

THE TRANSLATION OF PHRASAL VERBS IN THE NOVEL *THIRTEEN REASONS WHY* BY J. ASHER

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Abstract

The form of a phrasal verb may be the same but they bear different meanings in accordance with the context of situation. The dynamics of language also influence the change of phrasal verb meanings. This paper presents the problems faced by the translator in translating several phrasal verbs in the novel *Thirteen Reasons Why* by applying the theory of Ghazala in which it is stated that phrasal verbs are linked with the lexical problems and stylistics. Lexical problems occur when a word, a phrase or an expression is not understood clearly and directly, misunderstood, not known at all to translators, or not found in standard dictionaries, while stylistic problems, rightly seen as a part of meaning strongly affect the style of source language posing problems for the translator as the styles of the ST and TT could not be easily adjusted to similarity. The data in the forms of phrasal verbs are taken from the source language and in the target language, supported by the descriptive qualitative method. The results of show that the problems in translating the phrasal verbs in the novel lie in lexical words (literal meaning, synonymy, polysemy, and idiom) and stylistics (formality and informality of language)

Keywords: lexical words, phrasal verbs, stylistics, lexical problems

1. Introduction

Translation is a process where there is translator who translates a material from the source language to the target language. In translating a text, a translator has to find the equivalent meaning to the context and culture. Larson (1984:3) states that basically, translation involves studying the lexicon, grammatical structure, communication situation, and cultural context of the source language text, analyzing it in order to determine its meaning, and grammatical structure which are appropriate in the receptor language and it is cultural context. When discussing language, Snell-Hornby (1995) states that every language has its own structure which may consist of many units such as morphemes, words, phrases, clauses and sentences. Those units can still be classified into the most specific parts of speech, gerund, idiomatic expression, phrasal verb, and so on. According to Azar (1989, p. A26), "The term phrasal verb refers to a verb and preposition which together have a special meaning." This means that a phrasal verb has a different meaning with the independent verb and the independent proposition that build the phrasal verb. Phrasal verb is one of the problematic factors in translating a novel.

In some cases, some phrasal verbs have correct equivalence meaning based on the meaning of the verb and its particle collocate it. This paper shares the findings of a research

about the translation of phrasal verb in a novel. In order to study of the phrasal verb, the writer chooses a novel entitled *Thirteen Reasons Why* written in 2007 by Asher.

2. Literature Review

Since no two languages are identical, either in the meanings given to corresponding symbols or in the ways in which such symbols are arranged in phrases and sentences, translation, which aims at conveying a message from the SL into the TL, is often accompanied by many linguistic problems: lexical, syntactic, semantic and stylistic. Out of these four, only two are taken to be the points of discussion: lexical and stylistic problems. The lexical problem any translator faces is to have many vocabularies in the SL with no direct counterparts in the TL. In this case, the SL word meaning can be conveyed relying on another TL word having the same function. (Ghazal: 1995).

Lexical words cover literal meaning, synonymy, polysemy, and idiom as well as phrasal verbs. Literal meaning is the most obvious or non-figurative sense of a word or words. Synonyms are the semantic qualities or sense relations that exist between words with closely related meanings. It should be noted that the idea of 'sameness of meaning' used in discussing synonymy is not necessarily total sameness. A polysemy is a word or symbol that has more than one meaning. In order to be considered a polysemy, a word has to have separate meanings that can be different, but related to one another. The meanings and the words must have the same spelling and pronunciation and they must have the same origin. An idiom is a group of words established by usage that has a meaning not necessarily deducible from those of the individual words. Phrasal verbs are phrases that indicate actions. They are generally used in spoken English and informal texts (Michael & Felicity: 2004).

Stylistics, another translation problem is concerned with the study of the devices in languages such as rhetorical figures and syntactical patterns that are considered to produce expressive or literary style, aiming to account for how texts project meaning, how readers construct meaning and why readers respond to texts in the way that they do. (Fowler: 1996)

3. Research Method

The research employs a descriptive qualitative method. Bogdan and Biklen (1982) state that qualitative research is descriptive, in which the data are collected in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. The steps in analyzing the data are; identifying five phrasal verbs from 16 chapters of *Thirteen Reasons Why* novel, finding out the problems faced by the translator in translating the phrasal verbs by Ghazala's theory (1995) and concluding the findings based on the data.

