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VIETNAMESE TRANSLATION OF IDIOMS IN LOVE STORY BY ERICH SEGAL

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STORY BY ERICH SEGAL

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(Điểm ghi bằng số và chữ)		
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TABLE OF CONTENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	•••••
ABSTRACT	•••••
LIST OF ABBREVIATION	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
LIST OF TABLES	•••••
LIST OF FIGURES	•••••
TABLE OF CONTENTS	••••••
PART I: INTRODUCTION	
1. Rationale	1
2 Objectives of the study	2
3. Scope of the study	2
4 Significances of the study	3
5. Thesis organization	3
PART II: DEVELOPMENT	
CHAPTER 1: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND	5
1. The relationship between idiomatic translation, language and	culture5
2. Translation	8
Definition of translation	8
Translation process	8
Form and meaning in translation	9
Equivalence in translation	11
Translation strategies	13
Using translation strategy of similar meaning and form	14
Using translation strategy of similar meaning but form	14
Using translation by paraphrase	14
Using translation by omission	15
3. Idioms	16

Definition of idioms	
Types of idioms	
Sources of idioms	
Specific characteristics of idiomatic meanings	
The difficulties in the translation of Idioms	
4. Summary of the Love Story novel	20
CHAPTER 2: RESEARCH METHOD	21
1. Research Approach	21
2 Data type	21
3 Source of Data	21
4 Data collection	22
5. Data analysis	22
CHAPTER 3: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	
1. Findings	23
Description of the translation strategies of the Idiomatic expression	
in the English – Vietnamese texts	23
Description of the meaning equivalence degree of the Idiomatic	
expression in the English – Vietnamese texts	24
2. Discussion	26
Translation strategies used by the translator in translating the	
Idiomatic Expressions in the English- Vietnamese texts	26
Translation using an idiom of similar meaning and form	
Translation using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar	
form	27
Translation by paraphrase	
The degree of Meaning Equivalence of the translation of Idiomatic	=>
Expression in the English-Vietnamese texts	30
Equivalence meaning	
a) Complete meaning	
b) Partly equivalent	31

Non-Equiv	alent meaning	32
	a) Different meaning	32
	b) No meaning	33
3. Summ	nary	34
PART 1	III: CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS	
1. Conc	clusion	36

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ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the Vietnamese translation of Idioms in "Love Story" novel by Erich Segal. The researcher uses descriptive analysis to analyze the translation of the Idiomatic expression found in the novel. The current project is going to concentrate mainly on translating idiomatic.

These strategies are suggested by Baker (1992). The data of this study of are collected by taking a close look into the novel. From the analysis that has been done, there are 14 idiomatic expressions.

The researcher concludes that there are strategies used in translating the idioms in the novel. The first one is strategies of similar meaning and dissimilar form with (42.86%) findings which automatically dominates in the novel, the second one is the strategies of similar meaning and form with result (42.86%), and the last strategy by omission (14.28%). Meanwhile, there is no translation strategy of paraphrase.

In terms of meaning equivalence, the translation of idiomatic expressions has higher percentages of equivalence degree indicated by frequency of equivalent meaning (78.57%) compared to non- equivalent one (21.43%). In short, the translator has successfully transferred the meanings of the source text as equivalent as possible and the translation can meet the readers" need for equivalent translation.

LIST OF ABBREVIATION:

SL: source language
TL: target language
P: Page
L: Line
ISMF: Idioms of Similar meaning and form
ISDF: Idioms of Similar meaning but dissimilar form
TP: Translation by paraphrase
TO: Translation by omission
LIST OF TABLES
Table 1: Frequency of Strategy Usage
Table 2: The frequency and the percentage of the Meaning Equivalence
Degree
Table 3: The Frequency and the Percentage of the types of Meaning
Equivalence
Table 4: The Frequency and the Percentage of the Non-Equivalent meaning
degree
LIST OF FIGURES
Figure 1: Translation process by Larson (1984: 4)

PART I: INTRODUCTION

1. Rationale for the study

Language is an essential part of human"s life. It is used to organize the exchange of information in social situation. The existing of different languages in the world can be an obstacle for people to communicate. Translation has a function to abridge two or more different languages so that people can communicate each other. Translation also can be a tool to access and exchange information and knowledge in different languages. Without it, people will be left behind in accessing information. Therefore, the translation activity is important for the advancement of a nation to improve their science and knowledge.

Idiomatic expressions are a natural part of language use. Idioms always cause a lot of problems to learners of a foreign language. Students usually find difficulties in recognizing an expression as idiomatic or not, and then understanding its exact meaning. This is mainly due to the fact that an idiomatic expression is a colloquial metaphor that requires fundamental knowledge and experience in both the target and source languages, and the translator must have cultural background of both the source and target texts. According to Langlotz (2006, p. 2) "idioms have been described as conventional multi-word units that are semantically opaque and structurally fixed".

While idioms are a very important part of any language, and idiom translation plays an important role in translation. However, translation of idiomatic expressions is often problematic for translators. Because an idiom cannot be understood simply from the meaning of its individual words. In other words, the actual meaning of an idiom is not the total of the meaning of its individual parts. Thus, idiomatic expressions cannot be literally translated into another language. An idiom or fixed expression is hardly ever matched

between the SL and the TL.

Based the explanation above, it is interested to analyze the translation of idiomatic expressions in novel because idioms appear frequently in it. The *Love Story* novel is taken as the object of this research because this one contains a great deal of idiomatic expressions. It is interesting to study how the translator employs translation strategies about the idiomatic translation in both novels and how translator used degree of meaning equivalence. Second, the story of the novel is interesting. The novel had been filmed in the same title.

For this reason, the minor thesis would like to focus on translating idiomatic expressions in "Love Story" by Erich Segal from English to Vietnamese.

2. Objectives of the Study

The study covers the following aims:

- To identify the strategies used in translating idiomatic expression found in Bilingual Novel entitled "Love Story" by Erich Segal" into "Câu chuyên tình yêu" by Trần Anh Kim
- To describe the degree of meaning equivalence in the translation of the idiomatic expressions

To successfully achieve the above aims, the thesis seeks to answer the two research questions:

- What strategies are used in translating the idiomatic expression in "Love Story" by Erich Segal into "Câu chuyện tình yêu" by Trần Anh Kim?
- What degree is meaning equivalence represented in the translation of the idiomatic expressions?

3. The Scope of the Study

Translation is the most important thing in transferring the source language to the target language. One of the problematic factors involved in translation is idiomatic; it needs special knowledge to understand the meaning. This thesis study focuses on translating idiomatic expressions which are found in the Novel entitled "Love Story" into "Câu chuyện tình yêu" by Trần Anh Kim.

