

British English Idiomatic Elements Used in a Series on Netflix Titled The Gentlemen (Ep.1-4)

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Abstract. This research analyzes the translation of English Idiomatic elements used in The Gentlemen series, episode 1-4. The main focus of this research is to analyze how the methods of translation applied to maintain the meaning conveyed by the translator by adjusting the context of understanding the target language. In particular, it addresses the challenge of maintaining accuracy by using various method of translation. Previous research emphasizes the importance of understanding the context of translation, but lacks in-depth analysis of how various translation methods-such as idiomatic, literal, semantic and communicative approaches-can be effectively delivered. The main questions addressed in this study are: How can different translation methods capture the target language and the original meaning in the story dialog, so that it can still be understood by the Indonesian audience? Through contextualized language analysis, each translation method is evaluated for its impact on audience comprehension. This study emphasizes the importance of method selection in translation. Finally, the results of this study contribute to translation studies by providing better strategies in preserving language meaning, thus benefiting both translators and readers.

Keywords: words adjustment, accuracy, translation method, idioms.

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

The intricate relationship between language, translation, and culture is one of the most complicated and dynamic systems in human communication (Sapir, 1929). Language is more than just a communication tool, it embodies its speakers collective awareness, historical evolution, and cultural frameworks (Whorf, 1944). The underlying link between linguistic expression and cultural identity has important consequences for translation theory and practice (Venuti, 1995). A translator must capture the cultural nuances in the original text. Each language has a different structure that reflects how its speakers think and understand the world. The linguistic relativity theory by Edward Sapir and Benjamin Lee Whorf says language affects how we see things and how we understand the world (Lucy, 1992).

Globalization in the digital age has highlighted the significance of cultural sensitivity in translation techniques (Cronin, 2012) (O'Hagan & Mangiron, Game Localization: Translating for the Global Digital Entertainment Industry, 2013) (Desjardins, 2017). The increased sharing of information across cultural boundaries has presented translators with new challenges and opportunities, requiring them to build advanced cultural skills (Snell-Hornby, 2006). Modern translation theory stresses translators' roles as cultural mediators who must strike a balance between linguistic truth and cultural appropriateness (Hatim & Mason, 1997).

Cultural factors, as well as language accuracy, must be considered when assessing translation quality. Cultural equivalency and appropriateness are becoming increasingly important when evaluating translated literature (Reiss & Vermeer, 2013). Modern translation theory acknowledges that good

translation needs not only linguistic proficiency but also extensive cultural understanding and sensitivity (Bassnett, 2014).

Furthermore, the use of technology in translation has increased the cultural components of translation (O'Hagan, *The Routledge Handbook of Translation and Technology*, 2020). Machine translation and computer-assisted translation techniques must be assessed not just for language accuracy, but also for cultural nuances (Kenny, 2018) (Moorkens, Castilho, Gaspari, & Doherty, 2018). Culturally aware translation tools constitute a new frontier in translation studies (Dahl, 2011)

In this essay, we will discuss a series entitled *The Gentleman* by Guy Ritchie in episode 1 till 4 (grand theft auto). The series was released on 7 March 2024 which has an action genre. Guy Ritchie is a successful director with films like *Sherlock Holmes*, *Operation Fortune* and *Aladdin*. This series is a combination of *Peaky Blinders* series and the film *Kingsman*. The characters in this series are also very supportive in perfecting, this series starring Theo James, Kaya Scodelario, Daniel Ings.

Why we chose this film to make our essay assignment because we like action films and this film has an predictable plot. The film is set in England which we think has its own uniqueness if translated. Many dialogues contain slang and typical English vocabulary that gives literal meaning according to the context of the dialogue. In this essay we analyze from the source text then the target language and the literal meaning. the film was translated by Prilya Zenicha.

