

## Translation Accuracy of English Idiomatic Expression into Indonesian Subtitle in Pierro Coffin's Movie *Despicable Me 3*

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**Abstract.** This study relies on a qualitative descriptive design to identify the different idiomatic expressions used and analyze the accuracy of the translation of English idiomatic expressions into Indonesian in Pierre and Kyle's movie *Despicable Me 3* subtitles. The researcher collects the data through qualitative hypothesis by watching the movie several time, reading the subtitle, and identifying certain idiomatic phrases that are used in the research. As the result, There are types of idiomatic expression applied in that film are 5 of idiomatic expression in the form of whole sentences and clauses then 31 idiomatic expression in the form of compound then 13 idiomatic expression in the form of verb + object and then 8 idiomatic expression in the form of prepositional phrases. The translator whose to prefer to translate idiomatic expressions by paraphrasing, utilizing idioms with comparing meanings and forms, and omitting phrase. Three idioms are not accurately translation, although overall, the conclusions stated that the translator of [www.lebahku.com](http://www.lebahku.com) consider acceptable further the translator in [www.lebahku.com](http://www.lebahku.com) was accurate in translating idiomatic expression. Therefore, the translator is an inaccurate in translating idiomatic expression.

**Keywords:** *Accuracy, Idiomatic Expression, Translation*

### 1. Introduction

To be able to communicate without being constrained by linguistic differences, translation projects have been done and applied in many different fields in the current era of globalization. Translation into other languages is thus absolutely important. Sometimes when translating literally, translators don't focus on grammatical aspects of accuracy but instead tend to stick to dictionary definitions and ignore context. As a result, the results of the translation are awkward, ambiguous, and incorrect. According to Newmark (1988:82), a translator should be familiar with literal and non-literal text criticism since he must evaluate a text's quality before choosing an interpretation and translating it [1]. The results of translations are frequently used in a variety of industries, including business, literature, and even entertainment. It is well known that the media constantly contains material that is not in Indonesian, such as popular movies that require accurate translations in order for the general population to enjoy and comprehend them.

The movie's translation comprises dubbing and two different kinds of subtitles (dubbed). The voice-over replaces the audio in the source language with that in the target language, while the subtitles are translated text that shows at the bottom of the TV screen [2]. As a result, the interpreter's job transforms into a bridge between the public and the director. The effectiveness of a translation depends on the talent and knowledge of the translator. Therefore, it is very important for the translator to be able to accurately translate the subtitles so that the audience can understand the concepts, thoughts, and information that the director intends to express. The difficulty of comprehending idiomatic expressions is one of the challenges in translating film subtitles, given how frequently English idioms are utilized in informal and formal information media as well as in day-to-day communication. Weinreich's revelation that at least 25.000 idioms are used in the English language further supports the high intensity of idiomatic expression [3].

According to Peter Newmark's (1988:42) idea, idiomatic translations retain the original "message," but often distort the meaning by giving precedence to idioms and colloquialisms that are not present in the original. the translator cannot interpret the expression based on the word or word-by-word arrangement of the word; rather, the translator must have a prior understanding of the content [1]. This is because the idiomatic term cannot be translated word for word or by word arrangement. It is intended to aid audiences in understanding the movie subtitles, but it may also be used in casual talks. Idiomatic translations can be affected and misinterpreted by translators who are unfamiliar with their meanings, and the actual outcome will not accurately represent the original message. There are movie subtitles on the Indonesian website [www.lebahku.com](http://www.lebahku.com). It produces subtitle translations for international films and receives a lot of downloads from movie fans. Therefore, you need high-quality subtitle translations. *Despicable Me 3* is one of the movies that gets downloaded the most from this website. The animated movie, directed by Chris Renaud and Pierre Coffin, defeated "Toy Story 3," which took home the 2011 Oscar, "Shrek Forever After," and "How to Train Your Dragon" to win the Kids' Choice Awards (KCA) for Best Animated Feature. The general public and parents are the primary audiences for this film. Optionally, a target market of both Indonesian and international families. Therefore, this film is fascinating. In order to prove the accuracy of the idiom translation on the subtitles of this movie, the researcher used the movie *Despicable Me 3* with subtitle translation by [www.lebahku.com](http://www.lebahku.com) as the corpus in this study. Both the movie and its subtitles are excellent. Good translation quality is necessary for reputation. It also shows how well-trained translators produce translations of high quality. Because comprehending idioms is one of the hardest things for translators to do but is crucial to learn, the researcher also focused on examining the accuracy of idiom translation in movie subtitles.