4. Significances of the Study

The researcher wants to give some benefits from this research, not only for the researcher herself, but also for the some related parties. The benefits are:

1. Researchers

 To know about the strategies translating idiomatic expression and get new experience in researching idiomatic expressions

2. Readers:

• To know the differences of translation used in source language into target language.

3. Haiphong Private University

- Be an additional reference for translation of idiomatic expressions for Foreign Language Department students.
- The benefits are to develop the learners understanding especially the idiom.

4. Translators

• The researcher hopes that the translator can get an additional reference if he or she conducts his or her process of translation.

5. Thesis Organization

Thesis organization is a summary of each chapter. It is to create a systematic writing and to make it easy to the readers in understanding the content. This

thesis is organized as follows:

- Part I is *Introduction*. It consists of Background of the Study, Objective of the study, Scope of the Study, Significance of the Study, and Thesis Organization.
- Part II is *Development*. This part consists of three small parts:
 - Chapter I is Review of Related Literature. It summarizes the most outstanding concepts of translation, idioms and the strategies used for the translating idiomatic expressions as well as the degree of meaning equivalence of the translation of idiomatic expressions.
 - Chapter II is Research Method. It conveys of Approach, Data type, Source of Data, Data Collection, and Data Analysis.
 - Chapter III is Findings and Discussions of the Data collected.
- Part III is Conclusion and Suggestions.

PART II: DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 1: LITERATURE REVIEW

To make a good analysis, this thesis should be supported by several related theories. The theories applied in this thesis are Translation, Idioms ,Strategies for translating idioms and the degree of Meaning Equivalence. Below are the descriptions of the theories that are related to the problem discussed in this study.

1. Relationship between Idiomatic translation, language and culture:

The term culture refers to a set of beliefs that control a particular country or group behaviors. It is defined by Taylor (cited in Hymes, 1964: 455) as a complex whole which includes knowledge, beliefs, customs and any capacities and habits acquired by man as a member of a society". Among these beliefs, language is considered as an essential part that constitutes one's culture. It is as the Longman dictionary describes it "the heart within the body of culture" (cited in Bassnett, 1980:22). This is involved in the process of translation through the influence of the source and target cultures. Culture has a great impact on the process of translation in the sense that the degree of integration of the source text (ST) in the target culture (TC) may vary, and may cause serious problems for the translator. In this respect, culture may lead to different types of translation. Generally, translation is the process of transferring message and meaning from the source language (SL) into the target language (TL). The differences in language system and structure in both languages require a translator to understand either in the SL or in the TL. The translator should pay attention and understand both cultural matters to avoid misunderstanding.

Ivir (1987) stated that "language is a part of culture and, therefore, translation from one language to another cannot be done adequately without knowledge of the two cultures as well as the two languages structures"

(p.208). In this regard, Newmark (1988) believed that the untranslatability of a certain text is more likely to exist when the level of cultural overlap between the source language (SL) and the target language (TL) is high, which means that it is more likely that the translator will be unable to bridge the gap between both languages.

Dweik (2000) asserted that differences between two cultures certainly cause difficulties not only in translation but also in learning foreign languages. He elaborated on the causes of interference problems that result from either lack of knowledge in language two or from language one. He also discussed the role of non-linguistic factors that either impede or enhance bilingualism.

Baker (1992) mentioned that "the source language word may express a concept which is totally unknown in the target culture. The concept in question may be abstract or concrete; it may relate to a religious belief, a social custom or even a type of food". She discussed the most common non-equivalents which a translator can come across in the process of translation. Cultural differences can cause some serious difficulties for translators that are not familiar with them. Translating idiomatic expressions can cause serious challenges to the non-expert translator.

Idiomatic translation is not only a language conversion, but also the transplantation of culture. Due to the historical and cultural background, traditional customs and thinking methods that are significantly different from one country to another, the image, meaning and usage of idioms are also quite different. Therefore, idiom translation is one of the most difficult tasks in intercultural communication and language learning.

According to Langlotz (2006, p. 2) "idiomatic constructions can be described as complex symbols with specific formal, semantic, pragmatic and sociolinguistic characteristics." This means that an idiom is a very complicated notion of language, which overlaps mostly with culture. Language is closely related to culture, and it can be regarded as a part of

culture. Language and culture shape and interact with each other. Idiom is a very important form of language, which exists in both language and culture. It carries a huge amount of information such as nationality, customs, traditions, ceremonies, religion, geography etc. Much knowledge about culture can be exposed through the study of idiomatic expressions and in turn better understand of idiomatic expressions by learning their cultural background and cultural patterns. Since each language has its own way and devices of expressing certain ideas and issues in exposing culture, idiomatic expressions are considered language and culture specific.

In short, language, culture and idiomatic translation always exist together and reinforce together. The relationship between them is so close that we could not understand or appreciate the one without the knowledge of the other.

2. Translation

Definition of Translation

There are many different definitions of translation. The first is the definition made by Newmark, a well-known researcher who has made a great deal of important contributions to the development of translation. According to him, "Translation is a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language" (Newmark, 1988a:7).

Translation is the expression in another language (target language) of what has been expressed in one language (source language), preserving semantic and stylistic equivalencies. (By Roger T. Bell)

Translation is the replacement of a representation of a text in one language by a representation of an equivalent text in a second language. (By Roger T. Bell).

Translation is rendering a written text into another language in a way that the author intended the text. (By Bui Tien Bao – Hanoi National University)

Translation are concerned with written texts. They render written texts from one language into another language. Translators are required to translate texts which arrange from simple items including birth certificates or driving licences to more complex written materials such as articles in journals of various kinds, business contracts and legal documents.'" (Bui Tien Bao – Hanoi National University).

Translation Process

Larson (1984: 4) states that translation can be seen as a process. The source language consists of cultural context and situational context. They can be divided into expressed text, lexicon, and grammar structure. These elements consist of meaning. In translation process, meaning is analyzed and discovered. After being discovered, the meaning is transferred into another

language or the receptor language. Then, the meaning is re-expressed by the translator based on the receptor language. The source language is expressed in re-expressed text, lexicon, and grammar structure according to the receptor language. The process of translation can be illustrated in the following figure.

