

# A Contrastive Analysis between English Idioms and Their Indonesian Equivalents in the Book *Tintin in America* by Herge (1932)

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## ABSTRACT

*This study focuses on employing a descriptive and qualitative research approach. The objective of this research is to discern similarities, differences, predictions of translating problems based on similarities and differences between English Idioms and their Indonesian equivalents. The analysis focuses on the book *Tintin in America* by Herge (1932). The results indicated the presence of 55 English idioms which consisted of 22 verbal idioms, 12 informal idioms, 5 idioms containing special keywords, 4 idioms related to specific themes, and 12 idiomatic pairs. Regarding the similarities and differences, within the Verbal Idiom category, researchers observed that there was 0 similarity between the 55 English Idioms and their Indonesian counterparts, and there were 55 differences between the 55 English Idioms and their Indonesian counterparts. Based on the differences, Indonesian learners may face problems when translating informal idioms, idioms containing special keywords, idioms related to specific themes, and idiomatic pairs. Within informal idioms, the Indonesian learners may make a mistake by translating, for example, *It looks pretty phoney to me* into *\*Bagi saya itu terlihat sangat palsu*, instead of the better one *Mencurigakan sekali*. This is because the English expression is idiomatic, while its Indonesian equivalent is non-idiomatic. A word-by-word or literal translation is probably made due to the difference. The case may also happen when the Indonesian learners are translating idioms containing special keywords, idioms related to specific themes, and idiomatic pairs, for example: the English expression *Good gracious!* into the Indonesian equivalent *\*Baik hati*, instead of the better one *Astaga!*; the English expression *Glad to be back on my feet again* into the Indonesian equivalent *\*Senang bisa kembali dengan kaki saya lagi*, instead or the better one *Senang sudah bisa jalan lagi*; and the English expression *The whole bunch of cut-throats* into the Indonesian equivalent *\*Sejumlah pemotong tenggorokan*, instead of the better one *Semua bandit yang ada disini**

## KEYWORDS

*contrastive analysis; english idiom; indonesian equivalent; tintin in america*

## INTRODUCTION

The translation process involves substituting written content from one language (SL) with corresponding written content from another (TL). The goal of translation is to accurately convey the meaning and nuances of the original text in the target language while preserving its stylistic and structural integrity. Humans possess exceptional communication abilities, allowing them to share knowledge, viewpoints, convictions, desires, emotions, and more

effectively (Sari, D. N., & Jumanto, J, 2018). Additionally, people collectively experience happiness and amusement, often expressed through laughter, and they can convey feelings. Language functions as a structured communication system comprising sounds, words, and grammar, and it forms the basis for various telecommunication systems used by specific countries or groups. Language is pivotal in human existence, as it serves as the cornerstone for interpersonal communication. Contrastive Analysis is portrayed as a bridge between linguistic theory and language teaching practice. It helps us understand the complexities of language learning and guides the development of instructional materials that cater to common people's specific needs.

According to Selinker (1969), Idioms are an integral part of language, offering unique expressions and insights into a particular society's cultural and linguistic nuances. Idioms are the colorful feathers in the linguistic plumage of any language. They not only add vibrancy and richness to our speech but also reflect society's cultural and historical nuances. According to (O'Dell & McCarthy, 2010), Translating idiomatic expressions poses significant challenges due to their symbolic nature and culture-specific meanings. In the context of literary works, idioms add depth and richness to the narrative, often capturing the essence of a character or situation. Idioms can be defined, according to (Soanes, C., & Stevenson, A. (Eds.), 2004), as Idioms are windows into the cultural soul of a language. They encapsulate a community's collective wisdom, humor, and creativity and provide insight into its values and worldview. In this study, we aim to compare English Idiom in *The Adventures of Tintin: Tintin In America* and their Indonesian Equivalent. By examining the translations of these idioms, we seek to explore the similarities, differences, and adaptations made during the transfer of idiomatic language between English and Indonesian. In translation, the meaning that is being transferred must be constant. Only the forms change, according from (Larson, M. L, 1984)

