

TRANSLATION STRATEGIES OF IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S *LITTLE WOMEN* AND ITS INDONESIAN VERSION *GADIS-GADIS MARCH*

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Abstract

This qualitative study analyses the strategies used in translating idioms from Louisa May Alcott's novel *Little Women* into Indonesian *Gadis-Gadis March* and evaluates the degree of equivalence in the translation. Idioms, as an important element of linguistic and cultural richness, require appropriate strategies to ensure that the original message is conveyed accurately and naturally. Document analysis reveals five main strategies. The most dominant strategy is the use of idioms with similar meanings but different forms (39%), which indicates a priority on preserving meaning and emotional effect rather than adherence to the structure of the source language. The strategy of providing idioms with the same meaning and form (35%) was also used significantly, in an effort to maintain the authenticity of the text. In addition, paraphrasing was applied (22%), focusing on conveying meaning naturally and in accordance with the target cultural context. The strategies of omitting idioms (3%) and borrowing idioms (0%) were rarely used. The distribution of these findings suggests a dominant orientation towards dynamic equivalence, where the main focus of translation is the preservation of meaning, emotional nuance, and cultural impact, rather than literal translation. The results show that effective idiom translation in literary works depends on the selection of strategies that are sensitive to cultural context and capable of maintaining the naturalness of the target language. These findings make a significant contribution to the study of literary translation by clarifying the relationship between the choice of idiom translation strategies and the achievement of dynamic equivalence in fictional texts.

Keywords: *idiomatic expressions; little women; the equivalence of translation; translation; translation strategies.*

1. Introduction

In the field of translation, especially for literary works, translators do not simply replace words, but transform messages and nuances from the source language to the target language. Translation is the process of transferring messages and nuances from one language to another, not merely replacing words. Literary translators have strategic freedom in choosing an approach to reconstruct meaning so that the translation has the

same essence and impact as the original text. In this process, careful word choice and consideration of cultural context are essential to avoid ambiguity.

The success of a translation is measured by its ability to transfer messages, ideas, and concepts from the source language to the target language, so that readers feel the same impact as the original text, as stated by Newmark (1988). This requires a competent translator to overcome linguistic and cultural inequalities and be able to capture and convey the implied meaning in the text.

A translator functions as an agent of knowledge dissemination who bridges languages and cultures. This role is very important because inaccurate translations can lead to misunderstandings. On the other hand, good translations allow readers to enjoy the richness of narrative and the beauty of global literature. One of the main challenges in translation is translating idiomatic expressions, which cannot simply be replaced word for word.

Translating literary works, such as novels, is a highly complex task due to their expressive nature and rich connotations and symbolism (Hartono, 2017). This complexity is compounded by Jureczek (2017), who states that novels are rich in narrative elements, characters, and deep cultural aspects that reflect social and moral values. Therefore, translators must master the language and be able to reproduce the author's creativity in order to maintain the aesthetic quality of the original work.

One of the main challenges in the translation process is idiomatic expression. Idiomatic expressions are an integral part of language, especially in literary works, whose meaning is figurative and tied to a cultural context, so they serve to convey cultural values and unique perspectives. Idioms cannot be translated literally because their overall meaning depends on metaphorical interpretation, not dictionary definitions. Failure to understand these cultural connotations can lead to misunderstanding and even distort the meaning. Therefore, translators must have a deep understanding of the social and cultural contexts of both languages in order to choose the right strategy for accurately conveying the meaning of idioms.

Louisa May Alcott's classic novel *Little Women* was chosen as the object of research because of its status as a work rich in idioms typical in 19th-century American English. The novel tells the story of four sisters during the American Civil War, making it a reflection of cultural values and emotions that are important to analyze in the context of translation.

This study is supported by previous studies that analyzed idiom translation strategies. Floranti (2020) highlights the problems faced by translators and finds that strategies such as paraphrasing are often used to reproduce the meaning of idioms. Aulia (2023) also finds that paraphrasing is the most frequently used strategy in the film "The Perfect Date". Meanwhile, Jaya (2020) analyzed the translation of the novel *Dracula* and showed that translators have the freedom and flexibility to choose a translation ideology that involves cultural elements.

However, the studies on the translation of idioms in English-language classic novels into Indonesian, such as the novel *Little Women*, is still limited. Unlike previous works that focus more on the audiovisual contexts than literary texts. This research examined the idioms in the classic novels to how the concept of translation equivalence shapes the choice of the translation strategy. This research also examines the impact of these strategic choices on Indonesian readers' understanding of the cultural and emotional nuances of idioms, as well as compare the translations of *Little Women* to reveal the relationship between the strategies used and the translators' backgrounds by comparing the translated version with the original source.