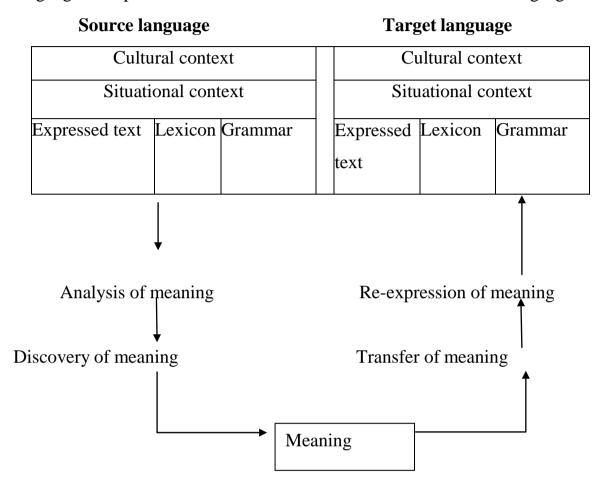


Figure 1: Translation Process by Larson (1984: 4)

Form and Meaning in Translation

Larson (1984: 3) says that translation is basically a change of form. The form refers to actual words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, etc. The forms are referred to the surfaces structure of language. It is the structural part of language which is actually seen in print or heard in speech. In translation, the form of the source language is replaced by the equivalent lexical items (form) of the receptor of language. Nonetheless, there is often no equivalent in the target language for a particular form in the source text (Baker,1992:24).

According to Larson (1984: 3), translation is done by going from the form of the first of language to the form of a second language by semantic structure.

When a translator makes a translation it means that he or she transfers meaning of source text. What is necessary to consider is that the meaning must be maintained constantly or, in other words, when the change of the form occurs, the meaning must be maintained, it is characteristic of languages that the same meaning component will occur in several surface structure of lexical items (forms).

In the translation process, the first thing to do is understand the total meaning of the source text. There are three types of meaning that can be determined in the analysis of meaning of the source text (Nida and Taber, 1982:34), namely: grammatical meaning, referential meaning, and connotative meaning. Generally grammar is taken for granted since it seems to be merely a set of arbitrary rules about arrangements, rules that must be followed if one wants to understand, but not rules themselves that seem to have meaning. Referential meaning refers to words as symbols which refer to objects, event, abstract, and relations. Connotative meaning refers to how the users of the language react, whether positively or negatively, to the words and their combination.

Halliday (1989: xiii) says that fundamental components of meaning in language are functional components. They are ideational, interpersonal, and textual meanings. Further, these functions are called metafunctions and they are present in every use of language in every social context.

The ideational metafunction is concerned with ideation or content or one"s experience of the world around and inside people. One of its major grammatical systems is transitivity, the resource for construing the experience and the flux of events. Each consists of a process, participants, and circumstances.

The interpersonal component is concerned with the interaction between

the speaker and addressee. The grammatical resources are used for enacting social roles in general and speech roles in particular in dialogic interaction.

The textual component is concerned with the creation of text with the presentation of ideational and interpersonal meaning as information that can be shared by the speaker and the listener in a text unfolding in context. One of its major textual systems is theme, which is an element which serves as the point of departure of the message.

Meaning according to Catford (1965:73) is a property of language. Catford classifies meaning into two types; they are lexical meaning and contextual meaning.

- a. Lexical meaning is the meaning that belongs to the word individually and specifically and that its meaning makes it different from other words. There are four types of lexical meaning, i.e. propositioned meaning, expressive meaning, presupposed meaning, and evoked meaning.
 - 1) Propositioned meaning is the meaning of a word that refers to describes things in a real or imaginary world as achieved by the speaker of particular language where the word belongs.
 - 2) Expressive meaning is the meaning arises from feelings or attitude of the speaker.
 - 3) Presupposed meaning is the meaning that is derived from the restriction on what other words should accompany a particular lexical unit before or after it.
 - 4) Evoked meaning is the meaning occurred in relation to the dialect and register variation.

In translation, the translator should know the types of meaning above. By knowing what meaning they should produce the message of the source text can be transferred well.

Equivalence in Translation

Equivalence becomes problematic in translation. Machali (1998:3) states that target language equivalents have to be sought not simply in terms

of the "sameness of meaning", but in terms of the greatest possible overlap of situational range. Thus, equivalence in translation should not be approached for sameness, since sameness of meaning cannot easily exist between the source language and the target language.

Meanwhile, Bell (1991: 6) states a problem of equivalence that texts in different languages can be equivalent in different degrees (equivalent, i.e. complete meaning, increased meaning, decreased meaning; and non-equivalent, i.e. completely different meaning and no meaning), in respect of different levels of presentation (equivalent in respect of context, of semantics, of grammar, of lexis, etc.) and at different ranks (word-for-word, phrase-for-phrase, sentence-for sentence). Sometimes the sources language texts has the same meaning in the target language text so that the meaning in the target language can be said equivalent to the meaning in source language text when they have function in the same communicative situation and express the same purpose.

Catford (1978: 102) categorizes equivalence into two types, i.e. formal correspondence, and textual equivalence. Formal correspondence is any target language category (unit, class, element of structure, etc.) which can be said to occupy as nearly as possible the same place in the economy of the target language as the given source language category occupies in the source language. For example: translating an adjective by an adjective.

Textual equivalence is any target language text or portion of text which is observed on a particular occasion to be the equivalent of a given source language text or portion of text. For example: translating adjective by an adverbial phrase.

Baker (1992) divides equivalence into five types: (1) equivalence at word and above word level (2) equivalence (3) textual equivalence and (4) pragmatic equivalence. The more detailed lists of conditions upon which the concept of equivalence can be defined are presented below.

a. Equivalence can appear at word level and above word level, when

translating from one language into another. In a bottom-up approach to translation, equivalence at word level is the first element to be taken into consideration by the translator. In fact, when the translator starts analyzing the ST here she looks at the words as single units in order to find a direct "equivalent" term in TL.

- b. Grammatical equivalence refers to the diversity of grammatical categories across languages. Grammatical rules may vary across language and this may pose problems in terms of finding a direct correspondence in the TL. The different grammatical structures in the SL and TL may cause remarkable changes in the way the information or message is carried across. The changes may include the translator either to add or to omit information in the TT because the lack of particular grammatical devices in the TL itself.
- c. Textual equivalence refers to the equivalence between a SL text and a TL text in terms of information and cohesion. Texture is a very important feature in translation since it provides useful guidelines for the comprehension and analysis of the ST which can help the translator in his/her attempt to produce a cohesive and coherent text for the audience in a specific context.

Pragmatic equivalence deals with the implicatures and coherence during the translation process. Implicature is not about what is explicitly said but what is implied. Therefore, the translator needs to work out implied meaning in translation in order to get the ST message across. The role of the translator is to recreate the author"s intention in another culture in such a way that enables the TL reader to understand it clear.