It tells the story of Eddie (Theo James), a nobleman's son who has just inherited the wealth of his recently deceased father. But his father's legacy is not only wealth, but also a drug business with a family of gangsters led by Susie Glass (Kaya Scodelario). The more Eddie tries to escape the Glass family's drug business, the further he gets into it.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

(Díaz Cintas & Remael, 2020) journal “Audiovisual Translation: Subtitling Idioms in TV Series” specifically discusses the technical and linguistic aspects of translating idioms in audiovisual contexts, particularly in the subtitling of television series. The journal highlights the importance of subtitling strategies that not only preserve meaning and cultural context, but also consider technical issues such as subtitle duration, synchronization, and readability. There are similarities with this study in terms of the emphasis on idioms in the context of audiovisual translation. However, the difference lies in the subject matter; Díaz Cintas and Remael more broadly discuss the technical aspects of subtitling in general, while your research specifically analyzes idioms in the subtitling of the Netflix series *The Gentlemen* with an emphasis on the translation method.

(Pedersen, 2015) journal entitled “Idiomatic Expressions in Subtitling: A Case Study of the TV Series *Friends*” focuses on strategies in translating idiomatic expressions through subtitling methods in the popular series *Friends*. This study specifically explains various idiom translation approaches such as adaptation and idiomatic translation to maintain humor and accuracy of meaning for the target audience. There are similarities with this study in terms of analyzing idiom translation methods in popular series. However, the difference lies in the different research objects, where Pedersen's journal specifically analyzes the *Friends* series, while this study focuses on the Netflix series *The Gentlemen*. In addition, Pedersen puts special emphasis on subtitling techniques in overcoming idiomatic challenges that are closely related to humor.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research applies a qualitative descriptive method to analyze idiomatic expressions found in the Netflix series *The Gentlemen* (Episodes 1–4) and their Indonesian translations. The aim is to identify the types of idioms used and analyze the translation methods employed by the subtitle translator in rendering these idioms into the target language. An idiom is a grammatical form, the meaning of which cannot be deduced from its structure or the meaning of its constituent elements (Hockett, 1958). From the method we use theory of Peter Newmark (Jovanović, 2016) and categories of idioms we use the theory from Adelnia & Dastjerdi (Adelnia, 2011). Peter Newmark proclaim that translation method divided to 8 types :

1. Word-for-word translation : This method involves translating word-for-word, maintaining the word order in the source text. It is usually used to understand the basic mechanics of the source language, but is rarely used in formal translation as it can result in stilted and unnatural text.
2. Literal Translation : Similar to word-for-word translation, this method pays more attention to the grammatical structure in the target language. However, it maintains the word order in the source language as much as possible.
3. Faithfull Translation : This method tries to reproduce the contextual meaning of the source text as accurately as possible in the target language. It retains the form and style of the source language, but tries to be more natural than literal translation.
4. Semantic Translation : Similar to faithful translation, but more flexible in addressing issues of connotative meaning and cultural nuances. The focus is on achieving fidelity in meaning rather than form.
5. Adaptation : This method is often used for theater works, poetry, and advertisements. It prioritizes the target language and tends to change the original text to achieve the same effect in the cultural context of the target language.
6. Free Translation : This method prioritizes content and meaning over the original form of the text. The resulting translation may differ considerably in structure, but is expected to retain the basic meaning of the source text.
7. Idiomatic Translation : This method tries to convey the meaning of the source text by using idioms or expressions that are common in the target language. It focuses on naturalness and readability.
8. Communicative Translation : This method emphasizes the transfer of the same message and effect as intended in the source text. It is usually used in informative and instructive texts.

Adelnia & Dastjerdi (2011: 880-881) proclaim that idioms can be classified into five categories, namely:

1. Colloquialism : Expressions of informal speech or writing
2. Proverbs : Expressions that contain wisdom and truth in metaphorical form
3. Slang : Highly informal words and expressions that are not considered as the standard use of language
4. Allusions : Figures of speech that makes a reference to a place, event, etc, either directly or by implication.
5. Phrasal verbs : The combination of a verb and a preposition, a verb and an adverb, or a verb with both an adverb and a preposition, whose meaning is different from the original verb.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis in this discussion section aims to explore how idiomatic expressions from the Netflix series *The Gentlemen* (episodes 1–4) are translated into Indonesian and how the selected translation methods affect the accuracy and naturalness of meaning in the target language. Idioms, as fixed expressions whose meanings are often non-literal, pose a unique challenge in translation, especially when the cultural context between the source and target languages differs significantly. Therefore, this discussion focuses on how various methods such as idiomatic translation, communicative translation, and semantic translation are applied to convey both the intended message and cultural nuances embedded within the original dialogue.