Based on previous research that has been done, there are some scholars who have conducted research related to idiomatic translation. Among them are: The first research was conducted by Apriani's research, "An Analysis of Accuracy in Translating Idiomatic Expression in *Up in The Air* Film" in 2012." This previous research uses McCarthy and O'Dell's theory to define idioms in a deeper and more comprehensible way. In her research,

four dictionaries were used in addition to the theories to improve the accuracy of the idiomatic translation: the Longman American Idioms Dictionary, NTC's American Idioms Dictionary Third Edition, A Dictionary of American Idioms, and Webster's New College Dictionary Fourth Edition. Her research findings were discussed in some detail. To establish if a certain piece of data was an idiom or not, it was first categorized according to the different sorts of idioms. The results of her research revealed that the majority of idioms on the subject of analysis were correct. In the second step, idiomatic phrases were divided into accurate and inaccurate categories. It was premature to verify the translation's correctness since, unfortunately, her study did not explain translating technique or provide an alternative for incorrect idiomatic phrases. While this research will attempt to define the translating procedure based on Mona Baker's theory, examine accuracy based on Nababan's theory, and also include the detail of explicatory about the accurate idiomatic expression and identifying the comparability to the inaccurate idiomatic expression, this research differentiates from Apriani's research in that it will attempt to do so [4] [5].

The last study that was conducted by Ambaresty in 2013 and focused on the "Translation Strategy of Idiomatic Phrasal Verbs in the Novel *The Awakening* by Kelley Armstrong." This previous study went into great detail on idiomatic phrasal verbs. Her research's conclusion was explored in many phases. First, it searched for every phrasal verb with an idiomatic meaning before being compiled. Following data collection, 100 randomly chosen phrasal verbs are picked as representative data and evaluated using a random sample procedure. This information was then categorized using Brown's categorization of phrasal verbs, translated using the Oxford Phrasal Verbs Dictionary, and lastly, the translator's methodology was established. Unfortunately, her study did not describe the accurateness of idiomatic phrasal verbs and their relation to the context. Her research revealed that adjectival phrasal verbs were the most prevalent form of phrasal verbs. According to her research, paraphrasing, employing an idiom with a similar meaning but different form, and eliminating the whole idiom (OE) were the translation representative samples for idiomatic phrasal verbs (SMDF). The most common method for translating idiomatic phrasal verbs in this previous study was paraphrase. The research focus is where Ambaresty's research and our research diverge. Her research centered on identifying the idiomatic phrasal verb type and translation technique that were most frequently utilized in the novel. This study will, however, focus on the accuracy of English idiomatic expressions that are translated into Indonesian on movie subtitles. Based on that previous research, the researcher assumed resolving any gaps or limitations in that research to produce a better study on the translation of idiomatic expressions.

The researcher observes how frequently idiomatic expressions are used in the movie. For example, in the beginning of the movie, the new AVL head pushes the outgoing one down and remarks, "Ooh, broke a little sweat there. That phrase, when translated literally, would be "*Owh, hancur sedikit keringat, di sana,*" but when used idiomatically, it would be "*Owh, sedikit berkeringat, barusan.*" According to the dictionary, an idiomatic term on a roll is used to indicate that something is not difficult for someone to perform. Even if the translation deviates from the original meaning, it is acceptable since it

makes sense in the context of the movie and according to the dictionary's definition. The target language includes corresponding idiomatic expressions, such as: *Ada uang di balik batu*, so translators may also employ translation methods by changing idiomatic terms into non-idioms. In several situations, the translator rendered the phrase "a piece of cake" as "*sangat mudah*". Researcher that examine the accuracy of idiom translation are also interested in this alternative technique for translating idioms.

