"May the Odds Be Ever in Your Favour": Translating English Idioms in *The Hunger Games* into Thai [*]

Pichsinee Sopanpanichkul[**]

Siriporn Lerdpaisalwong[***]

Intira Bumrungsalee[****]

Research Article

Abstract

Keywords

idiom;

types of idioms;

translation strategies;

The Hunger Games

Idioms are one of the most challenging aspects in translation due to linguistic and cultural differences between the source language and the target language. Translators use several strategies when dealing with various types of idioms within one text. Therefore, the objective of this research is to find out the types of English idioms found in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* (2011) and translation strategies used to translate these English idioms into Thai including their potential relationship which is rarely studied. A total of 188 data collected from the English novel were categorized into idiom types (Seidl & McMordie, 1988) and their Thai translations by Nara Supakroj were analyzed to identify the most frequently used strategies, based on Baker's framework (2011). The analysis showed that all 8 types of idioms by Seidl & McMordie (1988) were found in the novel, which are: key words with idiomatic uses, idioms with nouns and adjectives, idiomatic pairs, idiom with prepositions, phrasal verbs, verbal idiom, idioms with keywords from special categories, and idioms of comparison. Verbal idioms were the most prevalent, with 89 tokens (45.18%). Regarding idiom translation strategies, 5 out of 6 idiom translation strategies listed by Baker (2011) were found with translation by paraphrase being the most frequently,

---

[**] Master's degree Student, English for International Communication Program, Department of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Humanities, Kasetsart University, e-mail: pichsinee.sop@ku.th

[***] Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Humanities, Kasetsart University, e-mail: siriporn.l@ku.th

[****] Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Humanities, Kasetsart University, e-mail: intira.b@ku.th

used, accounting for 142 idioms (72.08%), while omission with a play on idiom was not found in the data collected. Its easy accessibility to the idiom's meaning tends to be one of the reasons for using translation by paraphrase, making it useful in conveying appropriate meanings in each context especially when there is no equivalent idiom in the target language, or the idiom has multiple meanings.

"ขอให้โชคเข้าข้างคุณตลอดเกม": การแปลสำนวนภาษาอังกฤษใน *The Hunger Games* เป็นภาษาไทย*

พิชญ์สินี โสพรรณพนิชกุล**

ศิริพร เลิศไพศาลวงศ์***

อินทิรา บำรุงสาลี****

การแปลสำนวนเป็นความท้าทายอย่างหนึ่งในการแปลอันเนื่องมาจากความแตกต่างทางภาษาและวัฒนธรรมระหว่างภาษาต้นทางกับปลายทาง ผู้แปลจึงมีการใช้กลวิธีการแปลสำนวนที่หลากหลายในการแปลต้นฉบับหนึ่งๆ ดังนั้น วัตถุประสงค์ของการวิจัยนี้ คือ เพื่อหาประเภทของสำนวนภาษาอังกฤษในนวนิยายเรื่อง *The Hunger Games* (2011) ของซูซาน คอลลินส์ และกลวิธีการแปลสำนวนภาษาอังกฤษดังกล่าวเป็นภาษาไทย พร้อมทั้งความสัมพันธ์ของทั้งสองซึ่งยังได้รับการศึกษาไม่มากนัก ข้อมูลทั้งหมด 188 ข้อมูลที่รวบรวมจากนวนิยายฉบับภาษาอังกฤษได้รับการจัดประเภทของสำนวนตามทฤษฎีของเซดล์และแมคมอร์ดี้ (Seidl & McMordie, 1988) และคำแปลภาษาไทยโดยนรา สุภัคโรจน์ ได้รับการวิเคราะห์เพื่อระบุกลวิธีการแปลที่ใช้บ่อยที่สุดตามทฤษฎีของเบเกอร์ (Baker, 2011) ผลการวิเคราะห์ปรากฏว่าพบประเภทของสำนวนทั้ง 8 ของเซดล์และแมคมอร์ดี้ (Seidl & McMordie, 1988) ได้แก่ สำนวนที่ประกอบด้วยคำสำคัญชนิดต่างๆ สำนวนที่มีคำนามและคำคุณศัพท์ สำนวนที่ใช้คำเป็นคู่ สำนวนที่ขึ้นต้นด้วยคำบุพบท สำนวนกริยาวลี สำนวนกริยา สำนวนที่มีคำสำคัญในหมวดหมู่เฉพาะเรื่องและสำนวนที่ใช้การเปรียบเทียบ ในนวนิยายเรื่องนี้พบสำนวนกริยา (Verbal idioms) มากที่สุดถึง 89 สำนวน (ร้อยละ 45.18) ส่วนกลวิธีการแปลสำนวนได้มีการใช้

236

วารสารมนุษยศาสตร์วิชาการ ปีที่ 32 ฉบับที่ 1 (มกราคม-มิถุนายน 2568)
Journal of Studies in the Field of Humanities Vol.32 No.1 (January-June 2025)

