

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Research**

Reading interest in Indonesia is still very low compared with other Asian countries. Based on the data obtained from UNESCO, index reading interest of Indonesian citizens reached 0,001. This means that in every 1,000 people of Indonesia, there is only one person who has interested in reading (Khairunnisa, 2014).

Nevertheless, according to IKAPI (Ikatan Penerbit Indonesia) on their website (Ikatan Penerbit Indonesia, 2015), there are 29.883.822 copies of books were sold in 2014. Based on the contribution to the sales figures in 2014, children books were the highest contributor of book sales in Indonesia with total percentage of 23%. This category was followed with fiction, literature, religious, and Indonesian curriculum-based education books are in the same rank which contributed for 13%. The next is references and dictionaries which accounted for 9% and others, such as business and economics, self-improvement, social sciences, cooking, computing and internet, which contributed for 33% (Data Perbukuan Indonesia, 2015).

Nowadays, there are a lot of printed media published, such as academic books, magazines, novels, newspaper, and many others, and dominated by foreign literature. These books are written in foreign languages, usually in English. For

most college students, these are deemed more interesting because these books presents more complete information from various sources in worldwide and to support the needs of students' academic. Besides, the stories are set in foreign culture, especially the western one. It is common knowledge that western culture is often seen as the symbol of modernity which is considered as top priority nowadays. Therefore, there are so many foreign literatures, mainly written in English, translated into Indonesian to answer to the demands of Indonesian readers who don't have the skills to understand English-written literary works.

With this trend, along with the facts about Indonesia's reading interest and book production as presented above, translation becomes a very essential key in the production of Indonesian books. Translation determines the quality of Indonesian readers' reading materials, in terms of its entertainment and education aspects. Thus, it can be said that Indonesian translators shape Indonesians' ways of thinking as well as improving their knowledge in the form of rendering information and messages from foreign literature to translated books.

In shorts, translation is translating from source language (SL) to target language (TL). Translation consists of transferring without distortion the meaning of the source language into the target language. The meaning must be kept constant, even when the form of the source language changes as it is turned into the form of the target language (Larson, 1998: 181) in (Retnomurti & Imran, n.d.).

The activity of translating is very complicated, because there are some aspects which have to be considered by a translator. The translator should also understand some aspects which are related to the translation process, because the

process of translation is more than translating sentence after sentence, but the meaning must be accurate. Massoud (1988: 19-24) in (Antar & Abdellah, 2001) sets a set of criteria to determine whether a translation is good or not. The criteria are as follows: (1) a good translation is easily understood; (2) a good translation is fluent and smooth; (3) a good translation is idiomatic; (4) a good translation conveys, to some extent, the literary subtleties of the original; (5) a good translation distinguishes between the metaphorical and the literal; (6) a good translation reconstructs the cultural/historical context of the original; (7) a good translation makes explicit what is implicit in abbreviations, and in allusions to sayings, songs, and nursery rhymes; (8) a good translation will convey, as much as possible, the meaning of the original text. Therefore, in order translators have to produce a good translation, the translator must strive to fulfill these criteria.

One of the challenges in translation resides in its vocabulary. Undeniable, the translators have frequently the trouble when they want to translate a sentence or text into a language because many expressions cannot be translated word by word. Such expressions, either its phrases or sentences, have certain meaning that cannot be explained in grammar theories. This is a special feature of English language called idiom. According to The New International Webster, an idiom is the part of the distinctive form or construction of a particular language that has a specific form or style presents only in that language. (Haliday, 2007) says that an idiom in the language being described is anything for which no equivalent is found in the mother tongue. Many linguists define an idiom as an expression

which is fixed and cannot be understood literally; and its meaning cannot be found in the common dictionary.

Idioms are an important part of all languages and our everyday language use. Since idioms convey meaning quickly and enable language users express themselves more efficiently, they should be integrated into the teaching and learning process of foreign languages. Idioms are considered to be one of the hardest and the most interesting parts of the English vocabulary. Even, idioms are one of the greater problems in learning English because idioms present some of the most difficult materials for English language learners to successfully understand. Hence, mastery of idiom is very needed to facilitate communication and promote an innovative environment of social interaction. So, if the English language learners do not learn English idioms, they will never know when the other person uses it or they cannot understand what the speakers are talking about. English is a language with a vast idiomatic basis, which makes its learning very exciting and intriguing. So grasping the use of idioms is an essential part of learning English.