Translation strategies used for translating idiomatic expression.

Baker (1992: 72) suggests some strategies that can be used to translate idioms or fixed expressions. Those translation strategies can be described by the following explanations.

Using translation strategies of similar meaning and form

It is sometimes possible to find a Vietnamese idiom or expression with a similar meaning to an English idiom or expression, and which is expressed in the same way. One example is the idiom "to fight like cats and dogs", which is expressed using the same words in Vietnamese:" cãi nhau như chó với mèo."; another is "Better than never", which is translated:" Thà muộn còn hơn không đến". It is ideal if such a match can be found, but this kind of correspondence is not common, and it is usually necessary to use other strategies in deal with idioms and set expressions.

Using translation strategies of similar meaning but different form

It is possible and easy to find s Vietnamese idiom with a similar meaning for an English idiom or set expression. A good example can be found is the translation for "to carry coals to Newcastle" = "Chở củi về rừng." which is translated as "to carry firewood to the forest". The meaning here is clearly the same for both idioms-to bring something to a place that has an abundance of that thing- but the way in which each language expresses is bound to be the culture of that language. It is far more cumbersome to translate this idiom literally into Vietnamese with an explanation that Newcastle is a well-known coal-producing city in England (as was suggested by some Vietnamese translators), which would unduly interrupt the flow of the text and greatly diminish the idiom" impact. By substituting a similar a similar Vietnamese idiom, then, the flow and the impact of the source text are retained in the translation.

Translating by paraphrase

When Vietnamese equivalents cannot be found, paraphrasing may be the best way to deal with an idiom or set expression in English. A good example can be found in an article on maternal mortality, which includes the sentences:" But before the new estimates replace the old as a way of packaging up the problem, it should be said that a mistake has been made in allowing statistics such as these to slip into easy language". The expression

"packing up the problem" caused the problems in translation, as it was misinterpreted to mean" assembling" or "gathering". However, even if this phrase were clearly understood, it would be difficult to find a precise equivalent in Vietnamese. In fact, it would be difficult to restate concisely in English.

Translation by omission:

Omissions are the way, when translating, to reduce the pleonastic words that can be unnecessary for the meaning in the translation text. In other words, translators can make use of the omission technique to omit some redundant words, which does not really change the meaning of the version.

The following are some examples about this technique.

"... and he bent down over the bed and took his wife"s hand and began to caress her forehead. ... rồi anh cúi xuống cầm tay vợ và vuốt ve trán nàng." (An & Anh, 1993:183). "over the bed" and "began" were omitted to make the version more concise.

"Với tư cách là những sinh viên mới, chúng ta phải học bài trước khi đến lớp học. As new students, we must study lessons before class." (Dung, 2003:24). The verb "đến" was omitted to convey a concise verison in the target language.

"One day, a dog entered an inn, stole a piece of meat and ran away with it. Một hôm, có một con chó vào hàng cơm ngoạm trộm miếng thịt rồi bỏ chạy." (An & Anh, 1993:79). It would be wordy if the verion in the target language was rendered "....rồi bỏ chạy với miếng thịt/với nó." Instead, "with it" was omitted to make the version briefer and smoother, but the meaning remained the same.

3. Idioms

Definitions of Idioms

One of the most important aspects of English is idioms. They are frequently used in a wide variety of situations, from friendly conversations and business meetings to more formal and written contexts. An idiom is a group of words which has, as a whole, a different meaning from the meaning of its constituents (The Longman Pocket Dictionary: 2001). In other words, the meaning of the idiomatic expression is not the sum of the words taken individually.

In his turn, Carter (1987:65) defines idioms as special combinations with restricted forms and meanings that cannot be deduced from the literal meanings of the words which make them up. Accordingly, an idiom is learned and used as a single unit. It should not be analyzed into its constituents; it is unchangeable and always carries a figurative meaning.

According to McCarthy and O"Dell (2001:148) idioms are fixed expressions with meanings that are usually not clear or obvious. Nida and Taber (1974: 202) define an idiom as an expression consisting of several words and whose meaning cannot be delivered from the meaning individual words. Moreover, Lim (2004: i) states that an idiom can be defined as a group of words strung together to assume a specific meaning different from the meaning of each individual word.

Types of Idioms

Lim (2004: i) categorizes idioms into six types, they are:

- a. Phrasal verbs, as in: call on, put off, do away with.
- b. Prepositional phrases, as in: in a nutshell, from time to time, with a view to.
- c. Idioms with verbs as key words, as in: *come in handy, fight shy of, leaved much to be desired.*
- d. Idioms with nouns as key words, as in: a blessing disguise, child's play,

- food for thought.
- e. Idioms with adjectives as key words, as in: *cold comfort, wishful thinking, plan sailing*.
- f. Idiomatic pairs, as in: safe and sound, aches and pains, sink or swim. Palmer (1981:80-82) divides idiom into three types, they are:
- a. Phrasal verb is common type of idiom in English:
- The combination of verb plus adverb: make up, give in.
- The combination of verb plus preposition: *look after, go for.*
- The combination of verb, adverb, and preposition: *put up with* (tolerate), *do away with* (kill).
- b. Partial idiom is an idiom that one of the words has its usual meaning, the other has a meaning that is peculiar to the particular sequence: *red hair* which refers to hair, but not hair that is red in strict color term.
- c. Total idiom is an idiom that the meaning cannot certainly be predicted from the words themselves the existence of the compound: *redherring*.

Michael McCarthy and Felicity O"Dell (2002:148) group idioms in a variety ways as below:

- a. Grammatical
- Verb + object, e.g. get the wrong of the stick, pull a fast one, and poke your nose in(to).
- Verbs + preposition phrase, e.g. be over the moon; feel down in the dumps; and be in the red.
- b. By meaning that is idioms describing people"s character/intellect. For example, *as daft as a brush; take the biscuit*; and *a pain in the neck*.
- c. By verb and other key word, e.g. *make a meal out of; make a move;* and *on the make*.

Linguists have classified idioms according to various criteria. The most remarkable classification is based upon the varying degrees of idiomaticity.

According to Fernando (1996), idioms can be grouped into three subclasses: pure idioms, semi-idioms and literal idioms.