5 ใน 6 กลวิธีการแปลสำนวนของเบเกอร์ (Baker, 2011) โดยใช้กลวิธีการแปลแบบถอดความ (Translation by paraphrase) บ่อยที่สุดถึง 142 สำนวน (ร้อยละ 72.08) ในขณะที่ไม่พบการใช้กลวิธีการแปลแบบละการเล่นสำนวน (Omission of a play on idiom) ในข้อมูลที่รวบรวมมา มีความเป็นไปได้ว่าจะมาจากการที่กลวิธีการแปลแบบถอดความเข้าถึงความหมายของสำนวนได้ง่าย ทำให้เป็นประโยชน์ต่อการสื่อความหมายให้เหมาะสมกับแต่ละบริบท โดยเฉพาะอย่างยิ่ง ในกรณีที่ไม่มีสำนวนเทียบเคียงในภาษาปลายทางหรือสำนวนหนึ่งมีหลายความหมาย

1. Introduction

Translation has been studied over the past two decades, leading to ongoing developments in theories and methods including translation strategies. Translation strategies have often been examined to determine whether they are frequently used or considered good. According to Hassan (2014, p. 2), *"a good translation is one that carries all the ideas of the original as well as its structural and cultural features."* Based on this statement, a good translation can be determined by not only translators, but also recipients of the translated media. As such, they can help improve it to reach that state of quality. As per Drugan (2013), a translation of a product can be improved by online feedback or unofficial translations from users themselves. Improved feedback can reflect its quality, in other words, how good a translation is. To achieve that good translation, good translation strategies play a pivotal role. Good translation strategies can be validated by the frequency with which each strategy appears in one media. Thus, it is interesting to examine what translation strategies are used to get that result.

Baker (2011) categorizes translation strategies according to different types of equivalence and non-equivalence at and above word level. Building on this foundation, the present research focuses specifically on translation strategies for dealing with linguistic units above word level, such as idiomatic expressions. Among various linguistic units, translating idioms poses a particular challenge. Longman Idioms Dictionary (1998) defines the idiom as *"a sequence of words which has a different meaning as a group from the meaning it would have if you understand each word separately."* Because the meaning of the idiom cannot be inferred from the individual word, complications in translation may occur. Idioms not only cannot be translated word-for-word, but they also reflect the culture of each language. It requires specific knowledge of that language to be able to translate them properly. Idioms of both languages, the source language (SL) and the target language (TL), may not have equivalent substitutes. Some SL idioms are not well-known to TL users and may not have equivalent expressions in the TL. Translators may find them difficult to translate and the translated ones may cause TL users to not fully grasp what these idioms mean. For instance, the idiom *look a little green*, meaning "to look pale and ill." Translating directly into Thai as "to have a green face" could be misunderstood by readers as "to have bruises on the face" or "to be very angry." On the other hand, some SL idioms share similar meanings with certain TL idioms, which allow TL users to immediately understand what translators are trying to convey, such as *skin and bones* and *solid as a rock*. Identifying which methods are often used to deal with these challenges may be useful to translators and students of translation, especially in translating modern popular fiction. One of the remarkable dystopian fictions in modern days that immediately comes to mind is none other than *The Hunger Games* (2008), a novel which was commercially successful in its source-language version as well as its translation. Therefore, this study aims to examine Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* to find out what strategies were used in translating idioms and which strategies were most used within each type of idiom.

238

วารสารมนุษยศาสตร์วิชาการ ปีที่ 32 ฉบับที่ 1 (มกราคม-มิถุนายน 2568)
Journal of Studies in the Field of Humanities Vol.32 No.1 (January-June 2025)

The Hunger Games is a young adult dystopian fiction which won Cybils Award for Fantasy & Science Fiction - Young Adult in 2008, Hal Clement Award in 2009, Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award in 2010, and California Young Reader Medal: Young Adult in 2011 and remained on The New York Times best-seller list for more than five consecutive years (Alter, 2019). Due to its popularity, it was translated worldwide, including in Thailand. It was first translated to Thai in 2009 by Nathan; however, it received criticism regarding the amount of mistranslation found in the translation, for example, mistranslating "game" as "เกม" instead of "เนื้อ" in the sentence "*Game was game after all, no matter who'd shot it*" (Collins, 2008, p. 52), leading to the novel being re-translated by Nara Supakroj (Ronghanam, 2014, p. 3). The revised edition became very successful and was re-printed several times. As Supakroj states in the preface of the novel, even after ten years, this translation of the novel was released again in the new format with the new book cover to celebrate the launch of the fourth novel of *The Hunger Games* trilogy, which shows that the book has remained fun and relevant to the present world (Collins, 2008, 2021). The continuous demand for Supakroj's version of the translation and the positive acceptance by the public may imply that readers are quite satisfied with its quality.

There are over a hundred idioms found in the source language of this novel. Even the famous catchphrase "May the odds be ever in your favour" is also considered to be an idiom. The idioms found in this novel are commonly used among English native speakers. As this study will show, some of them have equivalents in Thai language, which make their meanings recognizable to Thai readers. Not to mention its style of language that is moving and accessible to the target audience, young adults (Bland & Strotmann, 2014). An area of interest is how *The Hunger Games* novels have influenced real-world political movements, as evidenced by the adoption of the three-finger salute in Thailand against the 2014 military coup and its revival during the 2020-2021 pro-democracy protests (Thaiger, 2020; Cogan, 2021). This could be an example of how a widely successful translated book can initiate a political movement. Therefore, it is beneficial to study this particular translation to see what kinds of translation strategies Nara Supakroj, the translator of the novel, used to translate idioms that appeared in the English version of the novel which affected Thai readers tremendously. However, only a few Thai scholars have studied *The Hunger Games*. Ronghanam (2014), for instance, analyzed the translation of metaphors in this novel and was interested in how the translator dealt with literary imagery. Translating English idioms, which deals more directly with linguistic features and cultural differences between the language pair, in popular fiction like *The Hunger Games* into Thai is a topic yet to be explored.

