THE IDIOMATIC TRANSLATION OF MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE LYRICS ON THE BLACK PARADE

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By:

ALI AMRULLAH

Reg. Number: 50540438

THE STATE INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES

(IAIN) SYEKH NURJATI

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ABSTRACT

ALI AMRULLAH : THE IDIOMATIC TRANSLATION OF MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE LYRICS ON THE BLACK PARADE

Learning English for Indonesian is learning two languages, English and *Bahasa Indonesia*. It is difficult to understand English without knowing the meaning of the text in *Bahasa Indonesia*. Therefore, translation skills are a basic part of language learning due to the fact that these make it easy to understand both languages. The idiomatic translation is the translation which purposes to communicate the meaning of the source language text into the natural forms of the receptor language. The goal of idiomatic translation is not to translate what the SL author wrote but what he or she meant. One of uncommon translations in the world of education is to translate lyrics of a concept album. This fact made the writer to find out the problem in translating the lyrics idiomatically.

This research was aimed to find out ways in translating song lyrics, a concept album, and the idiomatic translation of My Chemical Romance lyrics on The Black Parade. The use of this research could give reviews related to translation theory and practice and also remind people to translate idiomatically. The research was one of the kinds in analytical research, which used library research methods to find out primary and secondary data.

In translating song lyrics, Music-linked translation (MLT) is the best method to use by some singers and bands, especially when the songs are performed in a stage. On the other hand, the lyrics can be actually translated into narrative stories or into stanzas without using MLT because the important thing in translation is the transference of the meaning from the source language into the target language.

The Black Parade is the third studio album of My Chemical Romance. It is regarded as a concept album. There is no translation of these lyrics in the world. The writer finally translated The Black Parade in the form of stanzas before analyzing its story. The translation of The Black Parade was idiomatically done by using some methods, strategies and techniques though there was a lot of cultural language which was hard to translate into *Bahasa Indonesia.*

PREFACE

Alhamdulillah the writer always gives to God having been giving and will always provide his blessing so that the writer can end up his thesis entitled **THE IDIOMATIC TRANSLATION OF MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE LYRICS ON THE BLACK PARADE.**

This thesis is written to fulfill one of the requirements to gain Islamic Scholar in the department of English education (S.Pd.I) in the Education Faculty of the State Institute for Islamic Studies (IAIN) *Syekh Nurjati Cirebon*.

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The Writer

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Problem

Translation is basically regarded as a process and a result of transferring one language into another, which is aimed to reproduce the closest equivalents from the source language into the target language. This argument has been very familiar as Nida, American pioneer in development of theory and practice of Bible translation (Weissbort and Eysteinsson,2006:346), and Taber (1969:12) defines, "Translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source-language message, first in term of meaning and secondly in term of style."

Following their translation definition, it should be noted that translation is the activity of replacing the source language message into the closest natural equivalent of the target language.Therefore, the message, all factual information contained in the original text, is the most important thing that translators have to re-express into the target language. Hoed (2007:35) explores the importance of transferring the message in translation by concluding:

> It is clear that the point is the message. Therefore, the translator should not ask, "What is the translation?" or "How to translate it?" The question, which the translator should answer is, "How do I express the message of the source texts into the target texts?" (My translation)

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In addition, Larson, as quoted by Choliludin (2007:30), elaborates that when translating a text, the translator's goal is an idiomatic translation which makes every effort to communicate the meaning of the source language text into the natural forms of the receptor language. Additionally, Landers (2001:55) states, "The goal is not to translate what the SL author wrote but what he or she meant, and thought-by-thought is usually the superior vehicle for accomplishing this."

To do so, literal translation, which it is similar to word-for-word of Newmark' type of translation, is not commonly worth using in translation. Robinson (1998:127) explains that literal translation is ideally the segmentation of the source language text into individual words and target language rendering of those word-segments one at a time. He then continues stating this ideal is literally impossible and, even literally possible, the result is often unreadable.

In accordance with Robinson's view, therefore, translation should not be literal. In other words, it can be simplified that whatever the texts which will be translated, translation must be in the form of an idiomatic translation which transfers the source language meaning into the natural equivalent of the target language.

However, reproducing the source language (SL) message into the closest natural equivalent of the target language (TL) is not so easy task that translators should be aware of analyzing it in order to be idiomatically translated into the target language. There are some processes to do as analyzing the SL, transferring and restructuring it into the TL.

For instance, to translate I was *going out in the rain* will be difficult for Indonesian because the phrase can be rendered *saya kehujanan* or *Saya hujan-hujanan* (Baker, 1992:22). Another example is given by Hariyanto (2003) such the phrase as *menggodog teh* can be literally translated into *boiling water for tea*. However, it is not a natural equivalent in English which should be idiomatically translated into *preparing for tea*. Therefore, to translate is not just replacing one language into another without knowing how to express it as naturally as possible into the target language.