In order to prove the accuracy of the idiom translation on the subtitles of this movie, the researcher used the movie *Despicable Me 3* with subtitle translation by [www.lebahku.com](http://www.lebahku.com) as the corpus in this study. Both the movie and its subtitles are excellent. Good translation quality is necessary for reputation. It also shows how well-trained translators produce translations of high quality. Because comprehending idioms is one of the hardest things for translators to do but is crucial to learn, the researcher also focused on examining the accuracy of idiom translation in movie subtitles.

## 2. Method

Research design is a structure of methods that will be used by researcher to assist their research. Research design refers to the scientific method of gathering data for certain objectives and applications [6]. According to Creswell (2013:3), there are three different sorts of study designs. These are qualitative and quantitative approaches that have been combined [7]. The difference between qualitative and quantitative research is frequently defined by the use of words (qualitative) as compared to figures (quantitative) or the use of closed-ended questions (quantitative hypotheses) as compared to open-ended questions (qualitative interview questions). The researcher employed descriptive qualitative research based on the mentioned above justifications. It's because the researcher gathered and analyzed the data before drawing conclusions. He used this technique in order to analyze and characterize the adjacency pairs in *Despicable Me 3* film. Data is very important for doing a research, because it is the source that is used to be analyzed. According to Sugiyono (2016:225) observation, interview, documentation, and triangulation are the techniques for collecting data [6]. In this study, the researcher's method for gathering data was using documents. The files contain *Despicable Me 3* movie script. The following process was utilized by the researcher to gather the data:

1. Watching *Despicable Me 3* movie more than three times.
2. Searching the subtitle of this movie,
3. Reading the document of subtitle in *Despicable Me 3* movie.
4. Finding idioms expression in the subtitle of *Despicable Me 3* Movie.
5. Putting the idioms and expressions from *Despicable Me 3* movie's subtitle on the table.

After the researcher has discovered and documented some idiomatic expressions found in the subtitles before the data are analyzed. Following marking, the data will go through the following qualitative analysis steps:

1. Classifying the idiomatic expression into its type in movie subtitles according to McCarthy and O'Dell's theory.
2. Examining the sample to determine whether the translation is accurate or inaccurate when constraining the data that the researcher selects as a sample to describe.
3. Counting the use of idiomatic expressions in translation by www lebahku.com using Baker's theory.
4. Concluding and giving suggestion.

### 3. Findings

As the researcher observe, the objective of this study is to identify the idiomatic expressions used and to evaluate the accuracy of their translation from English into Indonesian in Pierre and Kyle's movie Despicable Me 3 subtitles, which were done by www lebahku.com. This allows researcher to study the idiomatic expressions as data. The categorization makes it clearer that perhaps the data is an idiomatic expression. The description of the data is reported as follows:

No	Idiomatic Expression in Source Language	Idiomatic Expression in Target Language	Type of Idioms
a.	<b>Striking a chord</b> with audiences all over the world.	<i>Yang terkenal mempunyai penonton di seluruh dunia.</i>	Compound
b.	<b>Get him!</b>	<i>Tangkap dia !</i>	Verb+Object
c.	Bratt quickly plunged into a <b>downward spiral</b>	<i>Dan Bratt terpuruk dengan cepat.</i>	Compound
d.	<b>Blast it!</b>	<i>Astaga!</i>	Verb+Object

### 4. Discussion

Using similar theories, namely Mona Baker's theory and Nababan's theory, the researcher aims to investigate the translation technique from the tabulated data above and analyze the accuracy of the data sample [4] [5]. To check up on the definition of an idiom, the researcher also consults the Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs, the Longman American Idioms Dictionary, the *NTC's American Idioms Dictionary*, [www.idioms.thefreedictionary.com](http://www.idioms.thefreedictionary.com), [www.id.urbandictionary.com](http://www.id.urbandictionary.com), and *Kamus Inggris Indonesia*. Following is an analysis of the data:

a. **Striking a chord**

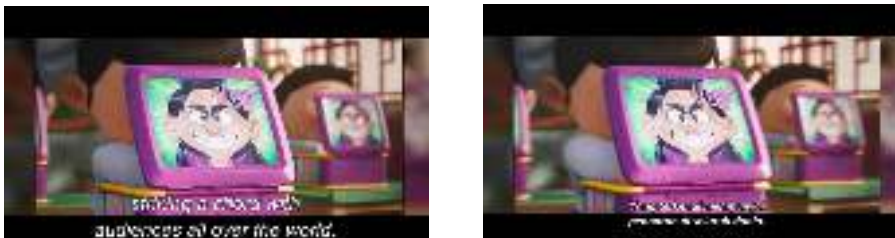


Figure 3.1 Scene Capture Data 1

SL: **Striking a chord** with audiences all over the world.

