

## TRANSLATING ENGLISH IDIOMS IN “ANGEL HAS FALLEN” MOVIE

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### **Abstract**

*The study aims to find out and describe the strategies used in translating idioms and equivalence applied in the translation of subtitle text of Angel Has Fallen movie. The research used the descriptive qualitative method. The data were in the form of words and sentences. This study was qualitative research in which the data were collected from the translation of the subtitle text of Angel Has Fallen movie. After the data had been collected, the researcher analyzed the strategies used in translating idioms and equivalence. The results of this study are 1) five out of six strategies in translation idioms found in the data namely using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission of a play on idiom, and translation by omission of entire idiom and 2) All of two kinds of equivalence found in the data; formal and dynamic equivalence.*

**Keywords:** *idiomatic translation strategies, movie subtitle, equivalence*

### **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui dan mendeskripsikan strategi dalam menerjemahkan ungkapan khas dan padanan yang diterapkan dalam terjemahan teks takarir film *Angel Has Fallen*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Data dalam penelitian ini berupa kata dan kalimat. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif di mana data dikumpulkan dari terjemahan teks takarir film *Angel Has Fallen*. Setelah data terkumpul, peneliti menganalisis strategi yang digunakan dalam menerjemahkan ungkapan khas dan kesetaraan. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah: 1) lima dari enam strategi penerjemahan ungkapan khusus ditemukan dalam data yaitu penggunaan ungkapan khusus dengan makna dan bentuk yang sama, penggunaan ungkapan khusus dengan makna sama namun bentuk yang berbeda, penerjemahan dengan memparafrase, penerjemahan dengan mengurangi makna ungkapan khusus, dan penerjemahan dengan menghilangkan seluruh ungkapan khusus; dan 2) semua dua jenis kesetaraan ditemukan dalam data; resmi dan kesetaraan dinamis.

**Kata kunci:** *strategi penerjemahan idiom, takarir film, padanan*

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## 1. Introduction

The translation is well-known for rendering the messages conveyed in a Source Language (SL) into Target Language (TL) so that it can be acknowledged by those who understand the TL. There are several variants of translation, one of them is screen translation. It includes voice-over translation and subtitles (Zagot & Vozdvizhensky, 2014). Subtitles are the most recognized ones. Often people embedded subtitle text while watching movies. Though, occasionally people are baffled in grasping the meaning of embedded-subtitle in movies that use English. Moreover, there are various language terms that often emerge in either English or Target Language (TL). One of the well-known is idiom. Several difficulties that a translator has are being able to recognize that he or she is dealing with idiomatic translation and are prone to misinterpreted (Baker, 2018). Therefore, translation of idiomatic expression cannot be taken for granted in the creation of movie subtitles. There are two limitations in subtitles translation, namely time and space (Zagot & Vozdvizhensky, 2014). Those two aspects breed challenging limitations for the translator; the limit in the number of lines and symbols. The subtitle text should cover at least 70 percent of what is said on the screen though it is more complicated for the translator considering the on-screen picture that switches all too quickly (Dries, 1995).

Despite its challenges, the translator needs to find ways on making an adequate translation without neglecting the standard of a good translation; 1) accuracy, 2) acceptability, and 3) readability. It can be done by applying translation strategies on idiomatic expressions and equivalence of the translation. Translation strategies on idiomatic expressions are inseparable from the process of translation since it allows the translator to decide on the appropriate techniques for rendering the message. Meanwhile, equivalence is practically useful in simply covers the tone and style of the delivery. Those will help understand the translation of subtitle text better than those that do not

make use of it. It is in line with Zagot and Vozdvizhensky's view (2014) on doing subtitle translation. It includes shrinking the text, sparing the author's idea, but at the same time providing a viewer with the necessary comfort.

