

AN ANALYSIS OF TRANSLATION STRATEGIES OF IDIOM TRANSLATION IN "HOTEL VALHALLA: GUIDE TO THE NORSE WORLDS" COMPANION BOOK

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Abstract

This study examines the translation strategies employed in the Indonesian version of Rick Riordan's "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds," focusing on the translation of idiomatic expressions. The companion book, an extension of Riordan's "Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard" trilogy, delves into Norse mythology, intertwining ancient mythos with modern narrative techniques. Idioms play a crucial role in the narrative, adding depth and cultural flavor. Following Fernando's classification of idioms into pure, semi, and literal types, and Baker's framework for idiom translation strategies, this research analyzes how idiomatic expressions are translated to maintain fidelity to the original text while ensuring cultural relevance and readability for the Indonesian audience. The study categorizes 249 idioms from the text, including pure, semi, and literal idioms, and identifies five main translation strategies: using idioms of similar meaning but dissimilar form, idioms of similar meaning and form, omission of a play on idiom, omission of entire idioms, and paraphrasing. The findings reveal a predominance of the omission strategies, indicating a preference for simplifying idiomatic expressions to convey their core meanings effectively. The study contributes to the field of translation studies by offering insights into the complexities of translating idiomatic expressions and the challenges faced in preserving their cultural nuances and figurative language in a globalized context.

Keywords: literature, translation, idiom

Introduction

Riordan's (2016) "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds" companion book, an extension of his "Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard" trilogy, epitomizes the symbiotic relationship between literature and mythology. Released by Disney-Hyperion, this companion piece serves as a beacon guiding readers deeper into the multifaceted realm of Norse mythology. According to Merriam-Webster (n.d.), a companion piece is a supplementary work that enriches existing narratives, and Riordan's creation does exactly that. By intricately weaving together ancient Norse mythos with modern narrative techniques, Riordan provides readers with an immersive journey into the world of gods, giants, and heroes.

Indispensable to Riordan's narrative tapestry are idiomatic expressions, which add depth and flavor to the storytelling. Idioms, as elucidated by Hurford et al. (2007), possess meanings that extend beyond the sum of their parts, often rooted deeply in cultural contexts. Fernando's (1996) classification of idioms into pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms lays the groundwork for understanding the complexity of these linguistic constructs.

This companion piece has been translated into Indonesian by Reni Indardini and published by Nourabooks in 2019. Larson (1984) defined translation as the intricate

process of transferring meaning from one language to another. When traversing linguistic boundaries through translation, maintaining the fidelity of idiomatic expressions becomes a delicate balancing act. Nida and Taber (1982) emphasized the importance of preserving meaning firstly and style secondly in translation. Baker (2018) highlighted the inherent non-literal nature of idiomatic expressions, necessitating nuanced translation strategies. Consequently, Baker (2018) proposed various idiom translation strategies, including paraphrasing, omission, borrowing the source language idiom, using an idiom of similar meaning and form, and using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form.

Previous research has explored various aspects of idiom translation across different languages. Habizar (2019) investigated translation strategies for Indonesian idioms into English in the novel "Ziarah" ("The Pilgrim"), employing Baker's strategies and Nida's equivalence concept. Paraphrasing was found to be the most effective strategy, used for 14 out of 28 idioms. Lestari (2019) examined the translation of English idioms in "Zootopia" into Bahasa Indonesia, identifying variations in form and meaning between languages. Floranti and Mubarak (2020) studied the translation of Indonesian idioms into English in "This Earth of Mankind," with paraphrasing emerging as the dominant strategy. Pratiwi and Lubis (2021) explored strategies for translating English idioms in "Paper Towns" into Bahasa Indonesia, finding paraphrase to be the most frequently employed strategy, particularly for pure idioms.

Given the complexity of translating idiomatic expressions, a comprehensive analysis of the translation strategies employed in the Indonesian version of "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds" is paramount. By applying Baker's (2018) framework for analyzing translation strategies and Fernando's (1996) classification of idiomatic expressions, this study aimed to shed light on the intricate interplay between language, culture, and translation. Ultimately, by delving into the nuances of idiomatic translation in "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds," this research contributed to the broader discourse on translation studies, offering insights into the complexities of linguistic mediation in a globalized world.