TL: *Yang terkenal mempunyai penonton di seluruh dunia*

The researcher provided the English language in order to assist readers and the researcher in comprehending and analyzing the subtitle analysis, despite the fact that only Indonesian subtitles were presented on screen in this movie. The researcher can then directly compare English and Indonesian as a result.

The phrase "**Striking a chord**" in minutes 00:01:11,650 --> 00:01:12,990 is classified as an idiomatic expression of the Compound variety based on the information provided above. According to the Dictionary of American Idiomatic Expressions and Phrasal Verbs, "**striking a chord**" means to cause someone to remember something, to remind someone of something, to be familiar (Spears, 654). According to the urban dictionary, phrase "**striking a chord**" means to elicit a specific reaction mixed with little emotion. However, the term "to remind someone of something" translated into Indonesian, which means "*untuk mengingatkan seseorang tentang sesuatu*". According to the context in this film, the speaker on the news informs the audience that Balthazar Brat's fame is spreading very quickly and has even spread to children's cutlery as a decorative picture. It is also well known throughout the world, even to the ends of the world or the north pole. In opposition to its literary meaning, this phrase has a different meaning. It truly fits the definition of being well-known or spreading quickly. This idiom is translated into "*Terkenal*" in this subtitle by the translator.

Although the phrase "**striking a chord**" has an appropriate idiom in the target language, the researcher thinks that the translator's technique is in line with Mona Baker's (2011:77) idea of idiomatic translation by omitting the complete idiom [4].

According to Nababan's (2004) assertion about correctness, the substance of the source text in this subtitle has been correctly translated into the sentence in the target language [5]. Nababan's viewpoint is that the sentence should be translated accurately and efficiently [5]. Therefore, by using Nababan's hypothesis of an accuracy-rating device, it appears that the translations are regarded as **accurate** [5].

An alternate translation would be that the researcher suggests that the translator also translate the idioms above into the target language because the phrase "**striking a chord**" has a suitable idiom in that language, "*populer*".

Furthermore, "*populer*" also alludes to "*disukai dan dikagumi orang banyak*" (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia).

Nida and Taber (1982:47)), on the other hand, claimed that the translator is expected to comprehend that in order to communicate effectively, one must first respect the genius of every language, which entails making any changes required to recreate the message in the remarkable structural forms of the source language as well as respecting its features and fully utilizing the language's potential [8]. He should also be aware that everything that can be stated in one language can also be expressed in another, unless the message's form is an important component, in which case the message's subject should remain unchanged [9]. According to that statement, the researcher suggests that the translator can replace "*Yang terkenal mempunyai penonton di seluruh dunia*". into "*Yang populer mempunyai penonton di seluruh dunia*" as the alternative translation.

Taking into account the concept of translation, the translator's framework doesn't seem all that dissimilar from the speculations of subtitling put forth by multiple sources, such as Sayogie's (2014:173) principles of subtitling, which state that each line of subtitle translation should not exceed 35 characters and should not exceed two lines on the screen [2].

b. **Get him!**



Figure 3.2 Scene Capture Data 2

SL:           There he is! **Get him!**  
 TL:           *Itu dia! Tangkap dia!*

Using the information presented above, the phrase "**get him**" in minutes 00:01:27,500 --> 00:01:29,710 is classified as an idiomatic expression of the Verb + Object type. "**Get him**" refers to pursuing or catching him (Urban Dictionary). Meanwhile, the term "**catching him**" translated into Indonesian, which means "*menangkap or mengejar seseorang*". According to the storyline of this movie, Balthazar Bratt arrived on the scene to take something from the vault. When a squad of guards attempted to apprehend him, Balthazar Bratt effortlessly defeated them. This idiom actually describes the activity of capturing something or someone through force. This idiom is translated into "*tangkap dia*" in this subtitle by the translator.