The translator's decisions are evaluated based on their ability to preserve contextual meaning, audience readability, and cultural appropriateness. Each selected idiom is analyzed not only in terms of its literal translation but also in terms of how well the translated version fits within the broader context of the scene and storyline. Through this approach, the discussion highlights both the successes and challenges in rendering British English idioms into Indonesian, providing insights into practical strategies for effective audiovisual translation.

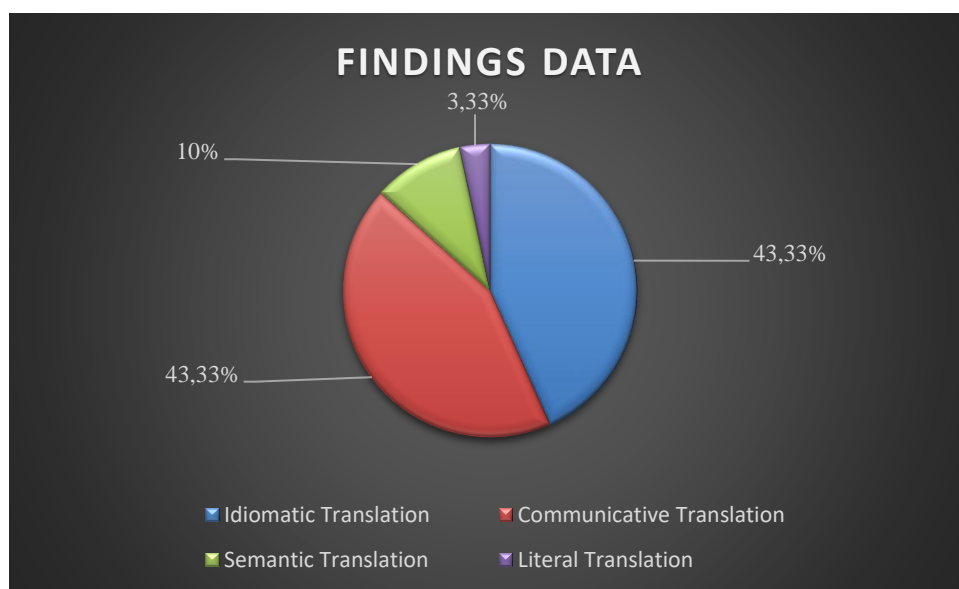


Figure 1 The translation methods applied

The chart shows that the Idiomatic and Communicative translation are mostly applied in translating the idiom in the film. The second high numbers belongs to Semantic Translation for 10% and the least is Literal Translation for 3,33 %

In summary, the chart shows that "Idiomatic Translation" and "Communicative Translation" are by far the most prevalent types, each making up almost half of the findings, while "Semantic Translation" and "Literal Translation" are significantly less common.

Excerpt 1:

Source Text	Target Language	Context Meaning	Duration	Method
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You can get hold of me	Kau bisa menghubungi	Kau bisa mengabariku via telepon	5.06 (eps.3)	Communicative Translation
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“You can get hold of me” is translated into ‘Kau bisa menghubungi’, usually used to ask someone to contact you by phone or message. The translator uses the Communicative Translation method to make it easier for the audience to understand the idiomatic context in the source text. In this story, Jimmy, a courier, meets a woman and gives her his phone number so they can get in touch. This phrase is often used in casual situations, indicating a desire to stay connected. It means a desire for further communication, whether for personal or professional matters.

