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## An Analysis Of Idiomatic Expressiontranslation Techniques In The Series Lucifer Season 1

Fharis Fadilal Arsyad<sup>1</sup>, Diyah Fitri Wulandari<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>Universitas Islam Sultan Agung

[fharisfadilal93@gmail.com](mailto:fharisfadilal93@gmail.com)<sup>1</sup>, [diyahfitri@unissula.ac.id](mailto:diyahfitri@unissula.ac.id)<sup>2</sup>

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**ABSTRACT;** *This study aims to analyze what types of idiomatic expressions are found in this series, as well as to analyze the translation techniques used by the translator in translating idiomatic expressions in the Lucifer series from English to Indonesian. The theories used in this study are Hockett's theory for types of idiomatic expressions, and Molina, L., & Albir, A. H. for translation techniques. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. Data collection involved a series of steps: watching the series, reading The movie script, identifying the data, classifying the data, and reducing the data. Primary data were obtained from the Indonesian translation of the English idioms in the series Lucifer season 1 while secondary data is obtained from articles, journals, dictionaries and previous studies related to this study. Based on the analysis of 40 data points, two types of idiomatic expressions Figure of speech and Slang were most frequently found and used by both main and supporting characters in Lucifer Season 1. This indicates that the characters in the series often employ idiomatic expressions to construct their social identities in daily conversations. These findings affirm that the language in Lucifer heavily relies on idioms to enrich expressions and interactions among characters. Regarding translation techniques, Modulation and Adaptation are the most dominantly used techniques in translating idiomatic expressions. These two techniques are chosen to maintain or adjust the meaning of idioms to align with the target language culture. Additionally, modulation is applied to change perspectives in translation. These findings suggest that translating idiomatic expressions in this series relies on various techniques to ensure fluency and accuracy of meaning within the context of the target language. Overall, the results of this study emphasize the diversity of idiom usage and their translation techniques in the series.*

**Keywords:** *Idiom, Type Of Idiomatic Expression, Translation Techniques, Lucifer Season 1.*

**ABSTRAK;** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis jenis-jenis ungkapan idiomatik apa saja yang terdapat dalam rangkaian ini, serta menganalisis teknik penerjemahan yang digunakan penerjemah dalam menerjemahkan ungkapan idiomatik dalam rangkaian Lucifer dari bahasa Inggris ke bahasa Indonesia. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori Hockett untuk jenis ekspresi idiomatik, dan Molina, L., & Albir, A.H. untuk teknik penerjemahan. Penelitian ini

menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Pengumpulan data melibatkan serangkaian langkah: menonton serial, membaca naskah film, mengidentifikasi data, mengklasifikasikan data, dan mereduksi data. Data primer diperoleh dari idiom bahasa Inggris terjemahan bahasa Indonesia di serial Lucifer season 1 sedangkan data sekunder diperoleh dari artikel, jurnal, kamus dan penelitian terdahulu yang berkaitan dengan penelitian ini. Berdasarkan analisis terhadap 40 titik data, dua jenis ekspresi idiomatik Kiasan dan Bahasa Gaul yang paling sering ditemukan dan digunakan baik oleh tokoh utama maupun pendukung di Lucifer Season 1. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa tokoh-tokoh dalam serial tersebut seringkali menggunakan ekspresi idiomatik untuk membangun identitas sosialnya dalam percakapan sehari-hari. Temuan ini menegaskan bahwa bahasa dalam Lucifer sangat bergantung pada idiom untuk memperkaya ekspresi dan interaksi antar karakter. Mengenai teknik penerjemahan, Modulasi dan Adaptasi merupakan teknik yang paling dominan digunakan dalam menerjemahkan ungkapan idiomatik. Kedua teknik ini dipilih untuk mempertahankan atau menyesuaikan makna idiom agar selaras dengan budaya bahasa sasaran. Selain itu, modulasi diterapkan untuk mengubah perspektif dalam penerjemahan. Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa penerjemahan ekspresi idiomatik dalam seri ini mengandalkan berbagai teknik untuk memastikan kelancaran dan keakuratan makna dalam konteks bahasa target. Secara keseluruhan, hasil penelitian ini menekankan pada keragaman penggunaan idiom dan teknik penerjemahannya dalam serial tersebut.