Therefore, this present study is based on two research questions:

1. What are types of idioms that appeared in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*?

2. What is the most used translation strategy to translate idioms in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* from English to Thai?

2. Review of Literature

2.1 Idiom Definition

Besides idiom definition from a dictionary, O'Dell & McCarthy (2010) defined that an idiom is a combination of words that has a fixed form and the meaning that is understandable only as a unit, not as an individual. Newmark (1995) shared a similar definition. He also defined an idiom as groups of words whose meaning cannot be understood individually. So does Larson (1998). She defined idioms as "dead metaphors" or expressions that no one would think of as their primary meaning. As for Baker (2011), the meaning from idioms cannot be inferred by understanding their separate components (p. 67). In her view, the characteristics of an idiom are that the order of the words and grammatical structure cannot be changed and the words in them can neither be deleted nor added nor replaced by any other words. According to *In Other Words: A Course Book on Translation* written by Baker (2011), idioms are frozen patterns of language, similar to Larson's definition, which allow little to no variation in form and whose meanings cannot be deduced from their individual components (p. 69).

2.2 Types of Idioms

There are a few scholars who have listed types of idioms. For example, Fernando (1996, as cited in Agoes, 2016) categorized idioms into three types: pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms. Pure idioms are those that "cannot be understood by looking at the meanings of the words that make up the idiom"; semi-idioms "have one or more literal element and one with non-literal element" while the meaning of literal idioms can be interpreted from "the meaning of the parts which form them," which means they can be guessed from their individual words (Agoes, 2016, p. 12).

While Fernando (1996) focused on how an idiom's meaning is construed, others were more interested in the syntactic components in the idiom. Seidl & McMordie (1988, as cited in Indriani, 2017) proposed different types of idioms as follows:

1. Key words with idiomatic uses
    a. Adjectives and adverbs, example: *bad news travels fast, thick on the ground*
    b. Noun, example: *the baby blues*
    c. Miscellaneous, example: *all hours, how in the world*
2. Idioms with nouns and adjectives
    a. Noun phrases, example: *food for thought, a breath of fresh air*
    b. Adjectives + noun, example: *a blind date, the eternal triangle*

3. Idiomatic pairs

    a. Pairs of adjectives, example: *free and easy, short and sweet*

    b. Pair of nouns, example: *body and soul, hustle and bustle*

    c. Pair of adverbs, example: *in and out, back to front*

    d. Pair of verbs, example: *do or die*

    e. Identical pairs, example: *over and over*

4. Idiom with prepositions, example: *against the clock, in a flash*

5. Phrasal verbs, example: *break up, go on, get out, settle down, get up*

6. Verbal idiom

    a. Verb + noun, example: *throw a party*

    b. Verb + prepositional phrase, example: *keep in touch*

7. Idioms with keywords from special categories

    a. Animals, example: *a busy bee, crocodile tears*

    b. Colours, example: *a black day, the red carpet*

    c. Parts of the body, example: *work one's finger to the bone, hands off*

8. Idioms of comparison, example: *as drunk as a lord, eat like a horse*

Similarly, McCarthy & O'Dell (2002, as cited in Indriani, 2017) classified idioms based on structure of the word. However, the differences lay on their types: verb + object/complement (and/or adverbial), prepositional phrases, compounds, similes, binomials, trinomials, and whole clause and sentence. Compared to Seidl & McMordie's (1988) framework, their categorization does not include further subtypes, making it less detailed.

Only a few studies on idiom translation employed idiom classification frameworks, such as Fernando's (1996) and Seidl & McMordie's (1988). Types of idioms by Seidl & McMordie (1988) are more detailed than classification of idioms by Fernando (1996) because they are classified in structural scale. However, types of idioms based on classification of idioms by Fernando (1996) can overlap with one another because they do not have clear distinction that differentiates each type of idiom. In comparison to McCarthy & O'Dell's (2002) framework, Seidl & McMordie's (1988) provides a more detailed classification, resulting in a greater number of idiom types. Their framework offers a broader coverage and is better suited for all possible idioms found in this study.

2.3 Idiom Translation Strategies

Several scholars came up with idiom translation strategies (Nida & Taber, 1969; Newmark, 1988; Ingo, 2000; Baker, 2011). Ingo (2000) and Baker (2011) are among the most commonly used by researchers. According to *In Other Words: A Course Book on Translation* written by Baker (2011), there are six idiom translation strategies as follows (pp. 77-87):

1. Using an idiom of similar meaning and form

   It means *"using an idiom in the target language which conveys roughly the same meaning as that of the source-language idiom and, in addition, consists of equivalent lexical items"* (Baker, 2011, p. 77).

2. Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form

   It means finding *"an idiom or fixed expression in the target language which has a meaning similar to that of the source idiom or expression but consists of different lexical items"* (Baker, 2011, p. 79).