Therefore, the research aims to identify and analyze the strategies used in translating idiomatic expressions employed by translators from the classic novel 'Little Women' into Indonesian, as well as to examine the level of equivalence achieved through the chosen strategies.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Translation Theory

Translation is defined differently by several experts, but essentially it is the process of transferring a message from one language to another. According to Nida and Taber (2003), translation is an attempt to reproduce the message of the source language in the target language with as close a natural equivalence as possible in terms of meaning and style. Similarly, Catford (1965) views translation as the replacement of text material in one language with equivalent text material in another language. Meanwhile, Newmark (1988) considers translation to be the skill of replacing written messages from one language to another. Larson M. L. (1984) argues that translation is essentially a change of form, where the form of the target language replaces the form of the source language. Overall, translation is a complex task that not only changes words, but also preserves meaning, context, and cultural nuances.

There are several types of translation that are distinguished based on their purpose and linguistic focus, including:

- Literal Translation: Focuses on words or expressions that have the same meaning in the source and target languages.
- Dynamic Translation: Attempts to reproduce the message with natural equivalence, avoiding literal translation.
- Semantic Translation: Sticks to the original culture and helps readers understand the main message of the text
- Communicative Translation: Aims to provide a reading experience similar to that of the original reader.
- Aesthetic Translation: Seeks to balance the 'form' and 'meaning' of the text to preserve its artistic value.

Nida and Taber (2003) divided the translation process into three main stages. First, analysis of the source text to understand its meaning and grammatical relationships. Second, transfer, which is moving that meaning from the source language to the target language. Finally, restructure, where the translator adjusts the meaning so that the translation feels natural and is fully acceptable to the reader. This process emphasizes that translation is a task that requires a deep understanding of the source and target cultures, not merely a replacement of words.

2.2 Idiomatic Expression in Translation

Idiomatic expressions are combinations of words whose meanings cannot be interpreted literally (Ping, 2018). These expressions function as a single unit of meaning and cannot be broken down. According to Baker (2018), idioms have three main features: institutionalization, cohesion, and semantic opacity. These features ensure that idioms cannot be rearranged, deleted, added to, or have their linguistic elements replaced. For example, the idiom 'facing the music' cannot be changed to 'the music is faced,' because this grammatical change is not allowed.

Experts have proposed various types of idioms. In English, there are three types based on their denotative meaning: pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms. In addition, idioms can also be categorized into six types based on their linguistic components, such as verb phrases (e.g., call off, put off), prepositional phrases (e.g., in short, in time), or idioms with nouns as keywords (a blessing in disguise) (Baker (2018)). In Indonesian, idiomatic expressions are divided into two main types: complete idioms and partial idioms, which are equivalent to pure idioms and semi-idioms. Isodarus (2017) explains that idioms can appear in various syntactic constructions, ranging from words, word groups, phrases, clauses, to sentences.

Translating idioms is a significant challenge because their meaning cannot always be guessed from their constituent words (Baker, 2018). Hashemian and Arezi (2017) found that there are always unavoidable losses or gains when translating idioms, requiring semantic adjustments.

Word-for-word translation is not an appropriate method because the results are often nonsensical. According to Baker (2018), translators must consider several things, such as whether there are idioms in the target language that have the same meaning, whether the chosen idiom is appropriate for the language register, and how important the lexical elements are. The main goal is to find natural expressions in the target language that most closely match the meaning of the source language. In this process, meaning is considered more important than form.

Given the complexity and interconnection of idioms with the storyline and socio-cultural context, the translation of idioms in novels cannot be done accurately by machine translators. This process requires human translators who have direct experience and a deep understanding of both languages and cultures.