- A *pure idiom* is a type of conventionalized, non-literal multiword expression whose meaning cannot be understood by adding up the meanings of the words that make up the phrase. For example the expression spill the beans is a pure idiom, because its real meaning has nothing to do with beans.
- A *semi-idiom*, on the other hand, has at least one literal element and one with a non-literal meaning. Foot the bill (i.e. "pay") is one example of a semi-idiom, in which foot is the non-literal element, whereas the word bill is used literally.
- A *literal idiom*, such as on foot or on the contrary is semantically less complex than the other two, and therefore easier to understand even if one is not familiar with these expression.

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3.3 Sources of idioms

The most important thing about idioms is their meaning; this is why a native speaker does not notice that an idiom is incorrect grammatically. If the source of an idiom is known, it is sometimes easier to imagine its meaning. There are many different sources of idioms. Many idiomatic phrases come from every-day life of the English, from home life, e.g. to be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth; to make a clean sweep of something; to hit the nail on the head. There are many idioms which have to do with food and cooking, e.g. to eat a humble pie, to be in the soup, out of the frying-pan into the fire. Agricultural life has given rise to go to seed; to put one's hand to the plough; to lead someone up the garden path. Nautical life and military life are the source of when one's ship comes home; to be in the same boat as someone; to be in deep waters. Many idioms include parts of the body, animals, and colors. The Bible gives us to kill the fatted calf; to turn the other cheek; the apple of one's eye. In this thesis, I just only focus on Vietnamese translation of idiomatic expressions in The Love Story novel.

3.4. Specific characteristics of idiomatic meanings

As we mentioned above, an idiom is a combination of words that has a meaning that is different from the meanings of the individual words themselves. It can have a literal meaning in one situation and a different idiomatic meaning in another situation. It is a phrase which does not always follow the normal rules of meaning and grammar. To sit on the fence can literally mean that one is sitting on a fence. I sat on the fence and watched the game. However, the idiomatic meaning of to sit on the fence is that one is not making a clear choice regarding some issue, for example: The politician sat on the fence and would not give his opinion about the tax issue.

Therefore, we can see that the idiom not only gives or transfers the information but also implies the nuance, attitude and feelings of the speaker.

The literal meaning of the idiom is the meaning that we can see basing on the each unit"s meaning and the idiomatic meaning, is the extension which shows the cultural distinction of using the word between this commodity and others. The idiomatic meaning of the idioms is the meaning beyond or other than the sum of the meaning of the individual words.

3.5 The Difficulties in the Translation of Idioms

Once an idiom or fixed expression has been recognized and interpreted correctly, the next step is to decide how to translate it into the target language. The difficulties involved in translating an idiom are totally different from those involved in interpreting it. Here, the question is not whether a given idiom is transparent, opaque, or misleading. An opaque expression may be easier to translate than a transparent one. Mona Baker (1992: 68) gives explanation about the difficulties in translating idiom.

a) An idiom or fixed expression may have no equivalent in the target language. One language may express a given meaning by means of a single word, another may express it by means of transparent fixed

expression, and a third may express it by means of an idiom, and so on. Therefore, it is unrealistic to expect to find equivalent idioms and expressions in the target language as a matter of course.

- b) An idiom or fixed expression may have a similar counterpart in the target language, but its context of use may be different; the two expressions may have different connotations, for instance, or they may not be pragmatically transferable.
- c) An idiom may be used in the source text in both its literal and idiomatic senses at the same time. Unless the target language idiom corresponds to the source language idiom both in form and in meaning, the play on idiom cannot be successfully reproduced in the target text.
- d) The very convention of using idioms in written discourse, the contexts in which they can be used, and their frequency of use may be different in the source and target languages.

4. Summary of the *Love Story* novel.

Harvard Law student Oliver Barrett IV and music student Jennifer Cavilleri share a chemistry they cannot deny - and a love they cannot ignore. Despite their opposite backgrounds, the young couple put their hearts on the line for each other. When they marry, Oliver's wealthy father threatens to disown him. Jenny tries to reconcile the Barrett men, but to no avail. Oliver and Jenny continue to build their life together. Relying only on each other, they believe love can fix anything. But fate has other plans. Soon, what began as a brutally honest friendship becomes the love story of their lives.

CHAPTER II: RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research Approach

This research was qualitative and quantitative research with a content analysis method. The percentages were used to strengthen the findings. Meanwhile the presentation of discussion was presented in a descriptive way. According to Krippendorf (1980: 21), content analysis is a research technique for making replicable and valid inferences from data to their content. As a research technique, content analysis involves specialized procedures for processing scientific data. Its purpose is to provide information, new insights, a representation of facts, and a practical guide to action (Krippendorff, 1980: 21).

Research is a careful study or investigation, especially in order to discover new facts or information. Bogdan and Taylor (in Moleong 2002:3) define qualitative approach as a research procedure that results the descriptive data in the form of written or oral data from the subjects of the research being observed. By using this method the researcher would be able to explain or describe the translation strategies and the equivalence of meaning in the research.

2. Data type

This study used text as the data. The data were all the type of idiomatic expressions taken from both texts. The collected data were in the form of phrases and sentences.

3. Source of Data

A data source was the media from which the data were taken. A researcher needs to gain all the information s/he needs through the data source. Therefore, the existence of data is important for the research. The source of data in this study was taken from in the Erich Segal's Novel "Love Story" into "Câu chuyện tình yêu" by Trần Anh Kim.

The English version was published in 1970. Meanwhile, The Vietnamese version was published in 2001. The Bilingual novel contained 117 pages.

4. Data Collection

The data in this research were collected by using the purposive sampling technique in which only the data that supported the research questions were taken. The purposive sampling technique is chosen because it can sort the data that lead to the focus of this study. In collecting the data, firstly the original text and its translated text were read. When the idiomatic expressions in the SL text were found, these data are written down in the table.

5. Techniques of Data Analysis

The data analysis is the process of grammatically searching and arranging the collected data. The techniques of analysing data were carried out as follows.

- a. The idiomatic expressions in both versions, i.e. English and Vietnamese version were compared.
- b. The collected data were analysed and classified based on translation strategies.
- c. The data were analysed based on the comparison to determine the degree of meaning equivalence.

CHAPTER III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The result of data analysis is used to answer the question in chapter I. The problem discussed in this chapter is about the translation of idioms that involve the strategies used for translating idiomatic expression and meaning equivalence degree of idiomatic expression found in the works "Love Story" by Erich Segal into "Câu chuyện tình yêu" by Trần Anh Kim.

The data analysis consists of the source language (SL) and the target language (TL) but the idioms found in this novel are focused on the Source language. All the data and the analysis can be seen in appendices. To analyze the data more easily, the analysis uses symbols, such as (SL) for the source language, (TL) for the target language, (p) for the page, (l) for the line in the novel.

