

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

In Indonesia, English is considered as the most important foreign language. Therefore in Indonesia, English is being taught in every educational level. From pre-school to college students are taught to learn English. During the learning process, especially in high education level, there are skills that should be mastered by students, such as reading, writing, listening, and speaking. However, besides the main language skills mentioned before, translation is always be an actual issue to be discussed in the scope of foreign language learning. Considering the importance of translation, this subject is included as a course that has to be taken by English department students in the university level. According to Bell in Ordudari (2008) translation is about transferring the meaning from source language into target language. From the definition, we know that translation is not simply about literary changing word to word, sentence to sentence in source language into target language. Yet, it also requires knowledge and understanding to choose the closest and the most proper equivalence in target language to properly convey the message contained in source language into target language.

However, the translator which in this case is students often encounters some difficulties during the translation process. Those difficulties may relate to translation problems as it is proposed by Hartono (2009:62-89), they are linguistic problem and stylistic problem. Linguistic problems involve two sub categories.

The first category is grammatical category which related to the form, aspect, and genus of any unit of language. The second category is lexical category which underlines the variation of meaning, differential and non-differential, also semantic area of translation. On the other hand, stylistic problems of translation highlight the problem aroused during the process of translating utterances and also figurative language.

In a matter of style, figurative language is commonly used to fulfil the aesthetic function of language, which is to decorate the language and convey the message in the same time using related expression (Newmark in Oliynyk 2014:123). Figurative language normally found in any literary works such as novel, poetry, and prose, in a form of metaphor, proverb, or idiomatic expressions. However, figurative language is also used in formal writing such as article or news in magazines and newspaper. One of the expressions of figurative language that can be found either in literary works or formal writing is idiomatic expression. Idiomatic expressions are often being included either in English or in *Bahasa Indonesia*. Therefore, idiomatic expressions are not a new thing for Indonesian students who learn about language.

The use of idiomatic expression in any kind of material often requires Indonesian students to find and translate idiomatic expression from their language into English and vice versa. During the process of translating idiomatic expression, the problems of translation may show up. As mentioned by Wright (2002:10), translating idiom is considered to be difficult, since idiom cannot be translated as word for word. Translator should understand the meaning first before

translating the whole meaning. Moreover, an idiom might be translated differently according to person's cultural background. In addition, not all of the idiomatic expression has its equivalence in the other's culture. Therefore, in some cases translator can just give the meaning, instead of the closest idiom equivalence in the target language.

Based on the fact above the researcher would like to find out the difficulties encountered by students in translating idiomatic expression from English into Indonesian by first knowing the quality of their translation product.

## **1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic**

The researcher chooses students' difficulties in translating idiomatic expressions as topic of this research with the following considerations:

1. Foreign languages including English have different characteristics compared to *Bahasa Indonesia*. Therefore, translation is needed in order to get the information conveyed correctly in the target language. Considering about the importance of translation, it becomes one of the required subjects to be taken by English Department students at University of Muhammadiyah Semarang. Several students may also have some experiences in the translating job. However, the quality of their translation includes translating idiomatic expressions, has never been tested yet.
2. The researcher is interested to find more about translation and also enjoys reading some kinds of text. Based on the experience, the translation process is needed to understand the whole meaning of the text. The researcher needs to

translate the text properly before gaining the meaning of the text. It also happens when the researcher finds idiomatic expressions in any reading material. When the reader fails in translating the expressions, it is possible for the reader to get the wrong meaning. Thus, based on the researcher's opinion, it is important to translate idiomatic expressions to the proper meaning.

3. People usually think that idiomatic expressions may only be used in literary work such as poetry, novel, prose, movie, and drama script. However today, idiomatic expressions are commonly used in formal writing such as in magazine and newspaper. Those stereotypes make people become unaware of the possibility that idiomatic expression might be used in formal writing. Therefore, when it comes to the translating process, they just translate the idiomatic expression literally. As the result, the idiomatic expression is unable to meet the closest equivalent or even find the contained message in the target language.

Related to the unpredictable meaning of idiomatic expression, there are some problems or difficulties that might appear during the translation process, such as inaccuracy translation. Based on the problem mentioned, the researcher would like to find out how the students translate idiomatic expressions. The researcher is also curious about the difficulties encountered by students during the translation process.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problems**

The researcher is curious about students' difficulties in translating idiomatic expression from English into Indonesian. Therefore, the researcher proposes these two statements of problem:

1. How do the sixth and eighth semester educational program students of University of Muhammadiyah Semarang in the Academic Year 2016-2017 translate idiomatic expression from English into Indonesian?
2. What are the difficulties of the sixth and eighth semester students in encountering translation of idiomatic expressions from English into Indonesian?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problems stated above, this research is aimed to:

1. Find out how the sixth and eighth semester educational program students of University of Muhammadiyah Semarang in the Academic Year 2016-2017 translate idiomatic expression from English into Indonesian.
2. Find out the students' difficulties in translating idiomatic expression from English into Indonesian.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

There are three kinds of significance of this research. They are theoretical, pedagogical and practical significances of the research. The result of the study is expected to be useful theoretically, pedagogically, and practically.

The first is theoretical significance of the research. It is hoped that this research enriches the theories of translation for the readers; especially English-Indonesian translation, to give more understanding to the readers about English idiom. This research also becomes a reference of researching and learning translation especially in translating idiomatic expressions which may be often encountered by the students during their learning process. Hopefully, this study will help the Indonesian learners in studying English especially about idioms.

From the pedagogical significance of the research, it is aimed to provide theories, practices and analysis for students of translation studies, especially in English education study program which will encourage them to conduct researches in translation studies. It is because there are not many translation researches conducted by English education students. In addition, it is also hoped that this research will be a means of developments of the translating activities in the English education study program in particular, in which translation is actually considered as an important subject. Besides, this research also tries to improve the knowledge of translation and also the ability in producing good translation for students of English Department and people who are interested in translation studies. And for the researchers, this research becomes a reference in the other translation research.

The third significance is practical significance of the research. This research is aimed to give information about the students' difficulties during translation process, especially in translating idiomatic expression. This research will also reveal the quality of students' translation products. By knowing the

quality and then the difficulties, the teacher or the English education students as teacher candidates may figure out the solution based on the students' background, so that students translating skill can be improved.

### **1.6 The Scope of the Study**

The researcher limits the study about students' difficulties in translating idiomatic expressions from English into Indonesian. The limitation would be applied to limit the scope of theory used in this study. In this research, the researcher would like to focus only on analyzing the students' translation using rubric of translation quality assessment proposed by Waddington and then find out the difficulties encountered by students during the translation process.

### **1.7 Outline of the Research Report**

To present the investigation of the research to the readers, the report is organized as follows:

Chapter I is the introduction of the research. It presents the general background of the study, reasons for choosing topic, statement of the problem, the objective of the study, significance of the study, the scope of the study and outline of the study.

Chapter II presents review of the related literature. It concerns with the description of the review of the previous study, review of the theoretical study which involves definitions of translation, translation quality assessment,

difficulties in translation, definition of idiom, types of idiom, and also the framework.

Chapter III is the Research Methodology. It deals with the overview of qualitative approach in research, object of the study, method and instrument of the data collection, data analysis and research procedure.

Chapter IV is the Results and Discussion. It presents the general description, results and discussion of the research.

Chapter V presents the conclusion and offers some possible suggestions or recommendations that hopefully will be useful for the improvement of the translation course in particular and readers of this final project in general.