Excerpt 2 :

Source Text	Target Language	Context Meaning	Duration	Method
He’s a bit of mug	Dia agak bodoh	Dia mudah ditipu	7.34 (eps.3)	Communicative Translation

“He’s bit of a mug” is translated into ‘Dia agak bodoh’ in this phrase used to describe someone who is easily fooled or taken advantage of by others. In this context, the word “mug” is English slang meaning “fool”. This text is translated using the Communicative Translation method which makes it easier for the audience to understand the context of the story. The addition of “bit of a” explains that the person may not be completely stupid. in the story of a drug buyer who is easily tricked, in the dialog susie glass wants to say that the buyer is easily tricked. This expression is usually used in informal situations and often has a joking tone.

Excerpt 3:

Source Text	Target Language	Context Meaning	Duration	Method
The rest is cream cheese	Sisanya mudah	Pencurian itu sangat mudah	11.57 (eps.3)	Semantic Translation

“The rest is Cream cheese” is translated into "Sisanya mudah " meaning something that is very easy to do, similar to ‘a piece of cake’ in English. In the context of this story, the translator uses the Semantic Translation method to facilitate the audience's understanding of the plot. This term is used to describe how easy it is to steal a car. In the context of the story, a man tells Eddie to help in the theft of a super car and he convinces Eddie “Cream cheese”, with the purpose of the theft to pay a debt because Jimmy is a drug courier who has lost his marijuana. This idiom is often used in everyday language to downplay the difficulty of something. In its use, this phrase gives an informal impression, describing someone who completes a certain task.

Excerpt 4 :

Source Text	Target Language	Context Meaning	Duration	Method
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The eagle has landed	Elang sudah mendarat	Target sudah datang di lokasi	32:15 (eps.3)	Literal Translation
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“The eagle has landed” is translated into “Elang sudah mendarat”. in the phrase, the translator uses the Literal Translation method to make it easier for the audience to understand the meaning and plot of the story. the word ‘eagle’ here means to mention the enemy and ‘land’ means to have come, which as a whole sentence has an idiom that the enemy has come to the scene and ‘land’ which means to come to the scene. In the context of the story, in carrying out the super car theft, Eddie and Edward were the ones who did it, Edward who watched from outside and Eddie who entered the showroom and stole the super car. When Edie stole, Edward, who was watching him, saw the showroom owner and immediately told Eddie by saying “The eagle has landed” so that Eddie immediately came out and completed the mission.

Excerpt 5 :

Source Text	Target Language	Context Meaning	Duration	Method
Hold your horse, cowboy	Tunggu dulu sebentar	Menghentikan omong kosong	30.03 (eps.4)	Semantic Translation

“Hold your horses cowboy” is translated to ‘Wait a minute’ is an idiom that means asking someone to be patient or not to rush into action. In the dialog of the story, the translator uses the Semantic Translation method to make it easier for the audience to better understand what is meant in the dialog and to understand the plot of the story. in the context, Susie Glass said this to warn the prince not to reveal all his strategies to his opponent too quickly. The word “cowboy” here refers to the call to the prince and “Hold your horses” means to hold back all the words that contain st The meaning of this idiom is to encourage someone to think carefully before acting, especially in situations that require very careful planning. This idiom is often used in everyday conversation to give advice in a casual yet polite tone.

Excerpt 6 :

Source Text	Target Language	Context Meaning	Duration	Method
Now I’m the one lying face down in the water	Aku menolong hidupmu dan sekarang akulah yang sedang tenggelam	Aku dulu menolongmu dan sekarang aku dalam masalah	17.06 (eps.1)	Idiomatic Translation

“Lying face down in the water” is translated to “*sedang tenggelam*”. ”Lying face down in the water” is an idiom or another word to say falling into trouble. Same like in Indonesian the word “*sedang tenggelam*” in here is an idiom to explain the context in the story that means falling into trouble. The translator uses Idiomatic Translation to maintain the context of the idiom so that the audience can interpret the word “*sedang tenggelam*” here what it means according to the context in the movie.

In the context explain that Freddy Horniman who is getting in a problem because of his debt to Tommy Dixon asks for help from his brother Eddie Horniman and he asks for reciprocity because he helped Eddie when they was a child ,when he falling into the pond like a duck.