1. Findings:

Description of the translation strategies of the Idiomatic expression in the English – Vietnamese text

The scope of idioms is quite extensive. It is, thus, no wonder that the researcher wants to clarify some of the confusion by classifying idiomatic expression into different categories on the basis of their degree of frozenness for instance. By the investigation, there were of 14 idiomatic expressions found in Love Story by Erich Segal.

There are four strategies occupied by the researcher to classify the idiomatic expression. The strategies are suggested by Baker (1992:72-77), these are:

- (1) Using strategy of similar meaning and form,
- (2) Using strategy of similar meaning but different form,
- (3) Using translation by paraphrase,
- (4) Translation by omission

The frequency of the use of the strategies is shown in the table below:

Table 1: Frequency of Strategy Usage

No	Strategies	Frequency	Percentage
1	Using an idiom of similar meaning and form (ISMF)	6	42.86%
2	Similar meaning but dissimilar form(ISDF)	6	42.86%
3	Paraphrase	0	0%
4	Omission	2	14.28%
	Total	14	100%

Based on the table, the data showed that the most of the idiom found in the novel were translation by using an idiom of similar meaning and similar form as much as 42.86%; next, 42.86% of them were used by similar meaning and similar form. Besides, there were 14.28% of them were translated by omission. As we can see, not all of the strategies suggested by Baker were used to translate the idiomatic expressions in Trần Anh Kim's translation entitled "Câu chuyện tình yêu".

Description of the meaning equivalence degree of the Idiomatic expression in the English – Vietnamese text.

The degree of meaning equivalence is categorized into two categorizations, i.e. equivalent meaning and non-equivalent meaning. Table 2 presents the frequency and the percentage of the meaning equivalence degree.

Table 2: The Frequency and the Percentage of the Meaning
Equivalence Degree

No	Meaning Equivalence Degree	Frequency	Percentage
1	Equivalent	11	78.57%
2	Non-equivalent	3	21.43%
	Total	14	100%

Based on the result above, it can be seen that most of the idioms are

translated into equivalent expressions in the TL, with occurrence of 11 out of 14 or 78.57%. Meanwhile, the non-equivalent meanings have low frequency with occurrence of 3 out of 14 or 21.43%.

The degree of equivalent meaning can be categorized into two categorizations, i.e. fully equivalent and partly equivalent (decreased and increased meanings). Table 3 describes the degree of the equivalent meaning.

Table 3: The Frequency and the Percentage of the Types of Equivalent

Meaning

No	Types	Frequency	Percentage
1	Complete meaning	9	81.82%
2	Increased meaning	0	0%
3	Decreased meaning	2	18.18%
	Total	11	100%

As indicated from the table above, in terms of equivalent meaning, most of the idiomatic expressions are translated into complete meaning, with the occurrence of 9 out of 11 or 81.82%. Meanwhile, the rest are translated into partly equivalent (increase meaning and decrease meaning). The decreased meaning has occurrence of 2 out of 11 or 18.18%. There is no increased meaning in translation of Idioms from SL into TL.

The degree of non-equivalent meaning can be categorized into two categorizations, i.e. different meaning and no meaning. Table 4 describes the degree of the non-equivalent meaning

Table 4: The Frequency and the Percentage of the Non-Equivalent

Meaning Degree

No	Non-Equivalent Meaning Degree	Frequency	Percentage
1	Different meaning	1	33.33%
2	No meaning	2	66.67%
Total		3	100%

From the table above, it can be seen that in the term of non-equivalent meaning, most of the idiomatic expressions are translated into no meaning. No meaning has the occurrence of 2 or 66.67%, and different meaning has the occurrence of 1 or 33.33%.

2. Discussion:

Translation strategies used by translator in translating the Idiomatic Expressions in the English-Vietnamese texts.

The analysis of the translation strategies can be seen in the discussion below:

Using strategies of similar meaning and form

This strategy involves using an idiom in the TL which conveys roughly the same meaning as that of the idiomatic expression in the SL and consists of equivalent lexical items. The use of this strategy appears in 6 cases. It shares 42.86% of the total number of strategies usage. The following are the examples of translation by ISDF.

Excerpt 1

SL	Jenny, how can I study when all the time I want to	P39 L18
	make love to you?	
TL	Jenny a, làm sao mà anh có thể ngồi học được trong	P40 L17
	khi lúc nào anh cũng muốn làm tình với em.	

Through *Cambridge Dictionaries Online*, the idiomatic expression "make love" means to have sexual relation. It has similar meaning to the idiomatic expression "làm tình." Both of these idiomatic expressions also have equivalent lexical items, where the word make has the similar meaning with làm; and the word love has the similar meaning with tình. In terms of form, both of these idiomatic expressions have similar form, i.e. verb and noun.

Excerpt 2

SL	"But in a strange way you want me."	P23 L19

TL	"Nhưng anh muốn em theo cái lối kỳ quặc ấy"	P24 L 17
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According to *Cambridge Dictionaries Online*, the idiomatic expression "in a way" considered in a particular manner. As said by *Trần Anh Kim*, it has similar meaning to *theo cái lối*. In term of meaning, the expression *theo cái lối* means in a particular manner. In terms of form, these two idiomatic expressions are similar, i.e. noun phrase.

Excerpt 3:

SL	Phil cleaned the flat, again and again .	P103 L5
TL	Phil hết lau lại dọn nhà cửa.	P104 L5

Based on *Cambridge Dictionaries Online*, the meaning of the idiomatic expression "again and again" is to repeat something. It has similar meaning to the word *lại*. In the eyes of *Trần Anh Kim*, the word *lại* means to repeat to do somthing. Both of these idiomatic expressions also have equivalent lexical items; the word *again* is equal to *lại*. In terms of form, both of these idiomatic expressions have similar form, i.e. noun phrase.

Using strategies of Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form (IDF)

It is often possible to find an idiom in the TL which has a meaning similar to that of the source idiom or expression, but which consists of different lexical items. This strategy is called translation using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form. The following data are the examples of this strategy.

Excerpt 1:

SL	After that, I was not looking forward to meeting Jenny"s	P57 L1+2
	father	
TL	Sau đó tôi cũng chẳng trông chờ mong gặp cha Jenny.	P58 L1

By Cambridge Dictionaries Online, the idiomatic expression "look forward to" means to think of (a future event) with pleasurable, eager anticipation. It has similar meaning to the idiomatic expression "chờ mong".