3. Borrowing the source language idiom

   This is similar to literal translation, i.e., it means borrowing idioms *"in their original form in some contexts"* (Baker, 2011, p. 80).

4. Translation by paraphrase

   "This is by far the most common way of translating idioms when a match cannot be found in the target language or when it seems inappropriate to use idiomatic language in the target text because of differences in stylistic preferences of the source and target languages" (Baker, 2011, p. 81).

5. Translation by omission of a play on idiom

   It means *"rendering only the literal meaning of an idiom in a context that allows for a concrete reading of an otherwise playful use of language"* (Baker, 2011, p. 85).

6. Translation by omission of entire idiom

   It means omitting idioms *"altogether in the target text. This may be because it has no close match in the target language, its meaning cannot be easily paraphrased, or for stylistic reasons"* (Baker, 2011, p. 86).

Ingo's framework (2000) is mainly concerned with whether the source-language idiom is maintained or whether it is lost. Strategies that preserve an idiom include "translating an idiom literally," "translating a source language idiom by a target language idiom," "translating an idiom by explaining the meaning in the target language," and "translating an idiom by a non-idiomatic expression." On the other hand, a translator may choose the strategy of "leaving out a source language idiom from the translation" or using "false friends," which are "idiomatic expressions in two languages that look like equivalents to each other, but whose meanings are completely different" (Keränen, 2006, p. 35).

Baker's strategies (2011) have been used in many previous research studies such as Agoes (2016), Indriani (2017), and Chaiyapinyowat (2017), which indicate that they are an acknowledged framework for analyzing idiom translation. Despite being more detailed, Baker's idiom translation strategies (2011) share some similarities with the ones proposed by Ingo (2000). Some strategies are similar between the two frameworks. Therefore, the idiom translation strategies by Baker (2011) together with the types of idioms by Seidl & McMordie (1988) were used in this study. A number of studies have

explored the translation of idioms from English to Thai, given Sosothikul (1983 as cited in Phakakrong, 2015) for instance. She conducted a comparative study between English and Thai idioms that share similar meanings, considering a comprehensive collection of them with analyses of what makes them similar or different. *The Hunger Games* has also been studied in the translation of its linguistic terms such as metaphors (Ronghanam, 2014) or cultural words (Natalia, 2014), however, idioms have not yet been explored. Since only a few researchers analyzed idiom translation in relation to idiom types, especially from English to Thai, this research aimed to fill that gap by finding out the types of idioms and the idiom translation strategies of idioms that appeared in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* as the results may show whether the idiom types have any relationship with the translation strategies chosen.

3. Methodology

3.1 Data Selection

This study used purposive sampling to deliberately select the specific data in the particular document, which are idioms from the English version of the novel *The Hunger Games* written by Suzanne Collins (2011) containing 442 pages and its Thai translation by Nara Supakroj in 2014 with 384 pages. The novel contains a significant number of idioms, making it a suitable text for this analysis. In addition, considering Nara Supakroj's translation is believed to be a major improvement from the original translation which it replaced, it would show which type of idiom can be found in this popular text and which strategy was used by a professional translator.

3.2 Data Collection

188 idioms from the English version of *The Hunger Games* and their Thai translations were collected and then categorized according to Seidl & McMordie's (1988) types of idioms. These idioms and their translations were then compared to classify the translation strategies used, based on Baker's (2011) six idiom translation strategies. Next, the frequency was converted into a percentage to find the most used idiom translation strategy.

The collection of idioms was based on three criteria:

1) the idioms must match the overall idiom definition as stated in the review of literature, i.e., the group of words that cannot be understood by their individual words.

2) they must have the following characteristics of idioms: fixed order and grammatical structure with indelible, non-addable, or irreplaceable words (Baker, 2011, p. 67).

243

วารสารมนุษยศาสตร์วิชาการ ปีที่ 32 ฉบับที่ 1 (มกราคม-มิถุนายน 2568)
Journal of Studies in the Field of Humanities Vol.32 No.1 (January-June 2025)

3) they must be found in at least one of these widely accepted dictionaries, namely, *Farlex Dictionary of Idioms* (2015), *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (n.d.), *Cambridge Dictionary* (n.d.), and *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* (n.d.) and classified as idioms.

In cases where the same idioms were found more than once in the data, they were treated according to either of these criteria:

1) same idioms with the same meaning, receiving the same translation, were counted as one piece of data to avoid inaccurate results due to the frequency of the same data.

2) idioms that have more than one idiomatic meaning were counted separately according to their different meanings found in the novel. Idioms with multiple translation strategies were counted separately.

3.3 Data Validity & Reliability

First, the English idioms and their Thai translations were validated by an expert in translation and concluded as valid before the reliability test was done by two translation experts to identify the level of inter-rater percent agreement on types of idioms and types of translation strategies categorized from comparison of the aforementioned data, assessing what percentage of this categorization both of them agreed on. In this research, the inter-rater percent agreement was 85.48%, which was over 70%, and thus indicated the reliability of the data, according to Stemler (2004).

3.4 Data Analysis

After being proven valid and reliable, categorized types of idioms and types of translation strategies were analyzed while recording their frequency of occurrence before calculating it into a percentage. Results were statistically presented in the form of tables in two units, idioms and percentage (%). The relationship between types of idioms and translation strategies was explored through the last table.