**Kata Kunci:** Idiom, Jenis Ekspresi Idiomatik, Teknik Penerjemahan, Lucifer Season 1.

## INTRODUCTION

In this modern era, we will find many foreign languages that we encounter in everyday life. Whether it is a word or sentence that we hear from television (news), movies, songs, or a series of foreign language texts or quotations that we encounter in literature (books, newspapers, magazines, etc.). Not only in the media or literature, but sometimes we also encounter foreign languages on billboards, advertisements, slogans, or hear from tourists directly. Then, do we understand these foreign language words? This is where we need to learn a foreign language and study the science of translation, its methods, and techniques, because translating something also requires methods, theories, and so that the message conveyed from the source language is conveyed correctly and to the target language. There are many methods and techniques used by translators in translating something, both text and orally.

An idiom or idiomatic expression is a phrase or sentence whose meaning cannot be translated literally from the words that compose it. This means that the meaning of an idiom is often very different from the meanings of the individual words that form the idiom Jennifer Seidl and W. McMordie say that Idiom is a group of words that have a different meaning when taken together than the separate meanings of the words. Their opinion is quite similar with what McCarthy and O'Dell state. They must see it in the context to understand what the speaker says (Jennifer Seidl and W. McMordie 12).

Idioms have a variety of types which can be seen from different structures and forms, Idioms have also been categorized by many scholars into different classes, Hockett (1958) categorized idioms into six types, namely substitute, proper name, abbreviation, English phrasal compound, figure of speech, and slang (310-318). And also, according to the theory proposed by Molina & Albir, there are 18 translation techniques. The following are the 18 translation techniques introduced by Molina & Albir: Adaptation, Amplification, Borrowing, Calque, Compensation, Description, Discursive Creation, Established Equivalent, Generalization, Linguistic Amplification, Linguistic Compression, Literal Translation, Modulation, Particularization, Reduction, Substitution, Transposition, and Variation.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses descriptive qualitative methods to analyze idiomatic expressions found in the series *Lucifer* season 1 (2016). Quoting from Creswell (2013) Qualitative research is a research method to explore and understand the meaning that some individuals or groups of people think come from social or human problems. The object of the research is the Indonesian translation of the English idioms in the series *Lucifer* season 1 (2016). In this case, the type of descriptive-qualitative research was used to analyze what types of idiomatic expressions were found in the series and what techniques were used by translators in translating idiomatic expressions.

Data collection involved a series of steps: watching the movie, reading the movie script, identifying the data, classifying the data, and reducing the data. The primary data in this research is the Indonesian translation of the English idioms contained in the subtitles for the series *Lucifer* season 1. Secondary data in this study include various scientific writings related to Translation Strategy idiomatic expressions from articles, journals, dictionary, movie script, books, previous research and textbooks related to research.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Types of Idiomatic Expression

In this initial section, the analysis type of idiomatic expression in the series Lucifer Season 1 (2016) referencing Hockett's theory. In this theory, Hockett divided the types of idioms into 6, namely substitute, proper name, abbreviation, English phrasal compound, figure of speech, and slang. Based on the analysis from 40 existing data, it was found that there were 24 figure of speech, 15 slang and 1 English phrasal compound.

#### A.1 Figure of Speech

Hockett provides an in-depth view of various aspects of language, including figures of speech. Hockett classifies figures of speech as linguistic devices used to beautify language, clarify meaning, or create emotional impressions. By utilizing ways to differentiate figurative and literal meanings, this figure of speech is very important for oral and written communication. the classification for figure of speech are hyperbole, litotes, oxymoron, and Iron (Hockett 310-318).

From what Hockett has conveyed, we can conclude that Hockett explains that figure of speech is a linguistic device that functions to beautify language, clarify meaning, and create emotional impressions. Moreover also figure of speech plays an important role in oral and written communication by distinguishing figurative and literal meaning. The classification of figures of speech according to Hockett includes hyperbole, litotes, oxymorons, and irony, each of which has its own function and effect in enriching language. The following is an example of an idiomatic expression of the figure of speech type found in the series Lucifer season 1 :

- LUCIFER : Don't worry, Detective. I'm more of a leg man myself. (Jangan khawatir detektif, aku orang yang sederhana) (Episode 04 – 11.33)
- LUCIFER : Sure you can. Go on, give her a squeeze, we'll be good to go. (Tentu bisa, tarik saja pelatuknya, kita siap kapan saja) (Episode 04 - 17.32)

In the first example, Lucifer says "Don't worry, Detective. I'm more of a leg man myself". The expression "I'm more of a leg man myself" is an idiom that means that a person is more attracted to a woman's legs than any other part of the body. In this context, the character Lucifer uses this phrase to respond to detective Chloe's concerns in a humorous and slightly teasing tone. The above example was using irony in this expression because Lucifer uses a seemingly

irrelevant or light-hearted comment to respond to the detective's concerns, which can be seen as an attempt to ease tension or distract with humor. This idiom conveys a humorous and relaxed impression, adding an emotional dimension to conversations between characters. Although literally, this expression may not make sense, in certain social and cultural contexts, this idiomatic meaning is clear and easily understood by the right audience.