As said by *Trần Anh Kim*, the expression "*chò mong*" means *to expect*. In term of form, both of these idiomatic expressions have dissimilar forms. The idiomatic expression "*look forward to*" is an idiom with the verb to and partical and preposition. While, the idiom form of *chò mong* consists of verb, which is categorized as miscellaneous idiom.

Excerpt 2:

SL	"Oliver, he"s reaching out to you."	P71 L5
TL	"Oliver này, ông già đang tìm tới anh đấy".	P72 L 5

According to *Cambridge Dictionaries Online*, the idiom "reach out to" means to offer someone a helping hand. The idiomatic expression "tìm tới" has similar meaning with the idiomatic expression in the SL. As said by *Trần Anh Kim*, the idiomatic expression "tìm tới" means. In term of form, both of these idiomatic expressions have dissimilar forms. The form of the idiom reach out to consists of verb and particle and preposition, while the form of the idiom tìm tới is a verb.

Excerpt 3:

SL	Then next morning I woke up and Jenny was there	P87 L14
	beside me.	
TL	Rồi sáng hôm sau khi tôi tỉnh giấc Jenny vẫn đó, nàng	P8 L 14,15
	ngay bên cạnh tôi.	

Based on *Cambridge Dictionaries Online*, the idiomatic expression wake up means to cause someone to awaken. The idiomatic expression tinh giấc has similar meaning with the idiomatic expression in the SL. According to *Trần Anh Kim*, the expression tinh giấc means to awaken. In term of form, both of these idiomatic expressions have dissimilar forms. The idiom form of wake up is phrasal verb, while the idiom form of tinh giấc is reduplication or can be categorized as miscellaneous idiom.

Translation by Omission (TO)

An idiom may sometimes be omitted altogether in the target text. This probably due it has no close match in the TL, its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased, or for stylistic reasons. Here are the examples of this strategy.

Excerpt 1:

SL	She wanted to speak to her father, "man to man".	P103 L20
TL	Nàng muốn nói chuyện với cha.	P104 L19

The idiomatic expression *man to man* is not translated in the TL. Through *Cambridge Dictionaries Online*, the idiomatic expression *man to man* means if two men talk (as) man to man, they talk seriously and honestly together on an equal level. Because of this idiomatic expression is not translated; this information is losing in the TL. Actually, this idiomatic expression is no need to be omitted. The expression *man to man* can be translated into *nghiêm túc* in Vietnamese. The translator has to consider the most appropriate translation strategy he applies and need to be careful whether certain expression give significant meaning to the context or not.

Excerpt 2:

SL	I told her and was at once deep in my law book again.	P73 L4
TL	Tôi bảo nàng và lại chúi mũi vào cuốn sách luật học của	P74 L4
	mình.	

According to *Cambridge Dictionaries Online*, the idiomatic expression *at once* means immediately. The translator chooses to leave the idiomatic expression *at once* not translated, because its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased. This expression can be paraphrased into *ngay lập tức*, but the translator considers that without realised this phrase in the TL, the content of information in source language text has been conveyed into the TL.

The Degree of Meaning Equivalence of the Translation of Idiomatic Expressions in the English-Vietnamese Texts

Based on the findings section there are two types of equivalence of meaning, i.e. equivalent meaning and non-equivalent meaning. The equivalent meaning can be categorized into two types, fully equivalent which is complete meaning degree; and partly equivalent, consists of two degrees of meaning equivalence (increased and decreased meaning). While, non-equivalent meaning can be classified into two degrees of non-equivalent meaning, i.e. different meaning and no meaning.

Equivalent Meaning

Equivalent meaning is problematic in translation. Two units in language texts are considered to be equivalent, when a specific linguistic unit in one language carries the same intended meaning or message encoded in a specific linguistic medium in another.

a) Fully Equivalent / Complete Meaning

Complete meaning occurs when the meaning in the SL is completely transferred in the TL. The examples are presented below.

Excerpt 1:

SL	Jenny, how can I study when all the time I want to	P 39 L18
	make love to you?	
TL	Jenny a, làm sao mà anh có thể ngồi học được trong	P40 L17
	khi lúc nào anh cũng muốn <u>làm tình</u> với em.	

This example is literal translation. In line with *Cambridge Dictionaries Online*, the idiomatic expression *make love* means to have sex. Therefore, both expressions in the source and target language text refer to same meaning, because the phrase *làm tình* is the meaning of the idiomatic expression "*make love*".

Excerpt 2:

SL	"But I repeated Jenny"s words from long ago."	P111 L8

TL	"Nhưng tôi nhắc nhủ câu nói của Jenny đã từ lâu."	P112 L8	Ī
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The idiomatic expression *long ago* is translated into " $d\tilde{a}$ từ lâu". As written in *Cambridge Dictionaries Online* the idiomatic expression "long ago" means a time well before the present. Therefore, these two expressions are completely equivalent because they have precisely the same meaning.

Excerpt 3:

SL	"But in a strange way you want me."	P53 L10
TL	"Nhưng anh muốn em theo cái lối kỳ quặc ấy"	P54 L10

According to *Cambridge Dictionaries Online*, the idiomatic expression "in a way" considered in a particular manner. As said by *Trần Anh Kim*, it has similar meaning to *theo cái lối*. In term of meaning, these expression are the same so they are completely equivalent.

Excerpt 4:

SL	"After all, they"re sure to accept you."	P29
		L14
TL	"Cuối cùng, chắc chắn là họ nhận con thôi."	P30
		L12

Through *Cambridge Dictionaries Online* the idiomatic expression *after* all means finally, which has similar meaning to the idiomatic expression *cuối* cùng in TL. Therefore, these two expressions are completely equivalent because they have precisely the same meaning.

b) Partly Equivalent

The fully equivalent is variously regarded as a necessary condition for translation, although this type of equivalence is not always achieved. A translation might be partly equivalent, due to an addition or omission of information realised in the source language text.

> Increased Meaning

Increased meaning occurs when there is an addition of information realised by a new meaning which is not found in the source text. However, in

the Love Story by Erich Segal, in term of meaning equivalence of idioms, there is no the occurrence of increased meaning.

> Decreased Meaning

In contrary to increased meaning, decreased meaning occurs when a part of a meaning in the source language text is omitted in the TL. The description of the decreased meaning translation can be presented by the following examples:

Excerpt 1

SL	"Phil cleaned the flat, again and again.?"	P103 L5
TL	"Phil hết lau lại dọn nhà cửa.?"	P104 L5

Based on *Cambridge Dictionaries Online* the idiomatic expression *again* and *again* is an exclamation used to express repeatedly or again and even more. Actually, this idiomatic expression can be translated into "don đi don lại", which has more intensive meaning than merely word "lại". The meaning of the TL text is decreased, because the meaning "and again" in source language text is not transferred.

