

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Language is a fundamental aspect of human communication that continues to develop along with the dynamics of society. In its development, language is not only limited to the use of words or phrases with literal meanings, but also involves various expressions that have figurative or idiomatic meanings. Idioms, as part of the linguistic phenomenon, are interesting to study because they represent the uniqueness of the culture and mindset of the language-speaking community (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2010). In Indonesia, understanding English Idioms is still a big challenge for English language learners at various levels. This phenomenon can be seen from the fact that English Idiom learning in Indonesian high schools and colleges is generally still limited to the introduction of basic idioms, without in-depth exploration of their cultural context and practical use in daily communication. Another challenge is that misunderstandings in interpreting idioms often occur among Indonesian audiences when watching English movies, especially when the subtitles fail to capture the nuances of idiomatic meaning.

Idioms are defined as groups of words or phrases whose meaning cannot be inferred directly from the literal meaning of the constituent words (Strässler, 2020). In other words, idioms have a figurative meaning that is already agreed upon and generally understood by native speakers of the language. For example, the idiom “kick the bucket” in English does not have the literal meaning of kicking the bucket, but has the idiomatic meaning of ‘pass away’. According to Liu (2008), idioms can be classified based on various criteria, such as syntactic structure, semantic meaning, and pragmatic function. In terms of structure, idioms can be verbal phrases, nominal phrases, or complete clauses. In terms of meaning, idioms can be opaque or transparent depending on the extent to which their literal meaning contributes to their idiomatic meaning. Study on idioms is important for several reasons. First, idiom mastery is an

indicator of one's language proficiency, especially in the context of second or foreign language learning (Thyab, 2016). Second, idioms reflect the socio-cultural aspects of the language-speaking community (Rizki & Golubović, 2020). Third, an understanding of idioms contributes to smooth communication and cross-cultural understanding. In the context of foreign language learning, understanding idioms is often a challenge for learners. This is because idioms have meaning that cannot be understood directly from their components, and are often related to specific cultural backgrounds. Idioms are distinctive expressions that cannot be interpreted literally. In the realms of literature, music, and audiovisual media such as movies, idioms serve to enhance the expressive capacity of language, introduce emotional subtleties, and convey profound implications in a concise yet efficacious manner.

Movies, as a product of popular culture, are an effective medium for presenting language use in an authentic context, including the use of idiomatic expressions that reflect natural speech patterns. According to Kaiser (2011), movies can provide an overview of how language is used in real communication situations. Therefore, movies can be a rich source of data to analyze idiom usage in a broader context. In addition, movies can also be an effective learning medium to introduce and explain idioms to foreign language learners, as they present visual and auditive contexts that can aid comprehension of these often metaphorical and culturally-specific expressions.

As reported by IMDB (2005), *Herbie Fully Loaded*, a movie released in 2005 is an American comedy movie directed by Angela Robinson. The movie is a continuation of the “Herbie” franchise that was popular in the 1960s and 1970s. The movie tells the story of Maggie Peyton (played by Lindsay Lohan), a girl who discovers Herbie, a 1963 Volkswagen Beetle that has its own “personality”, and then gets involved in the world of car racing. As an American movie, *Herbie Fully Loaded* uses English as the medium of communication and contains many idiomatic expressions that reflect the everyday language use of Americans, especially in the context of car racing.

The movie *Herbie Fully Loaded* is aimed at general audiences and uses colloquial language that is relatively easy to understand, so the idioms that appear in this movie tend to represent idioms that are commonly used in everyday conversation. As a movie set in the world of car racing, this movie has the potential to contain idioms related to vehicles, competition, and emotions, which are interesting to analyze. Although the movie was produced in 2005, the use of idioms in the movie is still relevant and can reflect the use of idioms in contemporary American English. The use of idioms in the movie *Herbie Fully Loaded* not only reflects the colloquial language of the American people, but also gives a sense of humor and uniqueness to the movie's dialogues. These idioms can be challenging to translate, especially when they are related to specific cultures or context that may not have direct equivalents in Indonesian.

A particularly intriguing aspect of the study is the analysis of idiomatic translation in the Indonesian subtitle of the movie. The translation of idioms has always been a special challenge due to the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds between the source and target languages (Baker, 2018). Idioms are a distinctive type of linguistic expression that carry cultural nuances, historical references, and figurative meanings. These elements complicate the process of transferring idioms seamlessly between languages, as their meanings often defy direct interpretation. The challenge arises from the fundamental non-compositional nature of idioms, which cannot be understood by merely adding up their constituent words. This complexity is further compounded by cultural specificity. Many idioms reference cultural practices, historical events, or traditional beliefs that may be entirely absent in the target culture. Even when translators identify the underlying meaning, they face the difficult decision of whether to substitute a culturally equivalent idiom (which may carry different connotations), provide a literal translation with explanatory notes (disrupting textual flow), or simply paraphrase the meaning (losing stylistic impact). The Indonesian subtitles for the movie offer rich research materials for analyzing idiom translation strategies. This analysis can provide insights into idiom translation practices in

professional contexts and can serve as a reference for translators and language learners in understanding and translating idioms.