In doing the research, I make use of My Chemical Romance's lyrics on The Black Parade as samples to be idiomatically translated. The reason to take the lyrics of their album is that they are one of the rising bands in the world of music nowadays. They are nominated in some awards such as MTV music award, NME award, American Music Award and many more.

Furthermore, The Black Parade is regarded as a concept album, which is not the same as a common album released in the world of music recording. Although their previous album, *I Brought You My Bullets, You Brought Me Your Love and Three Cheers for Sweet Revenge*, is also admitted to be a concept album, The Black Parade story consists of a real world, where there is no other vampires as having been given in the previous albums.

In addition, translating song lyrics or any other texts should be related to a skopos (Vermeer, 2000). Restating Vermeer's, Schaffner (1998:235) affirms that

translation is a kind of human actions; therefore it has its own purpose. Following skopos theory, Low (2005:187) states:

> "Song-translating is significantly different from interlingual translating (e.g. poetry translation). This is particularly true of the devising of singable translations: here the TT—the verbal message in the new code—is intended specifically to be transmitted simultaneously with the very same non-verbal code that accompanied the ST."

Low suggests that the singable translation is only used if the purpose of song lyrics' translation is to be performed in a stage.

In relation to singable translations, Low, cited by Malmkjaer (2005), points out that songs are translated for a number of different purposes, for each of which a different kind of translation is appropriate. For a performer's crib, a translation has to provide all relevant information about phenomena mentioned in the original so that the singer can understand fully what the song is about, and perform accordingly.

Besides, another term for singable translation is given by Golomb (2005:121-122). He labels it as Music-Linked Translation (MLT). According to Golomb's view Music-Linked Translaiton (MLT) is not standard translation because the lyrics, words of a song, should be linked or synchronized to the music of the original song. This is truly demanding for the translators due to the fact that they have to sacrifice sound for sense, accuracy for elegance, fidelity to a source language for communication with a target audience.

Nevertheless, the question which may arise is whether or not MLT or singable translation is proper to translate lyrics in The Black Parade, which is argued to be a concept album. If MLT is appropriate method to translate The Black Parade, the information in the original texts should be clearly and naturally transferred into the target language due to the complex narration between songs in that album. Nonetheless, for some purposes song lyrics can be translated not only into songs but also into any kind of texts. After all Vermeer (2000:232) illustrates :

> "An epic is usually defined as a long narrative poem telling of heroic deeds. But Homer's *Odyssey* has also been translated into a novel: its text variety has thus changed from epic to novel, because of a particular skopos."

Therefore, whatever the song-translating becomes, with or without MLT, it should provide a natural and idiomatic equivalent of the target language.

B. The Identification of the Problem

To identify this research problem, the writer provide these following identification:

1. The field of the research is Translation and Interpreting

2. The main problem in this research is how to translate lyrics of My Chemical Romance idiomatically.

C. The Limitation of the Problem

In the world of translation, there are many text types which can be translated. According to Salmon and Kovarsky, outlined by Kuhiwczak (2002: 118) there are three types of the texts and their translatability:

1. Highly specific texts

   Main characteristics of this text are to contain importance of information, high proportion of specialized lexical items and conventional form and expression. This text is possible to teach and learn by means of extensive practice.

2. Literary texts

   There are two types of literary texts:

   a. Literary texts written in literary language and

   b. Literary texts written in the 'language of literature'.

   Main characteristics of the first type are to contain some of information that needs to be conveyed, little or no specialized lexical items, high degree of conventional form and expression (imitation and intertextuality). This type is difficult to be taught and learned but not impossible.

   On the other hand, the main characteristics of the second type are to contain complex styles and based on the linguistic invention. This type is impossible to teach because each time a new approach to translation of the text is required.

3. Hybrid texts (combination of A and B)

   This text is difficult to teach and learn.

In relation to those text types, My Chemical Romance's lyrics on The Black Parade are chosen. These texts may be categorized in the first type of literary texts that some information should be conveyed.

To translate those lyrics, as having been explored, the idiomatic translation, which transfers the meaning or the message of the SL into the TL, is chosen in order to find the closest natural equivalence which includes all factual information of the SL.

D. The Questions of the Research

In this research I propose these questions:

a. How to translate lyrics?

b. What is the idiomatic translation of My Chemical Romance's lyrics on The Black Parade?

c. What does The Black Parade tell?

E. The Aims of the Research

This research has some aims, which include:

1. To find out some methods in translating lyrics

2. To find out the idiomatic translation of My Chemical Romance's lyrics on The Black Parade

3. To find out the story of The Black Parade.

F. The Uses of the Research

There are many advantages of this research, some of them are:

1. To give some reviews related to translation theory and practice

2. To give some options for learners and even teachers in translating a useful text.

3. To show that there are many types of texts, which can be learned for improving English, including song lyrics.

4. To remind all readers not to translate literally but idiomatically.

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