In the second example, In the phrase "Sure you can. Go on, give her a squeeze, we'll be good to go," Lucifer uses the idiom "give her a squeeze" to figuratively refer to the act of pulling the trigger of a gun. This phrase is used in the context of giving permission or encouragement to someone to perform a certain action necessary to move forward or complete a task. This expression is under the figure of speech metaphor category. Using the term "give her a squeeze" to describe the act of pulling the trigger of a gun or starting something, which does not literally mean "squeeze" but gives it a figurative meaning.

## **A.2 Slang**

Slang usually originates from the need for certain social groups to create identity and exclusivity through language, and according to Hockett is a type of language variation that shows dynamics and creativity in everyday language use (Hockett 310-318). From what Hockett has said above, it can be conclude that slang is a type of informal language often used by certain social groups in everyday conversation to express identity, familiarity, or exclusivity. Slang can include the use of new words, phrases, or existing words with a meaning different from their normal meaning. Slang is often not used formally and often changes with social and cultural changes. The following is an example of an idiomatic expression of the slang type found in the series Lucifer season 1 :

- LUCIFER : Off you pop. (Pergilah) Episode 04 – 12.12
- LUCIFER : Ooh, Tough crowd (Orang-orang yang sulit diberi tahu) Episode 06 – 37.13

In the first example, According to Hockett's theory (1958), the idiom "Off you pop" used by Lucifer can be categorized as slang because it shows the distinctiveness, uniqueness, and dynamics of informal language. Certain groups often use this phrase to express familiarity in everyday conversation, which shows social identity and exclusivity. In the idiom "Off you pop", changing the meaning of the word "pop" from a small explosion to a command to leave, shows how slang changes the meaning of words. This slang reflects a dynamic variation of

language that fits the characteristics described by Hockett, and is suited to informal rather than formal settings. The expression "Off you pop" is an informal British English phrase meaning "Go ahead" or "Off you go," with a casual or slightly playful tone. This phrase is often used to tell someone to leave in a lighthearted and non-serious manner.

In the second example, Based on Hockett's theory (1958), the idiom "Tough crowd" used by Lucifer is categorized as slang because it shows the use of informal and creative language that is typical in a certain social context. Slang usually comes from the need of a certain social group to isolate themselves and identify themselves through language. The phrase "Tough crowd" is used to describe an audience that is difficult to captivate or satisfy, especially during a performance or presentation, but its meaning has been expanded to include situations where someone is faced with people who are difficult to work with or to inform.

### **A.3 English Phrasal Compound**

According to Hockett, English phrasal compound is phrase composition consists of a multi-word expression that functions as a single lexical unit, usually consisting of a noun that changes into another noun. Hockett also shows in his works that the composition of phrases often has a high degree of semantic transparency, meaning that the overall meaning of a phrase can be understood from the meaning of the words that compose it. However, this is not always the case, especially in cases where the composition of the phrase has a special or idiomatic meaning that cannot be understood directly from its parts.

It can be concluded that English Phrasal compound is a phrase consisting of two or more words combined to produce a new, unique meaning, which often cannot be understood from the literal meaning of each word. This is a type of idiom where the combination of these words usually refers to a particular idea or state. The following is an example of an idiomatic expression of the English Phrasal Compound type found in the series Lucifer season 1 :

- LUCIFER : You know, tit for tat sort of thing. (Kau tahu, untuk menyamakannya)  
Episode 04 – 36.38

In this example, "Tit for tat" is a phrase consisting of three words that are combined to form a phrase. The words "tit" and "tat" may not have significant meaning when used separately, but when they are combined, they form a phrase that has a clear and common meaning. The meaning of "tit for tat" cannot be understood only from the literal meaning of

each word. This phrase idiomatically means retribution in kind for an action that has been received or an appropriate retaliatory action. It has a meaning that goes beyond the literal meaning of the words used to compose it. According to Hockett's theory, "tit for tat" qualifies as an English phrasal compound idiom based on these characteristics. This idiom has become part of common English usage and is widely known because it combines several words to produce a new meaning that cannot be understood only from the literal meaning of the constituent words.

## **B. Translation Techniques Used in Translating Idiomatic Expressions Found in Lucifer Season 1**

This sub chapter provides the analysis identifies translation techniques used by the translator in translating the idiomatic expressions found in the series Lucifer season 1 using the theory of Molina, L., & Albir, A. H. (2002). In this theory, there are 18 translation techniques, they are : Adaptation, Amplification, Borrowing, Calque, Compensation, Description, Discursive Creation, Established Equivalent, Generalization, Linguistic Amplification, Literal Translation, Modulation, Articularization, Reduction, Substitution, Transposition, Variation.