4. Results and Discussion

Table 1. Problems faced by the translator in translating phrasal verbs in *Thirteen Reasons Why*

No	Translation Problems	Frequency
1	Phonological problems	
2	Lexical problems:	
	a. Literal meaning	1 phrasal verb

	b. Synonyms	2 phrasal verbs
	c. Polysemy	4 phrasal verbs
	d. Idioms	1 phrasal verb
3	Stylistic problems	1 phrasal verb
4	Grammatical problem	

In translation cases, the translator usually gets a problem when translating text from the source language into the target language especially in translating phrasal verbs. Some of the problems that the translator faces in translating phrasal verbs are also found in translating *Thirteen Reasons Why* by referring to the theory of Ghazala (1995). According to Ghazala (1995), there are four problems in translation:

4.1 Phonological Problems

Phonological problems are problems concerned with sounds, usually found when translating poetry. There are no phonological problems in translating those phrasal verbs in this research because the source is a novel.

4.2 Lexical Problem

4.2.1 Literal Meaning

The problem in literal meaning is when the translator could not find the meaning in the target language. In this research, there is one case, which has this problem in the data number 39.

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
39	8/159/6	My stomach pulls in tight, like working through a final sit-up .	8/167/15	Perutku menegang, seperti sedang melakukan sit-up terakhir

The phrasal verb on the data above, *sit-up* translated directly by the translator *into sit-up*. There is no similar meaning of *sit-up* in the Indonesian language.

4.2.2 Synonyms

Synonyms are problematic because those words have a similar meaning. The writer finds some of the data in this research having similar meaning to each other. Synonymy poses problems concerning the difference between the levels of closeness or absolute identification of the meanings (Ghazala, 1995).

Data Number 45 and 61

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
45	9/179/10	I backed off .	9/187/10	Aku mundur .

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
61	13/252/1	Don't give up on me now.	13/256/1	Jangan menyerah padaku dulu ya.

According to Oxford Thesaurus of English (2009) on synonyms, there are several synonyms for *backed off* and one of them is to *give up*. *Backed off* means to stop being involved in a situation, usually to allow other people to deal with themselves whereas *give up* means to stop trying to guess. Here, the synonymy problem faced by the translator is the phrasal verb *backed off* and *give up* has the close meaning to say stop.

Data Number 47 and 49

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
47	10/199/20	Again, I look over at Tony.	10/206/9	Lagi-lagi aku menoleh ke arah Tony.

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
49	10/201/8	Some parts I just couldn't figure out how to tell.	10/207/21	Bagian yang ingin kuceritakan tapi tidak tahu bagaimana.

According to Oxford Thesaurus of English (2009) there are several synonyms for *look over* and one of them is to *figure out*. *Look over* means to quickly examine something whereas *figure out* means to understand or solve something. Here, the translator finds the synonymy problem when translating the phrasal verb *look over* and *figure out*. *Look over* has the closeness meaning with *figure out*; to execute or to check something to understand. Therefore, *melihat* is used as the translation of *look over* and *kuceritakan* as the translation of *figure out*.

4.2.3 Polysemy

Polysemy is a problem when there is more than one meaning for a phrasal verb.

Data Number 22 and 31

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
22	5/70/8	"Cassette tapes?" She picks up the soy and holds it against her stomach.	5/84/9	"Kaset rekaman?" Dia mengambil kaleng susu kedelai dan menahannya di perut.

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
31	7/120/22	But I only picked the magazines up for the surveys.	7/131/15	Tapi aku membeli majalah untuk survei.

In this case, a similar phrasal verb *picked up* is found. The problem is whether it has another meaning. *Picked up* has some translations such as *mengambil*, *meletakkan*, *menaruh*, and *membeli*. In the first data, the translator uses *mengambil* but in the second data, she uses *membeli*. The translator chooses *membeli* in the second data because it is a word that has the equivalence of the text. Here, the translator solves the problem by choosing the meaning of the phrasal verb to *pick up* according to the context of the text.

Data Number 10 and 17

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
10	2/11/18	Tiny blue numbers scattered around the map matched up with business names listed in the margins.	2/27/12	Nomor-nomor kecil berwarna biru menyebar di sekeliling peta sesuai dengan nama-nama tempat yang tertera di pinggirnya.

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
17	4/58/3	She claimed to have never tried matching up friends before and was doubtful she ever would again.	4/71/23	Dia bilang dia belum pernah mencoba mencocokkan pertemanan, dan ragu akan melakukannya lagi.

The translator faces the problem in translating *matching up* because these phrasal verbs have more than one meanings. *Matching up* could become *cocok*, *mencocokkan*, *sesuai*, *serasi*. The equivalence is the most important in the translation case. Here, the problem of *matching up* is solved by using the words *sesuai* and *mencocokkan*.

Data Number 49, 56 and 63

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
49	10/201/8	Some parts I just couldn't figure out how to tell.	10/207/21	Bagian yang ingin kuceritakan tapi tidak tahu bagaimana.

