

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer provides the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, theoretical framework, scope and limitations, definition of key terms, significance of the study and organization of the thesis.

1.1. Background of the Study

Communication is an important thing in humans' daily lives. In communicating, humans speak in their own language as what they have learned since they were born, known as the mother tongue. Language is the tool of communication. Language plays an important role in communicating to deliver message, express feelings and propose ideas. According to Ethnologue as cited in www.theintrepidguide.com, there are currently 7,111 spoken languages in the whole world (this number counts as 2020 begins).

In this era, people are aware that English has become the global language. Based on www.thehistoryofenglish.com, global language is a language that is learned and spoken internationally whether as a first language or second language. Approximately 350 million people in the world speak English as their first language while approximately 430 million people speak English as their second language. One ultimate reason why English can be a global language is that many work fields in the world include English as one of their requirements. International schools are everywhere and they use English also as language of instruction and communication. Based on the

facts and many other sources, it is true that English has become a global language.

Aside from English for education and jobs/professions, English is also popular through its works of literature. Literature comprises many genres such as novels, drama, poetry and many others. The common one is novel. For those who love to read novels, the message that the author has in the book is the most important thing. How the author delivers his ideas through words on the papers can affect the readers' attention and interest. Another interesting thing in reading novels or books in other languages is the culture of that country. Learning other countries' culture makes people appreciate each other better and recognize the unique differences among countries. Besides culture, knowing about the text structure is needed in order to understand the meaning of the story.

As mentioned before, approximately 780 million people in total speak and understand English whether it is as their first or second language. Then, how can the rest of people who do not belong to that number be entertained by English novels or other form of literature? The answer is translation. Because of translation, people with other languages can read foreign books in the translated version. Lots of Indonesian novels or books are translated into other languages. The purpose of translating a novel is for the readers from another country who do not know Indonesian to enjoy the novel as well. For instance, American readers who do not understand Indonesian can read the English translated version. Indonesian novels which have been translated into

other languages are *Perahu Kertas* by Dewi Dee Lestari into *Paper Boats* which was translated by Tiffany Tsao, *Laskar Pelangi* by Andrea Hirata into *The Rainbow Troops* which was translated by Angie Kilban and many others.

Catford (1969:20) defined translation as the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL). According to Newmark (1981:7), translation is a craft to replace a written message and/or statement in one language conveying the same message and/or statement in another language. In a simple definition, translation is a process of transferring the message from the source language (SL) into target language (TL) by changing the form or words but has the same meaning. Translation is important because it helps people understand other languages they do not know. Other than that, it also supports the communication process between two people or more with different spoken languages.

Translation also helps people understand the meaning of the novel so the real message contained in the novel can be delivered well. In novels or books, there are lots of phrases or words that not all people know since the readers of the translated version are not the native language users. Idiom is one of them. According to Larson (1984:20), idiom is a string of words whose meaning is different from the meaning conveyed by the individual words. Idiom and fixed expressions are an inalienable part of each language found in large numbers in most of the languages. Idiom can be found in novels and books in all languages. Each country has its own set of idioms and

most of them cannot be directly translated from the SL into the TL. Authors use idiom to make their novels more interesting. Idioms are used by the authors to tell something with an unpredictable way to the readers about their story to make it more interesting. Other than that, the purpose of idiom is to tell some expressions based on the SL's culture.

Translating idioms is quite hard since there will be cultural differences and also the meaning might be completely different with the TL. Translators always work hard in order to produce a good or accurate translation of the idioms in the novels. That is why, in translating idioms the translator must know the SL's culture well so that there will be no misunderstanding.

In this study, the writer used a best-selling novel by Paulo Coelho entitled *The Alchemist* as the source of the idiomatic expressions which will be examined later. *The Alchemist* is the English translated version of the original book by the author. The original book is *O Alquimista* and was published in 1988 in Portuguese. Afterwards, *The Alchemist* was published by PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama in 2009 and the book was translated into Indonesian by Tanti Lesmana. There are two English versions of *The Alchemist* with the same publisher. The first edition was published on 1988 and the second one was on 2014. *The Alchemist* was translated by Alan R. Clarke into English. Paulo Coelho is a famous book author and *The Alchemist* is one of his books. Based on the book's preface, *The Alchemist* itself has been translated into 56 languages and it gave inspiration to many of its readers. The story is about a shepherd who wanted to achieve his dream to

find the pyramids. His journey was full of obstacles and mysteries but the shepherd always think wisely and listen to his heart.