According to Baker (2018), there are five strategies that can be used to translate idioms, including:

a) Translating with Similar Idioms

This strategy is used when there is an idiom in the target language that has a similar form and meaning to the idiom in the source language. Although ideal, this strategy is difficult to apply because idioms are closely tied to culture, so such similarities are rarely found. For example, the Indonesian idiom 'besar kepala' can be directly translated to 'big head' in English because both have the same structure and meaning, namely 'arrogant'.

b) Translating with Different Idioms

This strategy is more commonly used when there is no exact equivalent idiom. The goal is to find an idiom in the target language that has a similar meaning, even if the words or structure are different from the source language idiom. This strategy prioritizes meaning over form. For example, the phrase 'bibirnya yang pucat dan seperti lilin tuangan' can be translated as 'her pale, waxen lips' because both describe the same meaning even though they use different words.

c) Translating with Paraphrasing

This is the most common strategy. Paraphrasing means translating the meaning of an idiom using simpler, non-idiomatic words. This strategy is chosen when there is no suitable idiomatic equivalent, or when the idiom in the source language is too culturally specific and difficult for the target audience to understand. For example, the idiom 'her face was scarlet' can be translated as 'her face was red', which conveys the meaning (a red face) without retaining the form of the idiom.

d) Omitting Idioms in Translation

This strategy is applied when idioms are difficult to translate due to cultural differences or stylistic reasons. There are two types of omission strategies:

- Omission of Idiomatic Play (TBOP): Idioms that contain wordplay or double meanings are omitted to make the meaning clearer. The translator conveys only the literal meaning. For example, a joke based on the idiom 'losing your cool' (becoming angry/losing your composure) is removed so that the sentence remains logical and easy to understand in Indonesian.
- Omission the Entire Idiom (TBOE): The entire idiom is omitted if there is no suitable equivalent or it is difficult to paraphrase, but the core meaning of the sentence is retained. For example, the idiom 'get up the juice' (gather courage) is omitted and simply translated as 'He might kiss me.'

e) Borrowing the Source Language Idioms Strategy

This strategy involves taking idioms from the source language in their entirety without changing their form or meaning. This strategy is often used if the idiom has a high degree of cultural uniqueness or is a specific name, such as a place name. For example, the idiom 'Out of This World' is retained in the translation because it is the name of a museum gallery and has a specific context.

Equivalence is a fundamental concept in translation. Its purpose is to ensure that the meaning of the source text is conveyed equally in the target text. This equivalence is achieved when elements in both languages have relevant and similar relationships in a given context. According to linguist Eugene Nida (2003), there are two main types of equivalence that translators focus on: formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence. Both have different approaches to balancing fidelity to the source text and the naturalness of the target text.

a. Formal Equivalence

Formal equivalence (also known as "gloss translation") is a translation method that aims to preserve all aspects of the original message, including language structure, style, and cultural elements. This approach focuses on reproducing the source text as accurately as possible. As a result, translations often feel stiff and literal to the target reader, as idioms must be translated literally and may require footnotes. The main goal is accuracy in the source form, not fluency in reading. Therefore, this method is generally not suitable for texts that require natural fluency, such as novels or entertainment texts. Example: The phrase 'Let your light shine before men' (from English) is translated literally as 'Biarlah terangmu bercahaya di hadapan manusia' (in Indonesian), retaining its original structure even though the figurative meaning may be less natural.

b. Dynamic Equivalence

In contrast, dynamic equivalence prioritises naturalness and cultural relevance for the target audience. The goal is for the reader's response to the translated text to be similar to their response to the original text, both in terms of information and emotion. This approach is more flexible and allows translators to adapt idioms and figurative expressions to make them easier to understand and feel natural in the target language. Dynamic equivalence is more commonly used in the translation of modern texts, including novels, as it is considered more communicative. Example: The idiom 'Break a leg!' (as an expression of encouragement) is translated as 'Semoga sukses!' (Good luck!) or 'Semangat ya!' (Good

luck!) in Indonesian, as these translations are more appropriate to the cultural context and communicative purpose in the target language.

2.3 Difficulties in Identifying Idioms

According to Baker (2018), the first difficulty in translating idioms is recognizing them as idioms. Baker explained that idioms are easier to recognize if:

1. Their meaning 'violates the conditions of truth', or does not make sense when translated literally.
2. Their grammatical structure is 'not well formed', or feels grammatically strange.

Conversely, there are two situations that make identifying idioms difficult:

1. Deceptive Idioms: Idioms that appear to be ordinary expressions, but actually have figurative meanings.
2. Similar but Different Equivalent: Idioms in the source language have similar equivalents in the target language, but their meanings may be completely or partially different.

After successfully identifying idioms, Baker (2018), outlined four main challenges in the translation process:

1. No Equivalent: Often, there is no equivalent idiom in the target language.
2. Different Context of Use: An idiom may have a similar equivalent in the target language, but the context or situation in which it is used is very different.
3. Multiple Meanings: Idioms can be used with multiple meanings, i.e. literal and idiomatic meanings simultaneously, which are difficult to preserve in translation.
4. Differences in Usage: The frequency and context of idiom usage in written text can be very different between the source and target languages.