*The Adventures of Tintin: Tintin in America* is a renowned comic book written and illustrated by Belgian cartoonist Hergé. It follows the intrepid young reporter Tintin as he embarks on a thrilling adventure in America, encountering various challenges, engaging in suspenseful situations, and interacting with multiple characters. Throughout the story, Hergé skillfully weaves idiomatic expressions into the dialogues and narratives, adding depth and authenticity to the character's speech and the overall storytelling. As mentioned by (Schäffner, C, 2004), Idioms are like puzzles that reveal the cultural, historical, and social aspects of a language. They provide unique insights into the mindset and values of a community. English idiomatic expressions are known for their cultural specificity and ability to encapsulate complex meanings concisely.

However, when these idioms are translated into another language, such as Indonesian, their direct equivalence may only sometimes exist. Indonesian learner's face the daunting task of capturing the essence and intended meaning of the idioms while adapting them to the target language's cultural and linguistic context. This requires a deep understanding of both the source and target languages and the cultural nuances embedded within idiomatic language. According to Aji, R. D. P. S., Perdana, D. D., Mustikasari, D., & Asmarani, R. (2022), language is part of the culture too. So, the relation between language and culture is subordinative, where the language is located under the culture area. But there is another opinion, which is that language and culture have a coordinative relation.

Meanwhile, Pompei, A (2011) said that relative clauses are bound clauses that function as adjectives; they modify nouns or pronouns. Where the purpose of the theory is a relative clause can also be known as an adjective clause. A clause is a component of a sentence (complex), with its predicate and characteristics, especially in working with nouns, adjectives, or adverbs, according to Munthe, E. R. O. G., Marbun, N., Torong, S., &

Sitanggang, A (2022).

This study aims to conduct a contrastive analysis between English Idiom used in *The Adventures of Tintin: Tintin in America* and their Indonesian counterparts. We aim to identify the English idiomatic expressions in the original text and examine their corresponding translations in the Indonesian version of the book. By comparing the idioms and their equivalents, we seek to uncover any cultural and linguistic variations, adaptations, or modifications made during translation.

Contrastive Analysis is a branch of linguistics that works by comparing two or more languages to identify their differences and commonalities; according to Fisiak, J. (Ed.). (1981) and Johnson, K (2001) states, However, Lado's *Linguistics Across Cultures* provided the theoretical underpinnings for what came to be known as the Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis. According to Lado, R. (1957), the aspects of this book that are similar to ordinary people will be easy for him, while the different elements will be challenging. To do this, the languages must be described and compared, and learning challenges must be anticipated.

This analysis will shed light on the challenges Indonesian learner's face when dealing with idiomatic expressions, particularly in the context of literary works. It will provide insights into the strategies employed to bridge the gap between the source and target languages while maintaining the essence and cultural relevance of the idioms. Additionally, the study will contribute to a deeper understanding of the cultural and linguistic nuances embedded within idiomatic language and their significance in intercultural communication.

This study uses Whitman's idea of comparing languages to explore how English and Indonesian idioms are similar and different. According to Whitman in his book *Contrastive Analysis: Problems and Procedures* (2006), there are five steps for the systematic comparison and contrast of two languages, i.e. (1) Selection, (2) Description, (3) Comparison, (4) Prediction, (5) Verification. According to (Whitman, R., L. & Jackson, K., L., 2006) of this Contrastive Analysis research, the discussion shows the step-by-step techniques of contrastive analysis between English Idiom and their Indonesian translations found in the comic book *Tintin in America 1932*.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

### ***Data and Subject***

This research is categorized as qualitative research. Qualitative research delves into understanding ideas, sentiments, or experiences by collecting and assessing non-numerical information, such as textual data. Qualitative descriptors are utilized to classify the conversations between Tintin and Snowy and facilitate the researcher's interpretation and discussion of the study. The study draws upon a contrastive analysis, explicitly focusing on idiomatic strategies extracted from the 1932 Tintin comic. The researcher examined the idiomatic expressions in Tintin and Snowy's dialogues, which involved studying the comic's expressions as research subjects. To achieve this, qualitative research methods must be applied, particularly the Contrastive Analysis and Error Analysis as outlined (Whitman, R., L. & Jackson, K., L., 2006).