4. Results & Discussion

This section presents the results according to two research questions, starting with types of idioms according to Seidl & McMordie's (1988) theory and idiom translation strategies based on Baker's (2011) framework. The results are shown in the following tables.

4.1 Research Question 1: What are types of idioms that appeared in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*?

Table 1

Types of Idioms Found in Suzanne Collins' The Hunger Games

Types of Idioms	Frequency	Percentage
Verbal Idiom	83	44.15%
Idioms with Keywords from Special Categories	43	22.87%
Idiom with Prepositions	27	14.36%
Idioms with Nouns and Adjectives	13	6.91%
Key Words with Idiomatic Uses	12	6.38%
Idioms of Comparison	7	3.72%
Phrasal Verbs	2	1.06%
Idiomatic Pairs	1	0.53%
Total	188	100%

To answer the first research question, Table 1 presents the types of idioms that appeared in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*, along with their frequency and percentage, showing that all idiom types identified by Seidl & McMordie (1988) were found in the novel. Verbal idioms were found the most with 83 idioms (44.15%), followed by idioms with keywords from special categories, totaling 43 (22.87%). Phrasal verbs appeared twice (1.06%), while idiomatic pairs were the least frequent, occurring just once (0.53%). One of the possible reasons why verbal idioms take the majority is because most idioms found in this novel are human-related, whether physically or mentally, and they were conveyed through the perspective of a human character. Some verbal idioms, such as *get into business*, *get the ball rolling*, and *pull someone up short* indicate physical actions while other idioms like *bring someone back into senses*, *get the feel of*, and *put two and two together* concern with thoughts and emotions. In *The Hunger Games*, they were frequently used to narrate actions and interactions from the protagonist's point of view. The examples for each type of idiom are as follows:

Table 2

Examples of Each Type of Idiom

Types of Idioms	Examples
Verbal idioms	But have they **put two and two together** yet? Figure out I blew up the supplies and killed their fellow Career? (p. 282)
Idioms with keywords from special categories	Most of the Peacekeepers **turn a blind eye to** the few of us who hunt because they're as hungry for fresh meat as anybody is. (p. 6)

245

วารสารมนุษยศาสตร์วิชาการ ปีที่ 32 ฉบับที่ 1 (มกราคม-มิถุนายน 2568)
Journal of Studies in the Field of Humanities Vol.32 No.1 (January-June 2025)

Types of Idioms	Examples
Idioms with prepositions	So Peeta is out there in the woods, wounded badly. But I am still **in the dark** on what motivated him to betray the Careers. (p. 253)
Idioms with nouns and adjectives	"Delly Cartwright. That's who it is. I kept thinking she looked familiar as well. Then I realized she's a **dead ringer** for Delly." (p. 90)
Key words with idiomatic uses	You **could hear a pin drop** in the City Circle now. (p. 149)
Idioms of comparison	…when he gets back to his feet, swearing **like a fiend**. (p. 213)
Phrasal verbs	…but the Careers have **been** too **caught up in** their own argument to catch it. (p. 188)
Idiomatic pairs	And then she's doing her odd little dance back out of the circle and scampering into the woods again, **safe and sound**. (p. 255)

4.2 Research Question 2: What is the most used translation strategy to translate idioms in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* from English to Thai?

Table 3

Idiom Translation Strategies Used in Suzanne Collins' The Hunger Games

Idiom Translation Strategies	Frequency	Percentage
Paraphrase	134	72.28%
Borrowing the Source Language Idiom	31	16.49%
Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form	15	7.98%
Similar Meaning and Form	4	2.13%
Omission of Entire Idiom	4	2.13%
Omission of a Play on Idiom	0	0%
Total	188	100%

To answer the second research question, Table 3 illustrates the most used translation strategy to translate idioms in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* from English to Thai as well as others with their frequency and percentage. All idiom translation strategies proposed by Baker (2011), except for translation by omission of a play on Idiom, were used in the novel. Among them, translation by paraphrase was the most frequently used, accounting for 134 idioms (72.28%), followed by borrowing the source language idiom, applied to 31 idioms (16.49%). Using an idiom of similar meaning and form, as well as translation by omission of entire idiom, each appeared 4 times (2.13%), making them the least. The primary reason translation by paraphrase being the most frequently used in this translation was likely because a lot of idioms in the source language do not have target-language equivalents, or even when they do, those equivalents may not always cover all of the possible meanings of those

source-language idioms, such as *bring down the house* and *make it*, both of which will be discussed later on. Translation by paraphrase, therefore, was very useful in explaining the meaning specific to the context, especially when readers may not be able to guess the idiom's meaning from the literal translation. The results for each idiom translation strategy along with examples will be discussed as follows:

Table 4

Examples of the Idiom Translation Strategy Analysis

Idiom Translation Strategies	Source Text (ST)	Target Text (TT)
Paraphrase	he asks Caesar, and then there's a whole run where they take turns sniffing each other that **brings down the house**. (p. 150)	เขาถามซีซาร์ แล้วทั้งสองก็ผลัดกันดมกันและกันเป็นพัลวัน **เรียกเสียงหัวเราะอย่างถล่มทลายจากผู้ชม** (น. 138)
	The translation helps readers understand the meaning more easily, but it requires more space to achieve that clarity.	
Borrowing the Source Language Idiom	But then I **bite** my **tongue**, realizing what that must sound like to Peeta, who is dying in my incompetent hands. (p. 319)	แต่จากนั้นก็ต้อง**กัดลิ้น**ตัวเอง ตระหนักว่านั่นต้องฟังดูเหมือนฉันกำลังว่าพีต้า คนที่กำลังจะตายอยู่ในการดูแลของคนไร้ความสามารถอย่างฉัน (น. 282)
	The translation requires the same amount of space as the original.	
Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form	"I wouldn't **in a million years**," says Caesar encouragingly. (p. 146)	"**หัวเด็ดตีนขาด**ฉันก็ไม่ทำอย่างนั้นหรอก" ซีซาร์ให้กำลังใจ (น. 134)
	This source-language idiom is similar in terms of meaning, but dissimilar in terms of form to the target-language idiom "หัวเด็ดตีนขาด."	
Similar Meaning and Form	Then it was gone, the hovercraft. **Vanished into thin air**. (p. 95)	จากนั้นยานก็**หายสาบสูญเข้ากลีบเมฆ** (น. 91)
	This source-language idiom is similar in terms of meaning and form to the target-language idiom "หายเข้ากลีบเมฆ." "หาย" and "หายสาบสูญ" are synonymous.	
Omission of Entire Idiom	Until I work out exactly how I want to play that, I'd better at least act **on top of** things. (p. 191)	จนกว่าจะคิดออกว่าควรทำอย่างไร (น. 174)
	The remaining clause may be enough to understand.	

As can be seen from the above table, different idiom translation strategies tend to result in different translation results due to various reasons, for instance, the translator's styles of translation on idioms, the context surrounding them, or the translator's decision on choosing each translation strategy.

247

วารสารมนุษยศาสตร์วิชาการ ปีที่ 32 ฉบับที่ 1 (มกราคม-มิถุนายน 2568)
Journal of Studies in the Field of Humanities Vol.32 No.1 (January-June 2025)

There are times one strategy is enough to translate and there are times a combination of strategies is necessary to fully convey the messages from the source language. What matters is whether readers understand them or not.

4.3 Discussion of Results

Table 5

The Relationship Between Types of Idioms and Idiom Translation Strategies Found in Suzanne Collins'
The Hunger Games

Types of Idioms	Idiom Translation Strategies				
	Similar Meaning and Form (%)	Similar Meaning but Dissimilar Form (%)	Borrowing the Source Language Idiom (%)	Paraphrase (%)	Omission of Entire Idiom (%)
Key Words with Idiomatic Uses (%)		2 (1.06)	3 (1.60)	7 (3.72)	
Idioms with Nouns and Adjectives (%)			2 (1.06)	11 (5.85)	
Idiomatic Pairs (%)				1 (0.53)	
Idiom with Prepositions (%)		3 (1.60)	4 (2.13)	18 (9.57)	2 (1.06)
Phrasal Verbs (%)				2 (1.06)	
Verbal Idiom (%)	2 (1.06)	3 (1.60)	9 (4.79)	67 (35.64)	2 (1.06)
Idioms with Keywords from Special Categories (%)	2 (1.06)	7 (3.72)	7 (3.72)	27 (14.36)	
Idioms of Comparison (%)			6 (3.19)	1 (0.53)	

Combining the overall results from Tables 1 and 3, Table 5 illustrates the relationship between idiom types and translation strategies. As can be seen, translation by paraphrase was applied to all idiom types in *The Hunger Games*, with a particular emphasis on verbal idioms. Verbal idioms appeared across all translation strategies and were the most frequently encountered type within each strategy. As

previously mentioned, it was possibly because most idioms found in this novel were expressed through a human's perspective. Verbal idioms, thus, were mostly used to narrate human actions or interactions whether physical or mental throughout the narrative. In comparison to Indriani's (2017) study, which also utilized Seidl & McMordie's (1988) categorization and found phrasal verbs to be the most frequently used, with verbal idioms ranking second in the Indonesian translation of *The Great Gatsby*, this research observed that certain data in Indriani's work did not fully align with the idiom characteristics defined in this study. The differences in data selection criteria may explain these variations. Besides, different results might arise when analyzing different texts or language pairs.

In addition, the comparison revealed that translation by paraphrase was the most frequently used method of translation in all idiom types, which is consistent with the previous research by Agoes (2016) and Chaiyapinyowat (2017). As stated earlier, due to a few equivalents available in the target language for the source-language idioms or incompleteness of meanings of those source-language idioms in each particular context, translation by paraphrase was chosen to convey appropriate meanings as intended in each context. Chaiyapinyowat (2017, p. 45), for instance, found that her results support Baker's (2011) findings, which stated that translation by paraphrase is the most common strategy to deal when there is no idiom in the target language identically matching with idioms in the source language found. She also emphasized that the differences between Thai and English languages and cultures influence the number of perfectly matched idioms in both languages, making them seldom occur, and literal translation could result in complexity to Thai readers. Translation by paraphrase came into play to simplify that complexity. For this reason, cultural differences or lack of equivalence in the Thai language may be among the reasons why the translator mostly chose to translate idioms found in the novel by explaining their meanings instead of focusing on maintaining the form in the source language.

