idioms comprehension including the types of idioms and its categories.

### **Practical Significance**

Practically, this research provides information for the reader about how to translate idioms in narrative text by using appropriate translation strategy based on the application of translation method, the idioms types, the idioms implication that show its categories, and semantic analysis as the approach in the translation outputs. The students at State University of Gorontalo can know what the translation methods that related with the idioms translation are, and some strategies that apply in the translation methods that also used by the students to help them in translating idioms in a narrative text are, finally they can see the figure of student's ability in idioms translation. In addition, the lecturers can consider to teach more about phrase verb or idiom in linguistics subject based on some consideration in this study. Further, this study contributes on the development of understanding language studies especially in strategies that refer to idioms translation, so it becomes a directly contribution to exist knowledge in the field of linguistics.