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
56	12/232/2	I've been trying to figure out how to say this the whole time we've been in the car.	12/236/2	Dari tadi aku memikirkan bagaimana mengatakan ini selama kita di mobil.

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
63	13/255/23	And I don't have	13/258/17	Dan aku tidak punya

		much time to figure it out because tomorrow I am going to do it.		banyak waktu untuk mengira-ngira sebab besok... aku akan melakukannya.
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In the phrasal verb *figure out*, the problem is similar to the data before. This phrasal verb is translated into three different ways *kuceritakan*, *memikirkan*, *mengira-ngira*. The next problem faced by the translator is to choose the best translation of *figure out* for three sentences.

Data Number 30, 51 and 57

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
30	6/98/15	I nod, press the headphones into my ears, and look out the window.	6/111/1	Aku mengangguk, memasang headphones ke telinga, lalu memandang ke luar jendela.

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
51	11/220/4	Tony looks out his side window and changes lanes.	11/225/4	Tony melihat ke luar jendelanya dan berpindah jalur.

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
57	12/233/17	He looks out the side window, and his chest fills with air.	12/237/10	Dia menatap keluar jendela, dan dadanya terisis udara.

The translator faces the problem to decide the translation of *looks out* in the target language. In Indonesian language *looks out* is an activity done by the eyes. The phrasal verb *looks out* bears the meanings as in the third data above; as *memandang*, *melihat*, *menatap*. All the translations of *looks out* are the activities of the eyes. The translator solves the problem by choosing the best meaning of *looks out* according to the context needed.

4.2.4 Idioms

The problem with idioms when translating phrasal verbs means that phrases, which have form and special meaning, cannot be known from the direct meaning of their words. In this case, the idiom problem occurs in data number 52 for the phrasal verb *get up*.

Data Number 52

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
52	11/221/16	I thought she was	11/226/13	Kupikir tadinya si cewek

		acting drunk, bumping into me we'd get up and leave.		berpura-pura mabuk, membentur-benturkan badannya kepadaku agar aku dan Clay pergi dari sofa.
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In the data above, the phrasal verb *get up* is not translated into the direct meaning in Indonesian language *bangun*. It is the problem of idioms in this data faced by the translator. In the source language, the words *get up* and *leave* are used. Consequently, the translator uses the word *pergi* to describe *get up* and *leave*.

4.3 Stylistics Problem

In stylistic problems, it is about formality and informality of language. The data of this research are mostly translated into a formal language. The researcher only finds one phrasal verb, translated informally as shown below.

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
37	8/157/17	I look up to find Tony standing beside me, his finger on the Pause button.	8/166/2	Aku mendongak dan melihat Tony berdiri di sebelahku, jarinya menekan tombol Pause.

NO DATA	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	SOURCE TEXT	CHAPTER/PAGE/LINE	TARGET TEXT
64	13/256/22	I smiled every time I saw you after the party, but you never looked up .	13/259/16	Aku tersenyum setiap kali melihatmu setelah pesta itu, tapi kau tidak pernah mendongak .

Both of the data above are translated as the phrasal verb *look up* into *mendongak*. The word *mendongak* in Indonesian is not usually used in daily life. The translator faces this problem and uses the word *mendongak* to adhere to the context of the text. The translator chooses *mendongak* than the other words even though the words sound informal as the meaning of that word could be found in the dictionary.

4.4 Grammatical problem

The structures of grammar in both Indonesian and English are different. Grammatical problems are not an issue when translating the phrasal verbs in the novel. In Indonesian language, there is no phrasal verb. Thus, the translator translates those phrasal verbs according to the context without translating the whole phrasal verbs.

5. Conclusion

Translation demands a deep understanding of both grammar and culture. Translators need to know the rules of a language as well as the habits of the people who speak it. And

even for the most experienced professionals, confusion and frustration are familiar feelings. Every language sits inside a defined structure with its own agreed upon rules. The complexity and singularity of this framework directly correlates to the difficulty of translation. As a result, translators frequently have to add, remove, and rearrange source words to effectively communicate in the target language. Various problems arise in translation works covering lexical words, structure, idioms, compound words as well as phrasal verbs and the points of discussion in this study are concerned with lexical and stylistic problems. Several lexical problems are found in translating this novel, they were ; literal meaning problem (1 phrasal verb), synonymy problem (2 phrasal verbs), polysemy problem (4 phrasal verbs), and idiom problem (1 phrasal verb). For stylistic problem (1 phrasal verb). The phonological problem and grammatical problem are not found in translating the phrasal verbs in the novel.

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