The researcher assumes that the translator technique is consistent with Mona Baker's (2011:77) idea of translating idioms by utilizing an idiom of comparable meaning and form although the phrase "**get him**" has a suitable idiom on target language [4].

According to Nababan's (2004) statement about accuracy, the contents of the source text in this subtitle have been correctly translated into the

sentence in the target language [5]. Nababan's viewpoint is that the sentence should be translated accurately and efficiently [5]. So it appears that the translation is regarded as an **accurate translation** by reference to Nababan's principle of accuracy rating [5].

Taking into account the concept of translation, the translator's framework doesn't seem all that dissimilar from the speculations of subtitling put forth by multiple sources, such as Sayogie's (2014:173) principles of subtitling, which state that each line of subtitle translation should not exceed 35 characters and should not exceed two lines on the screen [2].

### c. Downward spiral

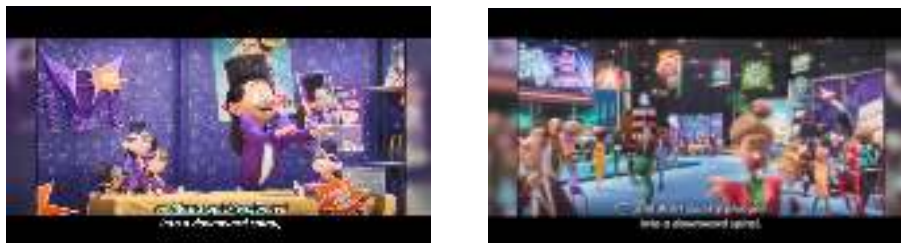


Figure 3.3 Scene Capture Data 3

SL: Bratt quickly plunged into a **downward spiral**.

TL: *Dan Bratt terpuruk dengan cepat.*

The phrase "**downward spiral**" in minutes 00:01:43,060 --> 00:01:45,980 is categorized as an idiomatic expression of the Compound type based on the previous data. "**Downward spiral**" is a phrasal verb that means quickly (Urban Dictionary). Furthermore, the phrase "quickly" translated into Indonesian, which means "*sangat cepat*". The scene of this movie indicates that Balthazar's reputation had decreased as he reached teenage hood, had pimples all over his face, and was rejected by society. This phrase truly means that things get worse and are hard to manage since one unpleasant thing leads to another. This idiom is translated into "*dengan cepat*" in this subtitle by the translator.

From the subtitle translation above, the researcher assumes that the translator's strategy is in lining with Mona Baker's (2011:77) theory of translating idiom by using an idiom of similar meaning and form although the phrase "**downward spiral**" has a suitable idiom on target language [4].

According to Nababan's (2004) statement about accuracy, the contents of the source text in this subtitle have been correctly translated into the sentence in the target language [5]. Nababan's viewpoint is that the sentence should be translated accurately and efficiently [5]. So it appears that the translation is regarded as an **accurate translation** by reference to Nababan's principle of accuracy rating [5].

Taking into account the concept of translation, the translator's framework doesn't seem all that dissimilar from the speculations of subtitling put forth by multiple sources, such as Sayogie's (2014:173) principles of subtitling, which state that each line of subtitle translation should not exceed 35 characters and should not exceed two lines on the screen [2].

Based on the concept of subtitle translation, the translator's method appears to be not so dissimilar from the theories of subtitling proposed by many sources, such



as the principles of subtitling stated by Sayogie (2014:173), that translation of subtitling should no exceed than two lines on screen and the cutting of subtitling translation should consider the grammar and logic in one sentence [2].

In the world of education, the introduction of idioms expression is very much needed because it is important to tell or introduce students that there are English sentences that cannot be translated word by word and must be translated into sentences and matched to the situation and condition the word is spoken in.

After students experience an increase in their idiom mastery, this will be followed by student achievement in reading comprehension. This shows that idiomatic expressions contribute to students' reading comprehension.