To organize spoken or written expressions according to the specific types of idioms they contain, the utilization of (Seidl, Jennifer and McMordie, W., 1978) becomes instrumental. Applying this theory facilitates a comprehensive understanding of idioms nuanced and diverse manifestations, enhancing our ability to interpret and analyze linguistic expressions with a heightened awareness of their idiomatic nuances.

### **Unit of Analysis**

In this study, the researcher conducted a contrastive analysis between English Idiom and their Indonesian translations in *The Adventures of Tintin: Tintin in America*. The analysis focuses on dialogues between conversations in this book by examining words, phrases, clauses, and sentences to understand the idiomatic expressions used in the Tintin comic books by using Cambridge Dictionary (2024) to validating the definitions of lexical units and expressions, encompassing both standard terminologies and idiomatic constructs.

### **Data Collection and Data Analysis**

The process of collecting data begins with searching for the book "Tintin in America" on Google Books, accessing both the English and Indonesian versions to comprehend the story fully. Next, a specific phrase containing an English idiom is sought within the text, followed by locating its Indonesian equivalent. Subsequently, an analysis commences, describing the identified phrases and their Indonesian counterparts using Whitman's theory. This analysis aims to predict translation problems arising from differences between English idioms and their Indonesian equivalents in "The Adventures of Tintin: Tintin in America" (1932). Finally, the data analysis concludes with a study summary.

The process of analyse data start with a detailed description of the selected phrase that is to be analyzed within the context of the comic book. Subsequently, attention shifts towards identifying a character expression within the comic book containing an English idiom, which will serve as the basis for comparison utilizing Whitman's theoretical framework from 2006. Once this phrase is pinpointed, efforts are directed towards finding its equivalent or counterpart in the target language, facilitating a thorough comparison between the two linguistic versions. Finally, predictions are made regarding potential translation challenges and discrepancies arising from the identified differences between the English idiom and its counterpart in the target language, followed by rigorous data verification through further analysis and examination.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The results of this contrastive analysis research can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Similarities and differences between English idioms and their Indonesian equivalents in the Book *Tintin in America* by Herge (1932) within their Idiom Types

No.	Types of Idioms	Similarities	Differences	Number of Idioms
1	Verbal Idiom	0	22	22
2	Informal Idiom	0	12	12
3	Idioms Containing Special Keywords	0	5	5
4	Idioms Related to Special Themes	0	4	4
TOTAL			12	12
		0	55	55

Table 1 shows that there were 55 idiom words along with their idiom types. Verbal Idioms consisted of 22 idioms out of 55 idioms. 12 Idioms out 55 were English Informal Idioms. Meanwhile, the idioms containing special keywords consisted of 5 idioms out of 55. In the type of idioms related to special themes, there were 4 out of 55 idioms. There were no similarities between English and Indonesian idioms, or in other words, all 55 English showed differences from their Indonesian equivalents. The use of expressions and language patterns varies, with no recurring idiomatic phrases or consistent language themes throughout the narrative. And we use Cambridge Dictionary (2024) to verify definitions of words and

phrases. Idiomatic expressions were also labelled as idiomatic with notes indicating that they were idiomatic.

Based on the five methods of contrastive analysis, the data showed no similarities between English Idiom and their Indonesian Equivalent in *The Adventures of Tintin: Tintin in America*.

On the five methods of contrastive analysis, the data revealed 55 differences between English Idiom and their Indonesian Equivalent in *The Adventures of Tintin: Tintin in America*. This data shows that 55 of the data taken from this comic show predictions of mistakes ordinary people, especially Indonesian speakers, make when translating idiom phrases in this comic. This analysis not only unveils the prevalence of potential errors but also provides insights into the specific nature of these linguistic challenges, shedding light on the intricacies involved in translating idiomatic phrases within the context of the comic. Further discussions are carried out below.