Table 6

Examples of Translation by Paraphrase (Make It)

Source Text (ST)	Target Text (TT)
Return to the lake. No good. I'd never **make it**. (p. 195)	กลับไปยังทะเลสาบ ไม่ดี ฉันคงไม่**รอด**แน่ (น. 177)
The girl from District 4 staggers out of sight, although I wouldn't bet on her **making it** to the lake. (p. 223)	เด็กผู้หญิงจากเขต 4 เดินตุปัดตุเป๋หายไป ฉันพนันได้ว่าเธอไม่**สามารถไปถึง**ทะเลสาบได้ (น. 200)
To say I **make it** in the nick of time is an understatement. (p. 261)	การจะพูดว่าฉัน**ทำสำเร็จ**ทันเวลาพอดีออกจะน้อยเกินไปด้วยซ้ำ (น. 232)
It's been a long time since a tribute from District 12 **made it** into the top eight. (p. 264)	นานมาแล้วที่บรรณาการจากเขต 12 **ติดอันดับ**หนึ่งในจำนวนแปดคนสุดท้าย (น. 234)

249

วารสารมนุษยศาสตร์วิชาการ ปีที่ 32 ฉบับที่ 1 (มกราคม-มิถุนายน 2568)
Journal of Studies in the Field of Humanities Vol.32 No.1 (January-June 2025)

For example, *make it* has various idiomatic meanings and no equivalence in the target language that covers all mentioned idiomatic meanings. Translation by paraphrase plays a pivotal role in differentiating each idiomatic meaning of *make it* apart. Other idiom translation strategies may not be able to solve this problem while keeping all messages attached.

Table 7

Examples of Translation by Paraphrase (a Piece of Cake)

Source Text (ST)	Target Text (TT)
"Two against one. Should be **a piece of cake**," he says. (p. 383)	"สองต่อหนึ่ง น่าจะ**ง่ายเหมือนกินเค้ก**" เขาว่า (น. 337)

Another example, *a piece of cake*, which was rendered as *ง่ายเหมือนกินเค้ก*, also shows a significant aspect of translation by paraphrase. The translator chose not only to maintain the source-language idiom, but also to add explanation to compensate for the missing aspect in the meaning. In addition, this example shows that a combination of more than one translation strategy can be used at the same time. Even though the target language already has the close equivalent *ปอกกล้วยเข้าปาก*, the translator still did not opt for this strategy, but rather, chose to keep the source-language idiom, possibly to stay close to the source language and culture, or perhaps due to her personal translation style. This reflects translator's personal decision that preserves the source-language culture and that in some cases, equivalents alone are not enough to cover their meanings. Translation by paraphrase helps cover that gap.

It also seems that the translator tried to borrow the English language idioms where it was possible, as this strategy came in second in terms of frequency across all idiom types. While paraphrasing makes the idiom's meaning more explicit and easily accessible, it can result in the lengthiness of the translation, as shown in the examples previously given. Borrowing, on the other hand, works in cases where literal translation of the idiom can be understood by target-language readers. The main reasons behind using this strategy are likely not only because the translator could not find a target-language idiom to be replaced with, but also because the source-language idioms can be comprehended already, so there is no need to use other idiom translation strategies. For instance, the Thai translation *กัดลิ้นตัวเอง* of the English idiom *bite one's tongue* was borrowed and its meaning can be guessed by the translation itself.

Translation by using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form was less used than the above strategies, whereas translating by using the idiom with similar meaning and form used when there is an equivalent was the least frequently found strategy. To be able to use these strategies, the idioms in the source language must have counterparts in the target language that have similar meanings, and some may also have similar forms, which are not always possible.

For example, the idiom *turn a blind eye* was translated into *เอาหูไปนาเอาตาไปไร่*, an existing idiom in the target language with similar meaning. Thus, the translator chose an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form with a slight paraphrase. While there are differences between the source and the target culture, the translator adjusted the translation to match the target-language culture in order to make readers be able to receive the meaning as much as possible at the expense of the source culture. Lastly, omission of the entire idiom was least frequently used as well perhaps because there are few equivalents in the target language, making the translator prefer to completely leave it out. This idiom translation strategy was used when those idioms have no need to translate as the remaining sentences produce complete meanings on their own.

As can be seen throughout the discussion, although the translation of some idioms is more straightforward and clear-cut, some are found using multiple translation strategies at the same time. In that regard, translation by paraphrase is mostly included in those combinations, implying its importance in filling in missing meanings. Another aspect worth pointing out is that one idiom may not necessarily be translated using one fixed strategy alone, but it may require different strategies, depending on the context it appears in. It is not limited to any specific idiom translation strategy as long as the messages can be fully rendered according to their context.

5. Conclusion

Two research questions of this study aim to find out types of English idioms found and their most used translation strategy from English to Thai in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*. Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that all 8 types of idioms by Seidl & McMordie (1988) were found with verbal idioms being the most and 5 idiom translation strategies by Baker (2011) were used with translation by paraphrase being the most frequent one.

The results of this study show similarities to those found in previous research, namely, Agoes' (2016) and Chaiyapinyowat's (2017): Translation by paraphrase still takes the first place, if not the second place of the most used idiom translation strategy. It can be concluded that translation by paraphrase is a common choice of translation strategy when translating idioms which is understandable. The examples presented in the previous section demonstrate that paraphrasing works well for most idioms. Its main advantage is that it is easy to understand, but the downside is that it requires more space to express the meaning. On the other hand, borrowing the idiom from the source language takes up less space, but it may not convey the same meaning as the target language.