Excerpt 7 :

Source Text	Target Language	Context Meaning	Duration	Method
You've been caught with your pants down	Dan kau juga tertangkap basah	Kau ketahuan melakukan bisnis yang ilegal	17.26 (eps.1)	Idiomatic Translation

"Caught with your pants down" is translated to "*tertangkap basah*". The word "*tertangkap basah*" is an idiom in Indonesian that means someone who is committing a criminal offense is caught by someone else at that moment. "Basah" probably refers to the state of someone who has just been involved in something, so the evidence of their actions is still clearly visible (like being wet after touching water). It describes someone who has no time to hide their actions. The translator uses an Idiomatic Translation from caught your pants down to tertangkap basah because the word tertangkap basah is a general idiomatic in indonesia that easily understand instead translate to another word in Indonesian. In this context, Freddy Horniman was caught for his drug use and was caught owing money to Tommy Dixon, who was known to Eddie Horniman.

Excerpt 8:

Source Text	Target Language	Context Meaning	Duration	Method
We've always steered clear of the powder	Kami tidak pernah memproduksi bubuk	Kami tidak memproduksi bubuk narkoba	32.50 (eps.1)	Idiomatic Translation

The idiom "steered clear" in here translated to "*tidak pernah memproduksi*". "Steered clear" in English is an idiom that means avoiding things that are negative. "Steered clear" in english is an idiom that means to avoid things that are negative. The translator uses an Idiomatic Translation so as not to explicitly say drugs and replace it with the word powder so that the audience can conclude what the powder in this story means. The word "*tidak pernah memproduksi*" here was chosen by the translator to help the audience understand what is meant in the story using simple words and more readability in Indonesian. And what is meant by powder here is drug powder (narcotic). In this context, Susie Glass's family helps Freddie Horniman's family or Eddie Horniman's brother who is her business partner, to lie to Tommy Dixon to trick him into reducing the debt paid by Freddie Horniman.

Excerpt 9 :

Source Text	Target Language	Context Meaning	Duration	Method
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This fight's completely off the books	Pertandingan ini tidak resmi	Pertandingan ini ilegal	41.50 (eps.1)	Communicative Translation
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The idiom "This fight's completely off the books" is translated to "pertandingan ini tidak resmi". "Off the books" is an English idiom that means something that is not officially recorded or illegal. "Off the books" translated to "*tidak resmi*". An ilegal match is a type of match held without the recognition, supervision or permission of the official body or organization responsible for the sport or activity. Translator changing idioms into direct expressions and using terms that are easily understood or familiar in Indonesian. In this context Freddie Horniman gambled on an illegally organized boxing match that featured two world boxers. He was tricked by his co-stars into believing that there was no bet on the match.

Excerpt 10:

Source Text	Target Language	Context Meaning	Duration	Method
I won't breathe a word.	Aku tidak akan membisikkan apapun.	Dia berjanji tidak berkata apapun	12.45 (eps.2)	Idiomatic Translation

The utterance "I won't breathe a word" is translated to "Aku tidak akan membisikkan apapun". "I won't breathe a word" is an English idiom that means won't say anything secretive which translate to "*tidak akan membisikkan apapun*" to make it seem natural. The translator uses an Idiomatic Translation to make audience easy to understand the story in the film. In this context, Jethro as an assistant counts the money owed by Tommy Dixon to be repaid by Freddie Horniman as the debtor. When Tommy sentenced Freddie as part of the agreement to reduce the debt by dancing in a chicken costume in front of Tommy, Freddie did not seem to accept what was said by Tommy, because of his emotions, Freddie went to the bathroom to take his shotgun and shot it at Tommy. After Jethro finished counting the money, he found his employer dead before his eyes, saw everything and then said "I wont breathe a word, I swear to Jesus" in a frightened tone.

CONCLUSION

This research shows the importance of choosing the right translation method in capturing the meaning and context of the source language. the use of appropriate words that can facilitate the audience should also be considered. In addition, this study shows that translators need to consider the language context in the dialog, especially for terms and phrases that do not have direct equivalents in the target language. Thus, the results of this study benefit translation research by providing an understanding of the need for translation strategies that are not only concerned with word equivalence, but also maintain the meaning of the context.

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