Studying about idiomatic expressions is very interesting since people can understand more about the SL's culture. Besides, idiomatic expressions can help the author to express his/her thought and idea what happened or what the character did in the story. Sometimes, in translating the idioms, it is not too accurate because of the big difference between the cultures of the languages. This is the reason why the writer would like to conduct a study on how accurate the idiom translation from the English version into the Indonesian version.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

This research attempts to answer these following questions:

1. What are the strategies of translation used in translating the idioms from *The Alchemist* into *Sang Alkemis*?
2. Are the idioms in *The Alchemist* translated accurately from English into Indonesian?

1.3. Objective of the Study

There are two objectives of this study. First, is to identify what are the strategies used in translating the idioms from *The Alchemist* into *Sang Alkemis*. Second, is to find out whether the idiomatic expressions in *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho are translated accurately into *Sang Alkemis* by Tanti Lesmana.

1.4. Theoretical Framework

Translation is the process of changing the meaning from the source language into the target language. This process needs a lot of elements such as equivalence, source language text, and others. Thus, translating is quite a hard task for the translator because there are many factors in translating a text.

According to Catford (1965:20), translation is the replacement of textual material in one language (SL) by equivalent textual material in another language (TL). In this study the theory of translation is the foundation for all of the components.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

In this study, the writer focuses on the idioms contained in the novel by Paulo Coelho entitled *The Alchemist* and the translation strategies on how the idioms are translated into *Sang Alkemis* by Tanti Lesmana. This study takes only 78 idioms to examine. It is also about the level of accuracy of the translation for each idiom in the novel.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

1.6.1. Idioms

Idioms are an inalienable part of each language found in large numbers in most of the languages. Idioms are usually used in literature, poetry, songs, novels and many English textbooks. Idioms are linguistic expressions or lexical items representing objects, concepts or phenomena of material life particular to a given culture (Adelnia, A., & Dastjerdi, V., H. (2011)), *Translation of Idioms: A hard task for the Translator*. Idioms also function as

another alternative to express feelings or ideas in an aesthetic form. Besides, book authors use idiom to make the story more interesting and unique. In order to keep the readers entertained, the authors must use various techniques in writing and one of them is using idiomatic expressions.

1.6.2. *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

A best-selling novel by Paulo Coelho entitled *The Alchemist* is used in this research. The first English version of this novel was published on 1993 by Harper Collins, USA. Alan R. Clarke was the translator of the English version. On 2014 to celebrate the 25th anniversary, the same publisher launched the second version of *The Alchemist*. The total page of the first version is 167 pages while the second version is 182 pages. The writer uses the first edition of the English version which was published on 1993 in this study. The story of this novel is about a shepherd boy from Andalusia who followed his heart to chase his dream. He went through ups and downs during his adventure to his dream which was finding the treasure in the pyramids. In his journey, he met the king of Salem, a crystal seller, and an alchemist who taught him about things that was important in life. He learned about love, resilience and patience along the journey. At the end of the journey, his most precious treasure was found and it was the love of his life, Fatima.

1.6.3. *Sang Alkemis* by Tanti Lesmana

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho was a best-selling novel. Therefore, an Indonesian translator, Tanti Lesmana took the honor to translate the famous novel into *Sang Alkemis*. *Sang Alkemis* has 216 pages and was published in

2009 by PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama. *Sang Alkemis* helps Indonesian readers who do not understand English to get the original meaning of the story.

1.7. Significance of the Study

The study focuses on the idiomatic expressions contained in *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho and *Sang Alkemis* by Tanti Lesmana. An idiom is important to be learned and understood since it has a different meaning in each different country. The purpose of this study is to give support and inspiration for other researchers related to idiom translation. Besides, the writer hopes the reader of the novels can fully understand the meaning of each idiomatic expression. On the other hand, the writer hopes that readers could pay more attention towards idiomatic expressions and not mistranslate them anymore. For some readers, idioms are confusing because the readers must read the novels along with a dictionary. However, it is great to know the patterns and culture of certain language. Learning how the native speakers propose their ideas and thoughts through writing is great. This study also helps other researchers in completing their assignments related to idiom translation.

In conclusion, this study's purpose is to give inspiration to make the first step into the translation field, help the translators in delivering the message from SL into TL, make the readers perfectly aware of the meaning for each idiom translation the readers encountered every time the idioms showed up and lastly another reference source for the future researchers in translation field especially idiomatic expressions.

1.8. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis has five chapters. The first chapter describes about the background of the study, research question, objective of the study, definition of key terms, scope and limitation and significance of the study. The brief definition of the study is written here and also the explanation for the theoretical framework. The second chapter reviews all the theories and previous studies that connected with this research. The third chapter describes the methods in order to fulfill this study. The fourth chapter discusses the findings and discussion result of the study. Lastly, the fifth chapter presents the conclusion and suggestions of the study.