Understanding and translating idioms accurately requires a high degree of linguistic and cultural sensitivity on the part of the translator.

2.4 About Novel *Little Women*

Literature is an imitation of the world that combines the author's imagination and content to convey ideas to readers. According to Sehandi (2014: 15), literature is a harmonious blend of content and form that aims to be ethical and aesthetic. Literary works are the result of creativity (Ayutya S, 2021) and communicative creations with aesthetic purposes (Nurhasana, 2021). Literature helps us understand social conditions, morals, and values (Rohmah, 2021) and serves as a tool for conveying ideas, expressing ourselves, and promoting moral values, which ultimately shapes us into better individuals (Soulisa, 2022). Literary genres include poetry, prose, and drama. Novels, as works of fiction in the prose genre, tell the life stories of characters (Yulandari, 2020) and describe complex storylines (Tarigan, 2015: 167). Susilo (2021) explained that novels are long prose works that focus on characters and their traits.

According to Mujarod (2022), novels are constructed from two main elements:

1. Intrinsic Elements: Elements within the novel itself, such as characters, plot, setting, point of view, and theme. The theme serves as the main idea that guides the author in developing the narrative.
2. Extrinsic Elements: Elements from outside the novel, such as moral, socio-cultural, and religious values, as well as the author's personal and educational background. These elements form the context and overall meaning of the novel.

To create an interesting novel, the author must develop these elements in a way that is relevant to real life.

Little Women, Louisa May Alcott's classic 1868 novel highlighting themes of sisterhood and struggle, is a rich but challenging source of data for translation. The main challenges lie in the use of 19th-century language and variations in register between characters, but the most significant challenge is translating idiomatic expressions that are steeped in culture. Translators must be able to convey both denotative and emotional meaning while adapting the socio-cultural context so that the essence of the novel remains relevant to Indonesian readers. Therefore, comparing the source text and translation in terms of idioms is crucial for revealing specific translation strategies and their impact on reader comprehension.

3. Research Method

This research used a qualitative descriptive approach supported by simple quantitative calculations for frequency analysis. The qualitative approach is used to identify, classify, and analyze idiom translation strategies and measure the types of equivalence achieved. Simple quantitative calculations are used to analyze the frequency of occurrence of the most dominant translation strategies and the level of equivalences.

The research data consists of idiomatic expressions found in the novel *Little Women*. This qualitative data was collected from the original English text and its Indonesian translation. This study used two versions of the novel *Little Women* as its main data sources:

- Original Version (English): The novel by Louisa May Alcott (Volume 1, 23 chapters), used as a source for identifying idioms in the source language (SL).
- Translated Version (Indonesian): The novel translated by Annisa Cinantya Putri and Widya Kirana, published by Gramedia Pustaka Utama (2020), was used as the source for analyzing the equivalent idioms in the target language (TL).

This novel was chosen because of its rich use of idioms that reflect 19th-century American social and cultural values, making it a valid and relevant data source for the study of culture-bound idiom translation strategies. This study uses the documentation method (Ary, 2010), in which the novel *Little Women* (original and translation) serves as the main popular cultural document. Purposive sampling was used with consideration for efficiency and balanced representation. Data samples were taken from even-numbered chapters (chapters 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, and 22) from both versions of the novel.

There are the steps of data collection in this research.

- Intensive Reading: The researcher carefully read the novel in both languages.
- Sentence Selection: The researcher selected sentences containing relevant idiomatic expressions.
- Idiom Identification: The researcher specifically identified idiomatic expressions in the source text and their equivalents in the target text.

The main instrument of this study was a document analysis table (supplementary file/appendix) designed to systematically collect, classify, and analyze data. The supporting analysis tools used were an idiom dictionary (such as Merriam-Webster Dictionary) and a general dictionary (such as Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia/KBBI) to assist in the analysis of strategies and the meaning of equivalence of translation.

The data will be analyzed by using Miles and Huberman's (2014) interactive model, which consists of three main stages:

- Data Reduction: The process of selecting, focusing, and simplifying raw data (idiomatic expressions). Relevant data related to idiom strategies and types of equivalence—is selected and classified, while irrelevant data is eliminated.
- Data Presentation: Data is presented systemically document analysis table (as mentioned in the instrument section)
- Conclusion/ Verification: The final stage involves formulating a summary of findings, identifying the most dominant translation strategies, and assessing the consistency and types of equivalence achieved.