Research Methods

This study employed a qualitative research design, as defined by Creswell and Creswell (2018), which focuses on understanding the meaning of a social phenomenon through detailed descriptions and interpretations based on collected data. Qualitative research was particularly suited for this study as it allowed for an in-depth analysis of the translation strategies used for idiomatic expressions in Riordan's (2016) "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds" and its Indonesian translation.

The primary data sources for this study were the idiomatic expressions found in Riordan's (2016) "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds" and its Indonesian translation by Reni Indardini, published by Nourabooks in 2019 (Riordan, 2019). The original English text and its Indonesian counterpart were examined to identify and analyze the idiomatic expressions used in both versions. These idiomatic expressions were crucial for understanding how cultural and linguistic nuances were preserved or altered in the translation process.

Data collection involved a systematic extraction of idiomatic expressions from both the original English version of "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds" and its Indonesian translation. The idioms were identified based on their non-literal meanings and contextual usage within the text. This process involved a thorough reading of both texts to ensure all relevant idiomatic expressions were captured. The identified idioms

were then categorized according to Fernando's (1996) classification, which includes pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms.

The data analysis was conducted using a dual-framework approach. Firstly, Fernando's (1996) classification of idioms was applied to categorize the identified idiomatic expressions into pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms. This categorization helped in understanding the types of idioms present in the text and the specific challenges they posed for translation. Secondly, Baker's (2018) idiom translation strategies were employed to analyze how these idiomatic expressions had been translated into Indonesian. Baker's strategies include translation by paraphrasing, omission, borrowing the source language idiom, using an idiom of similar meaning and form, and using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. Each identified idiom was examined to determine which of these strategies had been used in the translation process. This analysis provided insights into the effectiveness of different translation strategies in preserving the meaning and cultural nuances of idiomatic expressions.

By combining Fernando's (1996) classification and Baker's (2018) translation strategies, this study aimed to provide a comprehensive analysis of the translation of idiomatic expressions in "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds." This approach shed light on the complexities and intricacies involved in translating idioms, contributing to the broader discourse on translation studies and offering valuable insights for translators working with idiomatic language in a globalized context.

Results and Discussion

Results

The objective of this research was to analyze the translation strategies employed for idiomatic expressions in Riordan's (2016) "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds" and its Indonesian translation. The study aimed to identify the types of idioms present in the text and to determine the translation strategies used for these idioms.

Table 1. Idiom Classification

No.	Idiomatic Expression Types	Data Collected
1.	Pure Idiom	123
2.	Semi Idiom	20
3.	Literal Idiom	106
	Total	249

After gathering and categorizing the idioms found in "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds" using Fernando's (1996) idiom classification, a total of two hundred forty-nine idioms were identified. As shown in Table 1, these idioms were distributed as follows: one hundred twenty-three pure idioms, twenty semi-idioms, and one hundred six literal idioms.

For the idiom translation strategies, five distinct strategies were identified after analyzing the translation using Baker's (2018) framework. These strategies are detailed in Table 2.

Table 2. Translation Strategy Classification

No.	Translation Strategies	Idiomatic Expression Types	Data Collected
1.	Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form	Pure Idiom	11
		Semi Idiom	5
		Literal Idiom	3

No.	Translation Strategies	Idiomatic Expression Types	Data Collected
2.	Using an idiom of similar meaning and form	Pure Idiom	17
		Semi Idiom	3
		Literal Idiom	30
3.	Omission of a play on idiom	Pure Idiom	79
		Semi Idiom	11
		Literal Idiom	54
4.	Omission of entire idiom	Pure Idiom	6
		Semi Idiom	-
		Literal Idiom	9
5.	Paraphrase	Pure Idiom	10
		Semi Idiom	1
		Literal Idiom	10
6.	Borrowing the source language	Pure Idiom	-
		Semi Idiom	-
		Literal Idiom	-