Despite there have been many studies that examine the translation of idioms in general, there remains a gap in the academic literature specifically analyzing the translation of idioms in automotive and racing-themed movies, such as *Herbie Fully Loaded* into Indonesian. The use of humor in comedy movies often relies on idiomatic linguistic elements, making an understanding of cultural and linguistic context very important. This aligns with a statement in a study of the movie *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, which states that “this dynamic range of humor requires context that depended on the viewer’s knowledge of the movie with its satirical themes, cultural background, and the multilingual nature of the movie, which presents a challenge to deliver and land that sense of comedy to the target audience that may or may not fully be aware of the context that the movie presents” (Rayhan, 2023, p. 3). In this context, idioms are an important part of the humor style used, as they often contain implied meanings that cannot be understood literally. Therefore, comedy movies typically incorporate many idioms as part of their linguistic humor strategy. *Herbie Fully Loaded*, as an American family comedy movie, also shows this tendency through the use of idioms in the characters’ dialogues. The presence of these idioms presents a challenge in the translation process, especially when the meaning of the idiom does not have a direct equivalent in the target language, requiring an appropriate translation strategy to ensure that the humor is conveyed. The majority of extant studies have focused on the translation of idioms in literary works or drama movies, while study on the translation of idioms in sports or automotive-themed comedy movies remains relatively limited. This analysis includes the types of idioms and their idiomatic meanings, as well as evaluates the effectiveness of the translation strategies applied in the official Indonesian subtitles. The importance of study on the translation of idioms in movie subtitles is also related to the development of the global movie industry and the increasing demand for quality subtitles. By understanding effective idiom translation strategies, translators can improve the quality of subtitles and enhance the audience’s experience in understanding and enjoying foreign movies. The results of this study are

expected to contribute to the field of linguistics, especially semantics and pragmatics, and can be a reference for English language learners in understanding the use of idioms in authentic contexts.

1.2. Statement of Problems

Based on the background of the study that have been described, the statement of problems in this study is as follows:

1. How is the translation in idioms in the movie in Herbie Fully Loaded in Indonesian subtitles?
2. What is the classification of idioms used in the movie Herbie Fully Loaded?
3. What are the translation strategies applied in the movie Herbie Fully Loaded in the official subtitles?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study can be seen as follows:

1. To compare the meaning of the idioms in the movie both literally and figuratively.
2. To identify the idioms used in the movie Herbie Fully Loaded in both the dialogues and visual representations.
3. To analyze the translation strategies that appear in the movie Herbie Fully Loaded official subtitles.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This final assignment is expected to provide benefits to students, university, and translation industry, as follows:

1. Student

This study serves as a valuable reference for students specializing in translation and subtitling, particularly in understanding how idioms are handled in audiovisual texts. By analyzing various idiom translation strategies in movies, students can gain insights into how meaning and cultural nuances are preserved or adapted in the subtitling process. Furthermore, this study helps students develop critical thinking

skills in assessing the effectiveness of idiom translation strategies, providing a foundation for further study and practical application in their future professional careers.

2. University

This study can contribute to the Diponegoro University's academic reputation by producing research that is relevant and applicable to the field of translation studies, particularly in the domain of idiom translation in audiovisual media. Additionally, this study can function as a criterion for future academic projects, thereby reinforcing the university's reputation in linguistic and translation research at both the national and international levels, as well as may support the development of educational programs by offering pertinent, real-world case studies that can be incorporated into instructional materials.

3. Translation Industry

The findings of this study provide valuable insights for translation industries and subtitling professionals, particularly in dealing with idiomatic expressions in movie subtitles. By analyzing the translation of idioms in the movie *Herbie Fully Loaded*, this study can also provide insights into the translation strategies of idioms from English to Indonesian, including the types of idioms, the frequency of their occurrence, the idiomatic and literal meanings of the idioms, as well as the translation of the idioms into Indonesian in the official subtitles of the movie. By examining the effectiveness of various idiom translation strategies, this study enables translators to make well-informed decisions that maintain both linguistic accuracy and cultural relevance. The study also contributes to the establishment of best practices for translating idioms in foreign movies, ultimately improving subtitle quality and enhancing the viewing experience for Indonesian audiences.

1.5. Output

The output of this study, which is intended for journal publication, that has been accepted in *Santhet: Journal of History, Education and Humanities (SJSPH)* E-

ISSN: 2541-6130 P-ISSN: 2541-2523, and appeared in Volume 9, Issue 4 (2025) entitled “A Translation Analysis of the Utilization of Idioms in the Indonesian Subtitles of the Movie Herbie Fully Loaded.” This study provides valuable insights into the translation of idiomatic expressions in audiovisual media, as well as identifies the strategies employed in translating idioms within movie subtitles.