Idiomatic expressions are often found in novel, usually written in English-Indonesian translation, because idiomatic expressions are used in a wide variety of contexts and situations. The translators have to be careful in translating idiomatic expressions, because they need to use some different strategies to translate those expressions. According to (Hurford, 2007), idiomatic expression is multi-word phrases which that combines the literal senses of the individual words in each phrase. Translating idiomatic expression is a very difficult task for a translator.

According to (Larson, 1984) that the translator must be sure of the meaning of the idiom and then look for the natural equivalent way to express the meaning of the idiom as a whole. According to (Wright, 1999), a translator must translate the idiomatic expression as whole expression. Besides that, there are two possibilities in translating idioms, either translate the source text idiom into target text idiom, or explain the meaning.

The explanation above is the motive why the writer conducts a research about translation, especially idiomatic expression. The writer realizes that the translation of literary work is very important, considering the growing sales of the translation category. A novel entitled *The Last Song* written by Nicholas Sparks which published on 2009 is chosen to be the data source of this research due to its reputation as a best-selling novel worldwide. Besides that, the author, Nicholas Sparks as the number one of the best-selling author according to The New York Times, is one of the writer's favorite authors due to his entire novel stories which always heart-touched. In addition, this book is also adapted into a movie with the same title in 2010 with starring Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth.

Based on the explanations above, the writer wants to conduct the research entitled **“An Analysis of English-Indonesian Translation of Idiomatic Expressions in the Novel of Nicholas Sparks’ *The Last Song*.”**

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Idioms are considered to be one of the greatest problems in learning English, because they cannot translate in separately word by word. The use of

idiom is applied in an idiomatic expression. Mostly, the English language learners assume that idiomatic expression is the most difficult materials to successfully understand.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

In this research, the writer limits the research on the translation of idiomatic expression in the novel entitled *The Last Song* written by Nicholas Sparks and its translation in Bahasa Indonesia which translated by Hetih Rusli. This particularly designed in order to get the best result of the research with effective time and energy. It is also to make specific focus of the research.

### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the problems identified above, this research formulates the problems as follows:

1. What types of idioms are found in the novel of Nicholas Sparks' *The Last Song* and their translation in Bahasa Indonesia by Hetih Rusli?
2. What are the strategies used by the translator (Hetih Rusli) in translating idiomatic expressions in the novel of Nicholas Sparks' *The Last Song*?

### **1.5 Objective of the Research**

Based on the formulations of the problem, the objectives of the research are:

1. To identify the types of idioms found in the novel of Nicholas Sparks' *The Last Song* and their translation in Bahasa Indonesia which translated by Hetih Rusli.
2. To find out the strategies used by the translator (Hetih Rusli) in translating idiomatic expressions in the novel of Nicholas Sparks' *The Last Song*.

## **1.6 Significance of the Research**

### **1.6.1 Theoretical**

Theoretically, the writer hopes that this research will help readers, especially for translators and English learners to understand the types of idioms and the strategies that can be used to translate them. It can be used to be an example of translation strategy and translation analysis.

### **1.6.2 Practical**

Practically, the result of this research will be a reference for translators and English learners, to study the translation of idiomatic expressions found in literary works. In addition, this research could hopefully be one of the sources for further research in translation of literary work.

## **1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

This research used three terms related to the title that is the definition of idiom, strategy in translating idiom, and translation below:

<b>Idiom</b>	: An expression whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of its parts (Cruse, D. A., 1987:37) in (Heever, 2013).
<b>Strategy in translating idiom</b>	: The translator must be sure of the meaning of the idiom and then look for the natural equivalent way to express the meaning of the idiom as a whole (Larson, 1984).
<b>Translation</b>	: A procedure which leads from a written source language text to an optimally equivalent target language text and requires the syntactic, semantic, stylistic and text pragmatic comprehension by the translator of the original text Wills (1982: 112) in (Mugalih, 2010).