As shown in Table 2, the translator used various strategies to handle the two hundred forty-nine idioms in "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds." The omission of the entire idiom strategy was used for fifteen idioms, including nine literal idioms and six pure idioms, indicating a choice to omit idioms that couldn't be easily conveyed in Indonesian. The omission of a play on idiom strategy was the most frequently used, applied to one hundred forty-four idioms, including eleven semi-idioms, fifty-four literal idioms, and seventy-nine pure idioms. This high usage suggests that the translator often chose to simplify idiomatic expressions by removing the figurative element while retaining the core meaning. The strategy of using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form was employed for nineteen idioms, with five semi-idioms, three literal idioms, and eleven pure idioms, maintaining the figurative essence with different lexical items. Fifty idioms were translated using idioms of similar meaning and form, including three semi-idioms, thirty literal idioms, and seventeen pure idioms, indicating the availability of direct equivalents in the target language. Paraphrasing was used for twenty-one idioms, comprising one semi-idiom, ten literal idioms, and ten pure idioms, to convey meanings without direct equivalents. Notably, the borrowing of source language idioms was not used, suggesting a focus on cultural relevance and readability for the Indonesian audience.

Discussion

The analysis focused on the strategies used by the translator in the Indonesian version of the book, employing Baker's (2018) idiom translation strategies. The translator used various strategies to handle the two hundred forty-nine idioms in "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds." Based on the findings, five translation strategies were applied in order to translate the idioms found in the companion book.

Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form

According to Baker (2018), this strategy involves translating an idiom with an expression that has the same meaning but different lexical items. This approach maintains the figurative essence of the original idiom while adapting it to the target language, ensuring the idiomatic meaning is conveyed even if the exact words differ.

Table 3. Translation by using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form

Source Text	Target Text	Idiom Type
"I couldn't read, but I saw the writing on the wall. " (Page 26)	"Aku tidak bisa baca tulis, tetapi aku bisa membaca nasibku pada saat itu. " (Page 32)	Pure idiom
"If you want to pick up a souvenir, like a magic hammer or a foldable boat, be prepared to pay handsomely. " (Page 7-8)	"Jika kalian ingin membeli oleh-oleh, misalkan palu ajaib atau perahu lipat, bersiap-siaplah untuk merogoh kocek dalam-dalam. " (Page 13)	Semi idiom
"Whistling, Loki strolled across the room to the thanes' table, looking for all the worlds as if he couldn't care less what they decided." (Page 123)	"Sambil bersiul-siul, Loki menyebrangi ruangan menuju meja thegn, terkesan tidak ambil pusing , apapun keputusan mereka." (Page 133)	Literal idiom

These idioms align with Fernando's (1996) classification, which categorizes idioms into pure, semi, and literal types. "Saw the writing on the wall" is identified as a pure idiom because its meaning cannot be understood by looking at the individual words. "Pay handsomely," categorized as a semi idiom, offers some transparency, allowing its meaning to be partially understood through its components. "Couldn't care less" falls into the category of literal idioms, where the intended meaning is more directly inferred from the words used.

According to Baker's (2018) framework, the use of an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form involves selecting an idiomatic expression in the target language that conveys the same meaning as the source idiom but uses different words. This strategy is evident in the translation of "saw the writing on the wall" to "membaca nasibku pada saat itu," where the foreboding sense is preserved using a different phrase. Similarly, "pay handsomely" is translated to "merogoh kocek dalam-dalam," which captures the essence of paying a lot but with different lexical items. For "couldn't care less," translated as "tidak ambil pusing," the translator successfully conveys the same dismissive attitude using a different form. These examples demonstrate the effective application of Baker's strategy, ensuring that the idiomatic meanings are preserved while adapting the expressions to fit naturally within the Indonesian language and culture.

Using an idiom of similar meaning and form

According to Baker (2018), this strategy involves translating an idiom using an equivalent idiom in the target language that has both the same meaning and a similar form. This approach ensures a close match between the source and target idioms, preserving both the meaning and the figurative language.