To ensure data quality, this study applied four validity criteria (Lincoln and Guba, 1985):

- Credibility: Achieved through in depth-reading, triangulation (comparing data from sources, methods, and theories such as Baker's idiom theory and Nida's equivalence), and discussion with peer review.
- Transferability: Ensured through in-depth contextual descriptions and clear and systematic research steps.
- Reliability: Guaranteed through consistent process documentation and the creation of an Audit Trail (detailed data table) for replication. Furthermore, to ensure reliability, data identification is verified by two independent raters who discuss differences in findings until consensus is reached.
- Confirmability: Maintained through a transparent Audit Trail and supported by empirical evidence (direct quotations from the novel), ensuring that findings are based on actual data.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Results

This research analyzed the data related to the novel *Little Women* and produced important findings related to idiomatic translation and the equivalence translation. The researcher will try to analyze and classify the translation strategies used in the translation of idiomatic expression whether they deal with the meaning equivalence or not, by using relevant theory.

Table 1 below presents a summary of the frequency and percentage of idiom translation strategies found in the novel *Little Women*.

Table 1

The Percentages of Types of the Translation Strategies of Idiomatic Expression in Novel Little Women

No	Types of the Translation Strategies	Total	Percentages (%)
1.	Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form	84	35
2.	Translated by Paraphrase	53	22
3.	Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form	94	39
4.	Translated by Omission TBOP and TBOE	9	4
5.	Borrowing the Source Language Idioms Strategy	-	0
		240	100

Note: TISFM = Translating idioms by using an idiom that is similar in form and meaning; TP = Translated by Paraphrase; TIDFM = Translating idioms by using an Idiom of similar meaning

but different form; TBOE = Translated by Omission of Entire Idiom; TBOP = Translated by Omission of a Play on Idioms.

Research on translation strategies for idiomatic expressions in the novel *Little Women* shows the dominance of two idiom-based strategies used to preserve the idiomatic character of the text. The most frequently used strategy is Using Idioms with Similar Meanings but Different Forms, with a frequency of 94 times (39%), followed by the strategy of Using Idioms with Similar Meanings and Forms, with a frequency of 84 times (35%). The Similar Meaning, Different Form strategy is considered the most ideal choice because it successfully conveys the original idiomatic meaning accurately while ensuring that the translation feels natural and fluent in the target language. The next strategy is Translated with Paraphrasing (22%), while the least frequent strategy is Translated with Omission (4%), and the strategy of Borrowing Source Language Idioms was not found (0%), which is most likely due to methodological limitations or a small sample size. Understanding these strategy preferences, which prioritize adaptation for naturalness, is crucial for translators to bridge linguistic and cultural gaps, producing effective, accurate, and enjoyable translations.

According to Baker (2018), there are five strategies that can be used to translate idioms, including:

a. Translating idioms by using an idiom that is similar in form and meaning to the source language idiom

One strategy for translating idioms is to use idioms in the target language that have similar meanings and forms to the idioms in the source language. This strategy can be applied if there is an equivalent idiom with the same grammatical structure and meaning.

Datum 1 (TISFM)

SL: as the plates went round, and the ice began to melt out of sight, with ohs and ahs satisfaction

TL: sementara piring-piring bersileweran, dan es krim mulai menghilang dari pandangan diiringi seruan oh! dan ah! menyatakan kepuasan

Idiomatic Expression:

SL: the ice began to melt out of sight

TL: es krim mulai menghilang dari pandangan

Strategy Identified: Using an Idiom that is Similar in Form and Meaning to the Source Language Idiom

Reasoning:

In source Language (SL) illustrates that the ice cream is eaten up very quickly, rather than literally melting. In the Target Language (TL), the translation '*menghilang dari pandangan*' does not explicitly mention that the ice cream is eaten, but readers can understand its meaning through context.

The translator retained a similar metaphorical form in the translation (TL). Although "menghilang dari pandangan" is not a typical Indonesian idiom, this phrase creates a literary effect similar to the source text (SL) and shares the same connotative meaning (food that runs out quickly). This choice successfully retained the idiomatic power and emotional impact.

b. Translating idioms by using an Idioms of similar meaning but different form

When translating, if an idiom with the exact same form cannot be found in the target language, one strategy that can be used is to find another idiom with a similar meaning, even if the words or structure are different.

Datum 1 (TIDFM)

SL: and both fell to work with the hearty goodwill which in spite of all obstacles, is sure to succeed at last.