#### d. Blast it!

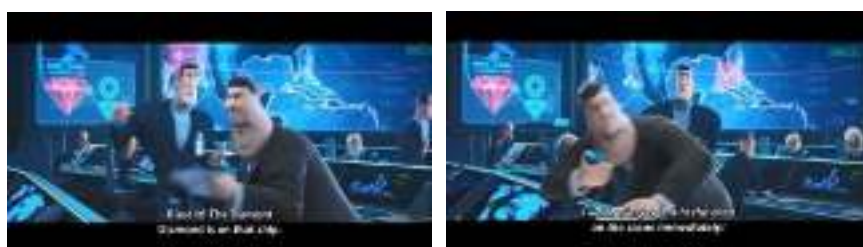


Figure 3.4 Scene Capture Data 4

SL: **Blast it!** The Dumon Diamond is on that ship!

TL: *Astaga! Berlian Dumon ada di kapal itu!*

According to the information presented above, the phrase "**blast it**" in minutes 00:03:23,280 --> 00:03:25,870 is an idiomatic expression of the verb + object variety. "**Blast it**" indicates shocked or horrified in the Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (Cambridge Dictionary). Furthermore, The term "**shocked**" translated into Indonesian, which means "*terkejut* or *tercengang*". According to the context in this film, there would be a heist on a ship, and when the police inspector discovers who is responsible for the theft, he is shocked to learn that Balthazar was planning to take the Dumon diamond. This idiom actually has meaning to expresses the surprise of a police inspector. In this subtitle, the translator translates this idiom into "*Astaga*".

From the subtitle translation above, the researcher assumes that the translator's strategy is in lining with Mona Baker's (2011:77) theory of translating idiom by omitting the entire idiom although the phrase **Blast it** has a suitable idiom on target language [4].

According to Nababan's (2004) statement about accuracy, the contents of the source text in this subtitle have been correctly translated into the sentence in the target language [5]. Nababan's viewpoint is that the sentence should be translated accurately and efficiently [5]. So it appears that the translation is regarded as an **accurate translation** by reference to Nababan's principle of accuracy rating [5].

An alternate translation would be the researcher assumes that the translator also translate the idioms above into the target language because the phrase "**Blast it**" has a suitable idiom in that language, *kacau*. Furthermore, "*kacau*" also alludes to "*rusuh* or *situasi tidak aman*" (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia).

Nida and Taber (1982:47), on the other hand, claimed that the translator is expected to comprehend that in order to communicate effectively, one must first

respect the genius of every language, which entails making any changes required to recreate the message in the remarkable structural forms of the source language as well as respecting its features and fully utilizing the language's potential [8]. He should also be aware that everything that can be stated in one language can also be expressed in another, unless the message's form is an important component, in which case the message's subject should remain unchanged [9]. According to that statement, the researcher suggests that the translator can replace “*Astaga! Berlian Dumon ada di kapal itu!*” into “*Kacau! Berlian Dumon ada di kapal itu!*” as the alternative translation.

Taking into account the concept of translation, the translator's framework doesn't seem all that dissimilar from the speculations of subtitling put forth by multiple sources, such as Sayogie's (2014:173) principles of subtitling, which state that each line of subtitle translation should not exceed 35 characters and should not exceed two lines on the screen [2].

## 5. Conclusion

The study assumes that www.lebahku.com understands who the translation is intended for and how readers' abilities vary, given that the *Despicable Me 3* film appeals to a wide range of ages, from youngsters to parents. Furthermore, the translation of www.lebahku.com is correct since the content of the source sentence in this subtitle is accurately transferred into the target language. Based on McCarthy and O'Dell's theory, the researcher classified the idiomatic expressions in that film into four categories: compound, verb + object, prepositional phrase, and full clause and sentence. www.lebahku.com appears to prefer omitting the complete idiom, paraphrasing, and using idioms with comparable meanings and forms when translating idiom expressions. www.lebahku.com has an excellent quality in translating idiomatic expressions, demonstrating that a good translator's capacity indicates a good translation.

The researcher advises www.lebahku.com to pay attention to the principle of subtitles in his translation, in addition to his excellent translation skills. The researcher suggests general translators to be familiar with the translation aspects, especially in translating idiomatic expressions, in order to generate good quality translation. Understanding idioms is incredibly important nowadays because they are used frequently in conversation.

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