Table 4. Translation by using idiom of similar meaning and form

Source Text	Target Text	Idiom Type
"Like Loki, my lips are sealed. " (Page 91)	"Sama seperti Loki, bibir saya terkunci. " (Page 101) (the idiom is translated to "bibir saya terkunci")	Pure idiom

Source Text	Target Text	Idiom Type
"Now most of them are into sitting around and surfing the Internet or watching their favorite programs on Alflix." (Page 80)	"Kini, sebagian besar dari mereka tekun duduk-duduk dan berselancar di Internet atau menonton program favorit di Alflix." (Page 88)	Semi idiom
"Odin, tell us, in your own words ... what was it like when you lost your eye?" (Page 17)	"Dewa odin, tolong ceritakan, dengan kata-kata Anda sendiri ..., Pengalaman Anda ketika kehilangan mata." (Page 23)	Literal idiom

These idioms are in line with Fernando's (1996) classification into pure, semi, and literal idioms. "My lips are sealed" is classified as a pure idiom, as its meaning cannot be deduced from the individual words. "Surfing the internet," a semi idiom, has some transparency, making it partially understandable through its components. "In your own words" is considered a literal idiom, where the meaning is more directly inferred from the words used.

According to Baker's (2018) framework, using an idiom of similar meaning and form involves finding a target language idiom that closely matches the source idiom in both meaning and structure. This strategy is clearly demonstrated in the translation of "my lips are sealed" to "bibir saya terkunci," where both the meaning and form are preserved. "Surfing the internet" is translated to "berselancar di Internet," which captures the same activity and figurative language. "In your own words" is translated to "dengan kata-kata Anda sendiri," maintaining the literal sense and structure. These examples show the translator's success in finding equivalent idioms that fit naturally within the Indonesian context, ensuring both the meaning and form are preserved.

Omission of a play on idiom

According to Baker (2018), this strategy involves simplifying an idiom by omitting its figurative element while retaining the core meaning. This approach is often used when the idiom's figurative language does not translate well into the target language or would be confusing to the audience.

Table 5. Translation by omission of a play on idiom

Source Text	Target Text	Idiom Type
" Be my guest! " (Page 26)	" Silakan! " (Page 32)	Pure idiom
"My, how time flies! " (Page 56)	"Wah, betapa cepat waktu berlalu! " (Page 62)	Semi idiom
"A few humans accidentally swallow it now and again. " (Page 19)	" Sesekali , segelintir manusia secara tidak sengaja menelannya." (Page 25-26)	Literal idiom

These idioms conform to Fernando's (1996) classification, which distinguishes between pure, semi, and literal idioms. "Be my guest" is categorized as a pure idiom because its meaning cannot be inferred from the individual words. "Time flies," classified as a semi idiom, offers some transparency, allowing for partial understanding through its

constituent words. "Now and again" is identified as a literal idiom, as its meaning is more directly derived from the words themselves.

According to Baker’s (2018) framework, the omission of a play on idiom involves removing the figurative element of the idiom while keeping its essential meaning. This strategy is evident in the translation of "be my guest" to "silakan," where the invitation is retained without the figurative imagery. "Time flies" is translated to "betapa cepat waktu berlalu," maintaining the core idea of the rapid passage of time while simplifying the expression. "Now and again" is translated to "sesekali," simplifying the idiom to a straightforward form. These examples illustrate the translator's approach to making idiomatic expressions more accessible to the Indonesian audience by focusing on the core meanings and simplifying figurative language.

Omission of entire idiom

According to Baker (2018), this strategy involves omitting the idiom entirely when it cannot be effectively translated into the target language. This approach is used when the idiom's meaning or figurative language would not be clear or relevant to the target audience.

Table 6. Translation by omission of entire idiom

Source Text	Target Text	Idiom Type
"Look at it from our point of view, for crying out loud! " (Page 139)	"Coba lihat dari sudut pandang kami!" (Page 149)	Pure idiom
"Sorry, my bad. " (Page 42)	"Wah, maaf." (Page 48)	Literal idiom

These idioms are in line with Fernando’s (1996) classification into pure and literal idioms. "For crying out loud" is classified as a pure idiom, as its meaning cannot be deduced from the individual words. "My bad" is considered a literal idiom, where the meaning is more directly inferred from the words used.