TL: *Keduanya pun segera bekerja dengan segunung tekad baik yang, dengan tantangan seberat apapun pasti akan membuahkan hasil pada akhirnya*

Idiomatic Expression:

SL: work with the hearty goodwill

TL: *bekerja dengan segunung tekad baik*

Strategy Identified: Using an Idiom of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form

Reasoning:

The translation *segunung tekad baik* is not a literal translation of "hearty goodwill", but rather a substitution of form with a similar meaning. This phrase uses a metaphor that is unique in the Indonesian cultural context (*segunung tekad*) to convey an intensity of work ethic and sincerity comparable to the source idiom. The choice of *segunung tekad* manages to maintain the expressive power of the source idiom without compromising the naturalness of the language.

c. Translating idioms by Paraphrase

Paraphrasing is a common strategy in translating idioms using simpler and more easily understood words, without retaining the idiomatic form. This strategy is often used when the idiom in the source language is too culturally specific or difficult for the target audience to understand.

Datum 1 (TP)

SL: "I shall take the cream and the muffins," added Amy, heroically giving up the articles she most liked.

TL: *"Aku akan membawa krim dan muffin," Amy menambahkan dan dengan penuh pengorbanan menyerahkan dua makanan kesukaannya.*

Idiomatic Expression:

SL: heroically giving up the articles she most liked

TL: *dan dengan penuh pengorbanan menyerahkan dua makanan kesukaannya*

Strategy Identified: Translated by Paraphrase

Reasoning:

The idiom phrase above is a small form of altruistic action that describes an act of sincerity and courage to give up something that is favored for the good or comfort of others.

The translators restated the idiomatic meaning (altruistic action/courage) in the TL without retaining the literal form of the SL idiom. This allows the emotional meaning to be

conveyed in a more natural and communicative expression in Indonesian culture (*penuh pengorbanan*), even though the SL style becomes simpler.

d. Omitting the Idiom in Translation (Omission)

Omission are used when idioms in the source language are difficult to translate into the target language due to cultural differences or stylistic reasons. This strategy is divided into two types. First, omission of a play on idiom where the translator removes wordplay or double meanings that are difficult to transfer and leaves only the main meaning so that it is easy to understand. Second, omitting the entire idiom, where the idiom is removed entirely if there is no suitable equivalent or it is difficult to paraphrase, while retaining the core meaning of the sentence to maintain the fluency of the translation.

Datum 1 (TBOE)

SL: Long, quiet days she spent, notlonely nor idle, for her little world was peopled with imaginary friends, and she was by nature a busy bee.

TL: *Hari-harinya yang anjang dan lama, tetapi ia tidak pernah merasa kesepian dan tidak berpangku tangan. Dunia kecil Beth diisi dengan teman-teman khayalan. Secara alamiah, ia senang menyibukkan diri*

Idiomatic Expression:

SL: she was by nature a busy bee

TL: *Secara alamiah, ia senang menyibukkan diri*

Strategy Identified: Translated by Omission of Entire Idiom

Reasoning:

The idiom "a busy bee" is not translated in its equivalent idiomatic form in the TL. The translator chooses to omit the idiomatic form entirely, but retains the contextual meaning through the descriptive phrase "*senang menyibukkan diri*." This strategy is used to maintain narrative clarity and cultural authenticity for the target readers, without losing the essence of the idiom's meaning.

Datum 2 (TBOP)

SL: and she lay hour after hour, tossing to and fro, with incoherent words on her lips, or sank into a heavy sleep which brought her no refreshment.

TL: Dan, Beth pun terbaring jam demi jam, bergolek-golek gelisah sambil meracau, atau jatuh tertidur begitu rupa hingga ia melewatkan makan dan minum

Idiomatic Expression:

SL: tossing to and fro , with incoherent words on her lips

TL: bergolek-golek gelisah sambil meracau

Strategy Identified: Translated by Omission of a Play on Idioms

Reasoning:

The translator removed the play on idioms and parallel structure (rhythmic repetition) from the source language (tossing to and fro), but retained the general meaning

of Beth's suffering through a more concise phrase ('bergolek-golek gelisah sambil meracau.'). This strategy was used to maintain the efficiency of the narrative. The phrase 'hour after hour' already encompasses the prolonged condition, and 'writhing restlessly while babbling' conveys the idiomatic effect functionally, albeit without retaining the idiom's typical SL form.

e. Borrowing the Source Language Idioms

The strategy of adopting native language idioms is a translation approach that preserves idioms intact from the source language to the target language. Idioms are copied without any changes to their form, structure, or meaning.