### Verbal Idioms

**Table 2.** English and Indonesian Verbal Idiom

English Idiom	Indonesian Equivalent	Note
<p><b>Dead right!</b></p>	<p><b>Tepat sekali!</b></p>	<p>(1) Different</p> <p>(2) English is idiomatic; Indonesia is non-idiomatic</p> <p>(3) English Idiom <i>Dead Right!</i> = Indonesian Equivalent <i>Tepat sekali!</i></p>

The English idiom *Dead right* and the Indonesian expression *Tepat sekali* differ in their core concept. This English means that the person referred to is entirely correct in what they have said. It is a way of expressing strong agreement and confidence in the accuracy of the statement. Meanwhile, *Tepat sekali* in Indonesian translates to “Exactly” right in English, conveying the same notion that something is very accurate or precise.

### Informal Idioms



**Table 3.** English and Indonesian Informal Idiom

English Idiom	Indonesian Equivalent	Note
<p><b>It looks pretty phoney to me</b></p>	<p><b>Mencurigakan Sekali</b></p>	<p>(1) Different</p> <p>(2) English is idiomatic; Indonesia is non-idiomatic</p> <p>(3) English Idiom: It looks pretty phoney to me=Indonesian Equivalent: <i>Mencurigakan sekali</i></p>

The English idiom *It looks pretty phoney to me* and the Indonesian expression *Mencurigakan sekali*. share a difference in their core concept, it looks pretty phoney to me in English means that something appears to be fake, not genuine, or lacking authenticity in the opinion of the speaker. They are expressing doubt or scepticism about the truth or legitimacy of the situation or object in question. Meanwhile, *Mencurigakan sekali!* in Indonesian translates to *Very suspicious!* in English. Like the English expression, it conveys a strong sense of doubt or scepticism about the situation or object in question.

### Idiom Containing Special Keywords



**Table 4.** English and Indonesian Idiom Containing Special Keyword

English Idiom	Indonesian Equivalent	Note
<p>Good gracious!</p> 	<p>Astaga!</p> 	<p>(1) Different                      (2) English is idiomatic; Indonesia is non-idiomatic                      (3) English Idiom:                      (4) <i>Good gracious!</i>                      (5) =Indonesian Equivalent: <i>Astaga!</i></p>

The English idiom *Good gracious!* and the Indonesian expression *Astaga!* share a different idea in that they both serve as exclamations of surprise or astonishment. *Good gracious!* in English is used to express mild surprise, astonishment, or disbelief. Both idioms and equivalents are used to convey a reaction to something unexpected, shocking, or remarkable. While the specific wording and language are different, the underlying message and intent are very difference in both idioms. They are both exclamatory expressions used to convey a sense of surprise or astonishment.

### Idioms Related with Special Themes


**Table 5.** English and Indonesian Idiom Related with Special Themes

English Idiom	Indonesian Equivalent	Note
<p>Glad to be back on my feet again.</p> 	<p>Senang sudah bisa jalan lagi.</p> 	<p>(1) Different.                      (2) English is idiomatic; Indonesia is non-idiomatic                      (3) English Idiom: <i>Glad to be back on my feet again.</i> =Indonesian Equivalent: <i>Senang sudah bisa jalan lagi.</i></p>

The English idiom *Glad to be back on my feet again* and its Indonesian equivalent *Senang sudah bisa jalan lagi* share a different concept. *Glad to be back on my feet again* in English conveys a sense of happiness and relief at having recovered from a challenging situation, whether it is physical, emotional, or situational. It implies a return to a more stable and functional state. Meanwhile, *Senang sudah bisa jalan lagi* in Indonesian translates to *Happy to be able to walk again* in English. This phrase carries the same sentiment of expressing joy at regaining a lost ability, in this case, the ability to walk.