According to Baker’s (2018) framework, the omission of an entire idiom is used when the idiom cannot be effectively translated into the target language. This strategy is demonstrated in the omission of "for crying out loud" in the translation, as its figurative language does not have a clear or relevant equivalent in Indonesian. Similarly, "my bad" is omitted and replaced with "Wah, maaf," simplifying the expression to a straightforward apology. These examples highlight the translator's decision to omit idioms that would not translate well into the target language, ensuring clarity and relevance for the Indonesian audience.

Paraphrase

According to Baker (2018), this strategy involves explaining the meaning of the idiom in a more straightforward and less figurative way. This approach is used when there is no direct equivalent idiom in the target language, but the meaning needs to be conveyed clearly.

Table 7. Translation by paraphrase

Source Text	Target Text	Idiom Type
"Loki owned up to his mistake and set about making things right. " (Page 127)	"Loki mengaku salah dan bertekad mencari solusi. " (Page 137)	Pure idiom

Source Text	Target Text	Idiom Type
"But on the plus side, I've got plenty of elbow room down here in the well." (Page 52)	"Segi positifnya, aku leluasa bergerak di dalam sumur ini." (Page 58)	Semi idiom
" Hold that thought. " (Page 89)	" Tunggu dulu. " (Page 99)	Literal idiom

These idiomatic expressions adhere to Fernando's (1996) classification, which categorizes idioms into pure, semi, and literal types. "Making things right" falls into the pure idiom category, as its meaning cannot be inferred from the individual words. "Elbow room" is classified as a semi idiom, as its meaning is partially transparent through its constituent words. "Hold that thought" is identified as a literal idiom, where the intended meaning is more directly inferred from the words themselves.

According to Baker's (2018) framework, paraphrasing involves explaining the meaning of the idiom in a more straightforward way when there is no direct equivalent. This strategy is evident in the translation of "making things right" to "mencari solusi," which conveys the core meaning without the figurative language. "Elbow room" is translated to "leluasa bergerak," explaining the concept without using a direct idiomatic expression. "Hold that thought" is translated to "tunggu dulu," simplifying the expression while retaining the intended pause in conversation. These examples demonstrate the translator's ability to convey the meaning of idiomatic expressions clearly and effectively, even when a direct equivalent does not exist in the target language (Fatma, 2023).

Borrowing the source language

Baker (2018) outlines the strategy of borrowing the source language idiom as a translation technique wherein the translator retains the original idiom from the source language without attempting to translate it into the target language. This approach is typically employed when the translator believes that the idiomatic expression maintains its significance, impact, or cultural relevance in the target language audience without requiring translation. However, in the analysis of "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds," no instances were found where the translator directly borrowed idiomatic expressions from the source language. This suggests a deliberate choice by the translator to ensure cultural relevance and readability for the Indonesian audience by opting for idiomatic expressions that are native or more familiar within the target language context. By avoiding direct borrowing, the translator may have aimed to seamlessly integrate idiomatic language into the Indonesian text while preserving the essence and intended impact of the original idioms.

Conclusion

In this study, the translation strategies employed for idiomatic expressions in Riordan's (2016) "Hotel Valhalla: Guide to the Norse Worlds" and its Indonesian translation were examined. Through meticulous analysis using Fernando's (1996) classification of idioms and Baker's (2018) framework for translation strategies, insights were gained into the complex interplay between language, culture, and translation.

The findings revealed a variety of translation strategies used by the translator to handle two hundred and forty-nine idiomatic expressions present in the text. These strategies included using idioms of similar meaning but dissimilar form, idioms of similar meaning and form, omission of a play on idiom, omission of entire idioms, paraphrasing,

and notably, the absence of borrowing the source language idioms. Each strategy was employed with the goal of preserving the meaning, tone, and cultural relevance of the original idioms while ensuring clarity and accessibility for the Indonesian audience.

The analysis demonstrated the translator's adeptness in navigating the complexities of idiomatic translation, balancing fidelity to the source text with the need for cultural adaptation. By employing a range of translation strategies, the translator successfully conveyed the nuances and figurative language inherent in the idiomatic expressions while adapting them to fit naturally within the Indonesian language and culture.

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