Based on the analysis of data in the novel *Little Women*, no use of Borrowing the Source Language Idioms Strategy was found in the analyzed quotations

Table 2 below shows the clear dominance of Dynamic Equivalence in idiom translations in the novel *Little Women*.

Table 2

The Percentages of the Equivalence Translation of Idiomatic Expression in Novel Little Women

No	Equivalence Translation	Total	Percentages (%)
1.	Formal Equivalence	90	38
2.	Dynamic Equivalence	150	62
		240	100

Note:FE =Formal Equivalence; DE = Dynamic Equivalence

Research on translation equivalence used for idiomatic expressions in the novel *Little Women* shows a significant dominance of Dynamic Equivalence, with a high frequency of 62%. This figure reflects the translator's primary priority to transfer meaning and cultural nuances naturally, ensuring that the text is easily understood by readers of the target language. In contrast, Formal Equivalence is used less frequently, at 38%, indicating that efforts to preserve the original linguistic structure are a secondary consideration. The dominance of Dynamic Equivalence (62%) argues that translators consciously choose to prioritize readability, cultural familiarity, and equal impact on the target audience. These findings reinforce the translation philosophy that considers adaptation (dynamic) to be a more effective approach to translating culturally bound idioms than literalism (formal), thereby ensuring that the richness of the novel can be fully enjoyed without feeling stiff or foreign to readers.

According to Nida(2002), there are two main types of equivalence: formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence.

1. Formal Equivalence

Formal equivalence is a type of translation that prioritises the literal reproduction of the original message from the source text, including linguistic structure, style, and cultural context. This approach, often referred to as 'gloss translation,' tends to make the translation feel foreign to the reader.

Datum 1 (FE)

SL :Ned, getting sentimental, warbled a serenadewith the pensive refrain

TL : *Ned, yang mulai terbawa perasaan, menyanyikan sebuah lagu romantic yang sarat makna tersirat*

Idiomatic Expression:

SL :getting sentimental

TL : *yang mulai terbawa perasaan*

Idiom Translation Equivalence: Formal Equivalence

Analysis:

The idiom "getting sentimental" translates to "*yang mulai terbawa perasaan*". Both expressions manage to capture the essence of a melancholic and soulful emotional state very closely. "*yang mulai terbawa perasaan*" literally means 'being carried away by feelings', which is conceptually and functionally very similar to 'getting sentimental'. This translation maintains the same level of formality and emotional feel as the original. Since this translation has not undergone any significant shift in either form or meaning, it is a strong representation of Formal Equivalence.

2. Dynamic Equivalence

Dynamic equivalence is a translation approach that focuses on making the text feel natural and easy to understand for the target audience, rather than simply preserving the original message. The aim is for the reader's response to the translation to be similar to their response to the source text, both informatively and emotionally. This strategy often adapts elements of the source text to make them culturally appropriate and more relevant to the reader.

Datum 1 (DE)

SL: He was a homely man, but they thought his face quite heavenly when he smiled,

TL: *Wajahnya tidak tampan, tetapi bagi Jo dan Meg, ia tampak sangat tampan ketika tersenyum*

Idiomatic Expression:

SL: his face quite heavenly

TL: *ia tampak sangat tampan*

Idiom Translation Equivalence: Dynamic Equivalence

Analysis:

The idiom "his face quite heavenly" literally means 'his face is very much like heaven' or *atau* 'wajahnya surgawi'. This expression has a metaphorical nuance that conveys extraordinary beauty or heavenly peace. However, in this context, the idiom conveys the meaning that the man's face looks exceptionally beautiful or very attractive to Jo and Meg. The translation in the target language, "*ia tampak sangat tampan*," successfully captures the essence of the praise and admiration intended in the context. The translator avoids a literal translation that could have overly strong religious connotations or be inappropriate in Indonesian culture. This choice prioritises the emotional effect and meaning intended by the original expression over its form. Therefore, this translation, which demonstrates significant cultural and contextual adaptation, is classified as Dynamic Equivalence.

4.2 Discussion

In translating idioms in the novel *Little Women*, four main strategies were found to be used by translators. The most dominant strategy was to use idioms with similar meanings but different forms 94 times (39%). This strategy was considered effective because translators could retain the meaning of the source idiom with a more natural form in the target language. The next strategy is to use idioms with similar meanings and forms, which was used 84 times (35%). These two idiomatic strategies, which combined account for 74%, show that the translator attempted to preserve the idiomatic nature of the source text while adapting it to the context of the target language so that it would sound natural to Indonesian readers.