Regarding types of idioms, there is no specific relationship between types of idioms and idiom translation strategies as the strategies tend to depend on idioms' meanings rather than their types. Furthermore, there appear to be no fixed rules in selecting a suitable strategy for each type of idiom. It

251

วารสารมนุษยศาสตร์วิชาการ ปีที่ 32 ฉบับที่ 1 (มกราคม-มิถุนายน 2568)
Journal of Studies in the Field of Humanities Vol.32 No.1 (January-June 2025)

shows that extensive linguistic and cultural knowledge of both the source language and the target language is highly essential for idiom translation in order to convey the meaning and the nuance as intended by the author for each occasion, especially in this particular novel which shows how important it is for translators to translate as accurately as possible, as originally intended. Its social and political influence proves that the study of translation and translation strategies should not be taken lightly.

References

Agoes, F. (2016). An analysis of translation of idioms used in Conan Doyle's novel "A Study in Scarlet". *Jurnal Bahasa Inggris Terapan*, *2*(2), 9-20. https://doi.org/10.35313/jbit.v2i2.1287

Alter, A. (2019, June 17). *'The Hunger Games' prequel is in the works*. The New York Times. https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/17/books/hunger-games-prequel.html

Baker, M. (2011). *In other words: A course book on translation*. Routledge.

Bland, J., & Strotmann, A. (2014). The hunger games: An ecocritical reading. *Children's Literature in English Language Education*, *2*(1), 22-43.

Cambridge Dictionary. (n.d.). https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/

Chaiyapinyowat, A. (2017). *Strategies and challenges in translating English idioms into Thai in Hillary Clinton's memoir Hard Choices*. https://repository.nida.ac.th/handle/662723737/3804

Cogan, M. S. (2021, February 5). *Understanding the three-finger salute from Thailand to Myanmar*. Thai Enquirer. https://www.thaienquirer.com/23831/understanding-the-three-finger-salute-from-thailand-to-myanmar/

Collins, S. (2008). *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic.

Collins, S. (2011). *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic.

Collins, S. (2014). *The Hunger Games* [Game La Chewit]. Post Books.

Collins, S. (2021). *The Hunger Games* [Game La Chewit]. Praew Books, Amarin Printing and Publishing.

Drugan, J. (2013). *Quality in professional translation: Assessment and improvement*. Bloomsbury.

Farlex Dictionary of Idioms. (2015). https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com

Fernando, C. (1996). *Idioms and idiomaticity*. Oxford University Press.

Hassan, B. E. A. (2014). Between English and Arabic: A practical course in translation. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Indriani, H. (2017). *The translation strategy and accuracy of English idiom into Indonesian in The Great Gatsby novel*. Syarif Hidatatullah State Islamic University. https://repository.uinjkt.ac.id/dspace/handle/123456789/35762

Ingo, R. (2000). Idiomi toisen kielen semanttis-pragmaattisena käännösvastineena. In E. Lähdemäki & Y. Bertills (Eds.) *Fennistica fausta in honorem Mauno Koski septuagenarii-Juhlakirja Mauno Kosken 70-vuotispäivän kunniaksi 21.2.2000* (pp. 33-45). Åbo Akademis tryckeri.

Keränen, A. (2006). *Translation of idioms in the Finnish version of Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code* [Master's thesis]. University of Jyväskylä.

Larson, M. L. (1998). *Meaning-based translation. A guide to cross-language equivalence*.
University Press of America.

Longman Idioms Dictionary. (1998). Longman.

McCarthy, M., & O'Dell, F. (2002). *English idioms in use*. Cambridge University Press.

Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/

Natalia, L. G. (2014). *Translation strategies of cultural words and their readabilities in The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins* [Undergraduate thesis]. Dian Nuswantoro University.

Newmark, P. (1988). *A textbook of translation*. Prentice Hall.

Newmark, P. (1995). *Approaches to translation*. Cambridge University Press.

Nida, E. A., & Taber, C. R. (1969). *The theory and practice of translation*. Brill.

O'Dell, F., & McCarthy, M. (2010). *English idioms in use*. Cambridge University Press.

Oxford University Press. (n.d.). *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*.
https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/

Phakakrong, P. (2015). *A comparative study of Burmese idioms and Thai idioms* [Master's thesis].
Silpakorn University.

Ronghanam, P. (2014). *The translation of metaphors in Game La Chewit by Nara Suphakrot translated from Suzanne Collins' The Hunger Games* [Independent Study]. Chulalongkorn University.

Seidl, J., & McMordie, W. (1988). *English idioms and how to use them* (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.

Sosothikul, R. (1983). *English and Thai idioms with similar meanings*. Chulalongkorn University Press.

Stemler, S. E. (2004). A comparison of consensus, consistency, and measurement approaches to estimating interrater reliability. *Practical Assessment, Research & Evaluation, 9*(4), 3.

Thaiger. (2020, October 19). *The 3 finger salute. Why did it become the symbol for Thai protesters?* [VIDEO] Thaiger.
https://thethaiger.com/hot-news/protests/the-3-finger-salute-why-did-it-become-the-symbol-for-thai-protesters-video