### Idiomatic Pairs

**Table 6.** English and Indonesian Idiomatic Pair

English Idiom	Indonesian Equivalent	Note
<p>The whole bunch of cut-throats.</p> 	<p>Semua bandit yang ada disini.</p> 	<p>(1) Different.            (2) English is idiomatic; Indonesia is non-idiomatic            (3) English Idiom: <i>The whole bunch of cut-throats</i>. = Indonesian Equivalent: Semua bandit yang ada disini.</p>

*The whole bunch of cut-throats* in English Idiom implies a group of people characterized as ruthless, dishonest, or dangerous. The term *cut-throats* emphasize their deceitful and potentially violent nature. *Semua bandit yang ada disini* directly translates to All the bandits here in English. The Indonesian phrase is more straightforward, indicating a group of individuals identified as bandits, suggesting criminal or deceitful behavior. While both words refer to a group of untrustworthy individuals, the English idiom *cut-throats* carries a more vivid, figurative language emphasizing their cruelty. In contrast, the Indonesian phrase *Semua bandit yang ada disini* directly identifies them as bandits without the figurative language. The choice of words in each language conveys a similar idea but differ with distinct nuances in expression.

The several data have differences between English Idiom and their Indonesian Equivalent. from 55 data of the different English Idiom words, it was found that the differences can be seen from the placement of the literal translation, spelling, connotation, denotation and the meaning of the word: some of the same idioms are borrowed terms from the English Idiom terms (SL) to the Indonesian equivalent (TL) which are commonly used words in Indonesian.

### CONCLUSION

As highlighted in the first chapter, this research centered on contrasting the analysis of idioms utilized in the translated character dialogues within the comic book *Tintin in America*. This study aimed to achieve several objectives: identifying similarities, differences, and predictions that Indonesian learners may face idioms that are employed in *Tintin in America*. Based on the analysis results, 55 pieces of data were collected. Five types of idioms

are used: Verbal Idioms, Informal Idioms, Idioms Containing Special Keywords, Idioms Related to Special Themes, and Idiom Pairs.

The results showed the presence of 22 verbal idioms, 12 informal idioms, 5 idioms containing special keywords, 4 idioms related to specific themes, and 12 idiomatic pairs. Regarding differences, within the Verbal Idiom category, researchers observed that 0 out of 22 English Idioms are no similarities to their Indonesian counterparts, while the 22 idioms are different. Based on the differences, Indonesian learners may face problems when translating informal idioms, idioms containing special keywords, idioms related to specific themes, and idiomatic pairs. This is because the English idiom is idiomatic, while the Indonesian equivalent is non-idiomatic. A word-by-word or literal translation is made due to the difference.

In this contrastive analysis between English idioms and their Indonesian equivalents, there were 55 English idioms and their Indonesian equivalents, which consisted of 22 verbal idioms, 12 informal idioms, 5 idioms containing special keywords, 4 idioms related to specific themes, and 12 idiomatic pairs. Regarding similarities and differences, within the Verbal Idiom category, researchers observed that there was 0 similarity between the 55 English Idioms and their Indonesian counterparts, and there were 55 differences between the 55 English Idioms and their Indonesian counterparts. Based on the differences, Indonesian learners may face problems when translating informal idioms, idioms containing special keywords, idioms related to specific themes, and idiomatic pairs. Within the informal idioms, Indonesian learners may make a mistake by translating, for example, *It looks pretty phoney to me* into *\*Bagi saya itu terlihat sangat palsu*, instead of the better one *Mencurigakan sekali*. This is because the English idiom is idiomatic, while the Indonesian equivalent is non-idiomatic. A word-by-word or literal translation is probably made due to the difference. The case may also happen when Indonesian learners translating the idioms containing special keywords, idioms related to specific themes, and the idiomatic pairs, for example: English *Good gracious!* into Indonesian *\*Baik hati*, instead of the better one *Astaga!*; English *Glad to be back on my feet again* into Indonesian

*\*Senang bisa kembali dengan kaki saya lagi*, instead of the better one *Senang sudah bisa jalan lagi*; and English *The whole bunch of cut-throats* into Indonesian *\*Sejumlah pemotong tenggorokan*, instead of the better one *Semua bandit yang ada disini*. Indonesian learners should be careful with these differences in idiom translations due to the nature that English idioms are idiomatic, thus having non-literal or figurative meaning that cannot be just translated into Indonesian literally or through word-by-word translations.

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