Based on the analysis from 40 existing data, it was found that there were 12 Adaptation, 11 Modulation, 9 Established Equivalent, 3 Redaction, 2 Amplification, 1 Linguistic Amplification, 1 Compensation and 1 Transposition. These following are two example how Modulation and Adaptation used by the translator.

### **B.1 Modulation**

To change the point of view, focus or cognitive category in relation to the ST; it can be lexical or structural (509-511). The translation method known as modulation changes the perspective, focus, or way of expression in the source text. This is done so that the translation in the target language conveys the same meaning but in a more natural way or more in accordance with the norms and customs of the target language. This technique can be done lexically (related to words) or structurally (related to sentence structure). Lexical modulation means changing words or phrases in the source text to create expressions that are more appropriate to the target language. While to make sentences more natural and understandable in the target language, structural modulation changes the sentence structure in the source text.



The following is an example of an idiomatic expression translated using the modulation translation technique :

- LUCIFER : So Pot-Kettle, dont you think ? (Jadi sama saja, bukan begitu ?) Episode 01 - 05.02
- MALCOM : But before you go growing any more balls, remember this (Tapi sebelum kau melakukan tindakan nekat, ingat ini) Episode 10 - 12.23

In the first example, The idiom "The pot calling the kettle black" falls under the category of figure of speech because it contains a figurative meaning that cannot be interpreted literally. In figurative language, this idiom uses a comparison between a pot and a kettle, both of which turn black due to soot, to illustrate hypocrisy or inconsistency when criticizing others. Therefore, this idiom is considered a figure of speech because it does not have a literal meaning and uses figurative language to convey a message about hypocrisy or inconsistency.

And in this example, using the modulation technique presented in Molina and Albir's theory, the translator translates the sentence Lucifer said, "So Pot-Kettle, don't you think?" translated into "*Jadi sama saja, bukan begitu?*" The modulation technique changes the perspective, focus, or cognitive category in relation to the source text. This is done both lexically (related to words) and structurally (related to sentence structure). "Pot-Kettle" is a shortened form of the English idiom "pot calling the kettle black", which means criticizing others for mistakes they actually made. The translator uses modulation to convey the same message in a more natural and idiomatic way in the target language because this idiom may not be immediately understood in Indonesian culture.

Modulation changes the cognitive category from a specific cultural reference to a more general idea that is easily understood by the target audience. In this case, the translator replaces "Pot-Kettle" with the phrase "So it's the same, isn't it?" which captures the essence of the similarity of the criticism without losing the original meaning. By making this lexical adjustment, the translation results in a natural and idiomatic translation. This avoids the clutter that a direct translation might produce. By using this modulation method, the translator can change expressions across cultures and languages while maintaining the intended message. This makes the translation more relevant and acceptable to the target audience.

In the second example, according to Hockett's (1958) theory of idiomatic expression types, the phrase "growing balls" falls under figure of speech idioms because it carries a



figurative meaning that cannot be interpreted literally. Literally, this phrase means "growing balls," but in an idiomatic context, it means becoming braver or more daring. The word "balls" this idiom serves as a metaphor for courage, rather than referring to its actual physical meaning. This expression also cannot be directly translated into another language without losing its original meaning, which is a key characteristic of figure of speech idioms. In this example, The sentence "But before you go growing any more balls, remember this" uttered by Malcom is translated into "*Tapi sebelum kau melakukan tindakan nekat, ingat ini*" using modulation technique according to Molina and Albir's theory. Modulation technique involves changing point of view, focus, or cognitive category in relation to the source text, both lexically (related to words) and structurally (related to sentence structure).

In this context, the idiom "growing any more balls" literally refers to excessive or reckless courage. However, the literal translation of this idiom may not be appropriate or sound unnatural in Indonesian. Therefore, the translator uses modulation techniques to convey the same meaning in a more natural and idiomatic way in the target language. The phrase "melakukan aksi nekat" describes a daring action that may be risky, so it fits the context of the original conversation.

## **B.2 Adaptation**

To replace a ST cultural element with one from the target culture, When cultural elements in the source text are not appropriate or easily understood by target language readers, this technique is usually used. The goal is to make the translated text more relevant and easy to understand for target language readers without losing the original meaning and nuances. (509-511).

Adaptation is used when a concept or element in the source language does not have an exact equivalent in the target language due to cultural differences. The purpose of this technique is to adapt the translated text to the cultural context so that it is more understandable and acceptable to the target language readers.