The paraphrasing strategy was used 53 times (22%). This strategy was chosen when a direct equivalent idiom could not be found in the target language. Through paraphrasing, translators can still convey the meaning of the idiom functionally, even though the idiomatic form is no longer preserved. Meanwhile, the omission strategy was only used 9 times (4%), and the borrowing strategy was not found at all (0%). The low use of the omission strategies indicates that the translator tried to avoid losing meaning or disrupting the cultural continuity of the translated text. And the borrowing strategy was not found. This may be due to the limited sampling methodology (analysis of even chapters).

The distribution of translation strategies is very consistent with Baker's (2018) classification of idiom strategies, which shows that translators strive to preserve the original idiomatic meaning while paying attention to the fluency and readability of the target text. The dominance of idiomatic and paraphrasing strategies shows a tendency to emphasize meaning rather than form.

The distribution of translation strategies also directly reflects the translator's tendency to prioritize dynamic equivalence over formal equivalence. Based on the analysis results, dynamic equivalence was found in 62% of all data, while formal equivalence only reached 38%. Dynamic equivalence focuses on conveying the same meaning and effect to the target reader, even though the sentence structure may change from the original form. Therefore, meaning-oriented strategies—such as the use of idioms with similar meanings but different forms and paraphrasing strategies—are widely used because they are able to generate equivalent responses and understanding for the target reader.

Conversely, formal equivalence, which focuses on preserving the form of the source language, has a smaller proportion. The strategy that most closely approximates the principle of formal equivalence, namely 'using idioms with similar meanings and forms,' ranks second in frequency of use. Meanwhile, strategies such as omission are rarely used because they can disrupt the flow of the story or cause confusion for Indonesian readers.

According to Nida (2002), the dominance of dynamic equivalence (62%) over formal equivalence (38%) indicates that translators prioritize similarity in the experience and meaning received by readers over the rigid preservation of the linguistic form of the source text. Thus, the idiom translation strategy in this novel demonstrates a cross-cultural communication-oriented approach, where message and effect are prioritized over the literal form of the source text.

A comparative perspective from other studies provides an important framework for evaluating these findings. The results of this study are in line with Aulia's (2023) study, which analyzed the translation of idioms from English to Indonesian in the film *The Perfect Date*. Her study also found a predominance of dynamic equivalence and meaning-based strategies (especially paraphrasing). Although the most dominant strategy in this study was Using

Idioms with Similar Meanings but Different Forms—which is a meaning-based strategy—rather than paraphrasing as found by Aulia, the core principle of emphasizing dynamic equivalence and meaning adaptation was maintained, indicating that this pattern is strongly applicable in English-Indonesian translation. On the other hand, these findings contrast with Floranti's (2020) study, which analyzed the translation of idioms from Indonesian into English in the novel *This Earth of Mankind*, where paraphrasing (another meaning-based strategy) was the most frequently used strategy, often with longer explanations. The difference in dominant strategies may be attributed to the direction of translation or genre characteristics, but this study highlights that form adaptation is crucial in idiom translation, regardless of the source or target language.

5. Conclusion

Based on the explanation above, analysis of the translation strategies for idioms in the novel *Little Women* showed that translators focused on conveying meaning and reading experiences that were easily understood by Indonesian readers. This study identified four main strategies used. The most dominant strategy was the use of idioms with similar meanings but different forms. This choice shows the translator's tendency to maintain the fluency and clarity of the message in the target language. The next strategy is idioms with similar meanings and forms, which are used when the source language idiom can be retained without causing any disruption to the meaning. In the third place is the paraphrase, which is used when there is no natural idiomatic equivalent in Indonesian. Two others, omission and borrowing, are rarely used because they have the potential to disrupt comprehension or the narrative flow. From these strategy patterns, it can be seen that translators mostly apply dynamic equivalence, which emphasizes the same impression and effect of meaning for the target reader. Meanwhile, formal equivalence still appears through the preservation of certain idiom forms, but it is not a priority. Overall, the translation of idioms in this novel shows a strong effort to preserve the message, emotional nuances, and naturalness of the language so that the reading experience for Indonesian readers remains in line with the meaning in the original text. Further, research could be directed towards other genres such as modern fiction, poetry, or through empirical studies to assess readers' perceptions of idiomatic translations.

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