Excerpt 2:

SL	"Oliver, he"s reaching out to you."	P71 L5
TL	"Oliver này, ông già đang tìm tới anh đấy".	P72 L5

In accordance with *Cambridge Dictionaries Online* the meaning of idiomatic expression *reach out to* is to seek someone's help. The translation in the TL omits the meaning of *SL*, which gives no specific information about the quality of *reach out to*. It should be translated into *cầu cứu* in term of meaning and text.

Non-Equivalent Meaning

The translation is considered non-equivalent when the information or the meaning in the TL has different or no meaning with the SL text.

a) Different Meaning

Different meaning occurs when there are changes of the information in

the SL into the TL, whose words have not similarities in meaning, but contain other lexical meanings, i.e. lexical changing. Here are examples of translation of different meaning:

Excerpt:

S	SL	I didn't look for Old Stony face in the crowd.	P65 L7
TL	ΓL	Toy cũng chẳng hề trông đợi Bộ Mặt Đá già nua kia ở	P66 L8
		trong đám đông.	

According to *Cambridge Dictionaries Online* he idiomatic expression *look for* means seek someone. The phrase *trông đợi* has different meaning to the idiomatic expression *look for*. The word *look for* may be translated into *tìm kiếm* or *tìm* in the TL, but the idiomatic expression *look for* cannot be *trông đợi*. In conclusion, it is obvious that the translator has failed to convey the meaning of the SL text into the TL text.

b) No meaning

No meaning translation occurs when the translator omits to translate the words or in the expression in source language text so that the TL text loses all information in the source language text. Not all idioms expressions which are translated by omission strategy will be non-equivalent since the idioms might do not give a significant meaning to the context and another expression might have represented the meaning of that idiom. The following are examples of no meaning translation.

Excerpt 1:

SL	I told her and was at once deep in my law book again.	P73 L4
TL	Tôi bảo nàng và lại chúi mũi vào cuốn sách luật học của mình.	P74 L4

The idiomatic expression *at once* is not realised wholly in the TL. It causes the TL text loses the whole information of the SL text. Through *Cambridge Dictionaries Online* the idiomatic expression *at once* means immediately. It should be translated into "ngay lập tức" in the TL. However,

The translator considers that without this phrase in the TL, the content of information in source language text has been conveyed into the TL text. That "s why the idiom was not translated in the TL.

Excerpt 2:

SL	She wanted to speak to her father, "man to man".	P103 L 20
TL	Nàng muốn nói chuyện với cha.	P104 L19

The idiomatic expression "man to man" is left not translated in the TL. By looking up Cambridge Dictionaries Online, the idiomatic expression "man to man" indicates if two men talk (as) man to man, they talk seriously and honestly together on an equal level. This idiom can be translated into nghiêm túc in the TL. In this case, the translator chooses to leave the idiom in any case not translated, though it has close match in the TL. The translator considers that without this phrase in the TL, the content of information in source language text has been conveyed into the TL text.

3. Summary

Based on the analysis in Love Story novel, the strategies that are used for translating idiomatic expressions found in Erich Segal" s novel entitled "Love Story" and its translation are: (1) using an idiom of similar meaning and form, (2) using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, (3) translation by paraphrase, (4) translation by omission. There are 14 idiomatic expression found in this novel. The first strategy is of similar meaning and dissimilar form with (42.86%) findings which automatically dominates in the novel, the second strategy is translated by using similar meaning and form with result (42.86%), and the third strategy by omission with (14.28%). Meanwhile, there is no translation strategy by paraphrase. By observing the data, it can be concluded that not all of the strategies to translate the idiomatic expression suggested by Baker are used in Erich Segal"s translation entitled "Love Story".

In terms of meaning equivalence, the translation of idiomatic expressions has higher percentages of equivalence degree indicated by frequency of equivalent meaning (78.57%) compared to non- equivalent one (21.43%). In short, the translator has successfully transferred the meanings of the source text as equivalent as possible and the translation can meet the readers" need for equivalent translation. Among those, in terms of equivalent meaning, most of the idiomatic expressions are translated into complete meaning with 81.82%. Meanwhile, the rest are translated into partly equivalent (increase meaning and decrease meaning). The decreased meaning has occurrence of 18.18%. In the term of non-equivalent meaning, most of the idiomatic expressions are translated into no meaning. No meaning has the occurrence of 66.67%, and different meaning has the occurrence of 33.33%.

PART III: CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter, the researcher comes to some conclusions of what has been discussed in the previous chapters. Suggestions are provided with the hope that they will be useful for English learners to deal with idiomatic expressions.

1. Conclusion

Translation is a complicated process by itself, let alone the translation of idioms which are problematic and difficult to learn. Being problematic and difficult to learn is not merely attributed to the fact that idioms have non-literal meanings, though this is a huge problem by itself. Some other factors make idioms distinctive, and thus not an easy matter to tackle. Some idioms are characterized by their odd word grouping and/or their rigid and unjustifiable word order.

More often than not, idioms are culture-specific, a matter which needs further care and awareness on the part of the translator. In order to preserve such a criterion, the translator should work hard, not only to avoid literalisms – which he must avoid with almost all idioms – but also to endeavour to provide his readers, whenever this is possible, with idiomatic translations in which not only the intended meaning is presented, but also the cultural specificity flavour.

In short, idioms are a very important part of any language. So necessary knowledge of cultural differences is indispensable to the translation of idioms. Each idiom bears an image and a figurative meaning. When we are translating an idiom, it's a basic requirement that we should remain its figurative meaning.

2. Suggestions

From the conclusions above, the researcher can make some suggestions, as follows:

To Translator

Good translators have to be careful to choose the best words related to

the text. If the idioms are translated incorrectly, the readers will lose the message of the original text. So, they have to not only having good understanding and wide knowledge of both the source and target language, but also having good understanding and wide knowledge on both cultures of the source language and the target language.

- To Students

By translating idiom, it can enrich English students" vocabulary in English, and also give more information about the culture of the source language.

- To Researcher

After analyzing, the researcher found a bad translation of the novel, the language is less varied, less idiom makes little disappoints the researcher with the selection of novel.

In fact, there are many idiom in the source language but after seeing in the target language, there is a small frequency idioms in it. This could be a suggestion that for students who want to learn the idiom, formerly be careful to check the correlation and make sure the source language and the target language have idiomatic meanings.

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