Adaptation is used by translators to maintain the desired effect and meaning in the original text while ensuring that the text remains relevant and understandable to readers from the target language culture. The following is an example of an idiomatic expression translated using the adaptation translation technique :

- CLOE : You got some balls on you, pal.(Keberanianmu sungguh luar biasa.) Episode 01 – 12.54
- LUCIFER : Yeah, they don't give out Pulitzers for nip slips. (Ya, mereka tidak memberi pulitzers untuk foto mesum.) Episode 02 – 26-17

According to Hockett's (1958) theory of idiomatic expression types, the phrase "You got some balls on you, pal." falls into the category of slang idioms, which originate from informal language or everyday conversation and are often used in casual contexts. Literally, this phrase means "You have some balls," but in an idiomatic context, "balls" is a slang term used to refer to someone's courage or assertiveness. In English-speaking cultures, this term is often associated with bravery in facing difficult or challenging situations.

In this example, In English, the idiom "You got some balls on you" refers to someone's courage or boldness. Although the word "balls" literally refers to the male anatomy, idiomatically it also means extraordinary courage or bravery. Using a term referring to male anatomy like this may be uncommon in Indonesian society and may be considered rude or impolite. Therefore, some adjustments need to be made to maintain the meaning without causing cultural confusion or discomfort.

By using adaptation techniques, translators can change idioms that are not directly appropriate for the target language culture into more common and acceptable terms. "*Keberanianmu sungguh luar biasa*" is a more polite and understandable phrase for Indonesian readers or listeners to convey the same meaning, namely that the individual has great courage. This technique ensures that the translated text is readable, so that readers who speak the target language can easily understand the intended meaning without feeling foreign or offended.

In the second example, In English, the idiom "nip slips" refers to when a normally covered body part, such as a nipple, is accidentally exposed. If translated literally into Indonesian, this term can be considered vulgar or impolite. Because it has a specific cultural connotation. Translators must find a more polite term that can be understood by Indonesian speakers in this situation without losing the meaning of the original term.

"*Foto mesum*" was chosen for the adaptation of "nip slips" because it is more common and accepted in Indonesian culture. This phrase has a similar meaning, which is when something inappropriate or embarrassing is shown in the media. "*Foto mesum*" in Indonesia is easier to understand and not as disturbing as the literal translation of "nip slips".

Adaptation techniques help to maintain the comedy and meaning of the original expression. By changing "nip slips" to "smutty photos," the translator successfully conveys the idea that the Pulitzer Prize, which is given to journalism, is not given for things that are unimportant or journalistically meaningless. Adaptation allows the translator to maintain the meaning and tone of the original text without using terms that could be considered rude or disrespectful.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on Hockett's theory, the series shows significant variation in the use of idiomatic expressions. From a total of 40 data, most of the idiomatic expressions are included in the figure of speech category with a total of 24, indicating that the use of figures of speech or figurative expressions is very common in the dialogues of this series. Furthermore, there are 15 idiomatic expressions categorized as slang, reflecting the dynamics and creativity of everyday language used by the characters to create social identity and exclusivity.

Only one expression is identified as an English phrasal compound, indicating that this type is less dominant in the use of idioms in the series. Overall, this study shows diversity in the use of idioms, with the dominance of figures of speech and slang, which each reflect the artistic and social aspects of the language used in the Lucifer season 1 series.

The conclusion of the research results that identify idiomatic expression translation techniques in the Lucifer series season 1 based on the theory of Molina & Albir shows variations in the approaches used by translators. Of the total 40 data, the most frequently used techniques are Modulation and Adaptation, The Adaptation technique was used 12 times, This indicates that translators often choose the Adaptation method because idioms are deeply rooted in the source culture and often lack direct equivalents in the target language. By replacing source culture elements with those more familiar to target readers, adaptation ensures the original meaning and nuances of the idiom are accurately conveyed, making the translated text more relevant and easily understood without losing the essence of the message.

The Modulation technique was used 11 times, indicating a change in perspective or cognitive category in translation to maintain the meaning of the idiom in a different context. The Linguistic Amplification and Compensation techniques were each used once, indicating that in some cases, translators need to add linguistic elements or replace elements that are lost in translation.

Overall, Analysis of 40 data points in Lucifer Season 1 reveals that figures of speech and slang are the most dominant idiom types, with 24 and 15 instances respectively. In translation, the techniques of adaptation and modulation are most frequently employed, 12 and 11 times respectively, to preserve the meaning and nuances of idioms in accordance with the target language's cultural context.

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