Machali (2000, p. 6) stated that translation is the new act of communication in which the translator attempts to build "the bridge of meaning" between the author of the source text and the reader of the target text. Machali's statement means that translation is aimed to help out the author of the source text to be understood by the reader of the target text by way of connecting them through "the bridge of meaning". In that way, Machali's views on translation tend to be more inclusive since it takes care of both the authors of the source text and the reader of the target text and does not merely pay attention to how the translation works. Moreover, Newmark explained that translation is the act of rendering the meaning within a text into another language in which the meaning is delivered as intended by the author of the text (1988, p. 5). In other words, translation is transferring the meaning of a text in Source Language (SL) into the Target Language (TL) without changing its message. Considering its important role in conveying messages among two different languages (SL and TL), a translation should not be taken for granted by way of taking translation techniques into account. Therefore, studying translation techniques will make it possible to acknowledge how to convey the message in the SL that requires changing grammatical structures to adjust the meaning as similar as possible to the TL.

The application of translating idiomatic expressions can be found around us, one of them is the translation of a movie. Thus, this study analyzed the translation strategies on idiomatic expressions and equivalence used in the subtitle text of "*Angel Has Fallen*" movie. This study used two main theories to analyze the data namely strategies of idiomatic translation proposed by Baker (2018) and formal and dynamic

equivalence from Nida (1964). There were some studies conducted on the same topic as this study. Furthermore, this study was supported by two previous relevant studies. The first was conducted by Yahya & Islami (2019) entitled *Strategies Used in Translating Idioms in the "Iron Man" Movie*. It aimed to identify the strategies used by translators in translating idioms in the *Iron Man* movie. The position between this study and this previous research is that the researcher of this study used the idioms in subtitle text of *Angel Has Fallen* movie as the corpus while this previous research used the idioms in *Iron Man* movie. This study analyzed six categorization of translation strategies of idioms using Baker's (2018) while this previous research employed four categorization of Baker's translation strategies of idioms. The most used translation strategy in this previous research is literal idioms (51%). It needs a plethora of attention to discover the kinds of equivalence in translating idioms. Therefore, the previous research merely covered the strategies used in translating idioms, and to have a complete picture of the strategies used in translating idioms, this study was not only focused on it but also focused on the equivalence of the idioms translation in subtitle text of *Angel Has Fallen* movie.

The second study was conducted by Fitri et. Al (2019) whose title is *Baker's Strategies Used in Translating English Idioms into Indonesian in Crazy Rich Asians By Kevin Kwan*. They investigated the types of idioms found in *Crazy Rich Asians* novel and to analyze the strategies used in translating the idioms. The data were analyzed by identifying the strategies proposed by Baker. The position between this study and this previous research is that the researcher of this study used idioms found in subtitle text of *Angel Has Fallen* movie as the corpus whereas this previous research took the data from idioms found in *Crazy Rich Asians* novel. This study analyzed both the strategies to translate idioms and equivalence while this previous research only focused on strategies employed in translating idioms. The results of this previous research revealed that there were five strategies employed in translating

idioms namely using an idiom of similar meaning and form, using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form, translation by paraphrase, translation by omission, and literal translation. This previous research only covers the strategies used in translating the idioms and there are other areas of translation that can be used as the focus study. Therefore, to have a complete picture of the strategies used, this study also discussed the equivalence of idioms in translation of *Angel Has Fallen* movie subtitle.

## **2. Method**

This study was qualitative research due to the involvement of collecting and analyzing non-numerical data. Nelson et.al (1992) described qualitative research as research that uses interpretative analysis in which it is more focused on the process and the meaning (subject's perspective) rather than the results. The data of this study were the translation of idiomatic expressions of the "*Angel Has Fallen*" movie, from English to Indonesia. *Angel Has Fallen* movie was selected as the object of the research because there are some idioms found in the subtitle of that movie. Therefore, it is fascinating to analyze the strategies of idiomatic translation used by the subtitler, *May SO*. In addition, document analysis and observation were used in collecting them. Document analysis was chosen since it needed two main theories such as translation strategies and an equivalence view of translation. Cresswell (2009) defined observation as one of the data collection types in which the researcher takes notes on the behaviour and activities of individuals that occur in the research site to record. In the observation phase, the researcher observes the *Angel Has Fallen* movie and reads its embedded subtitle. The observation is done to gain complete knowledge about the content as well as the context of the utterances spoken by the main character of the *Angel Has Fallen* movie.

After gathering the data, the next step was analyzing them. The steps to analyze the data are as follows:

1. The researcher watched the *Angel Has Fallen* movie which is embedded with the translation subtitle.
2. The researcher took note of the idiomatic expressions within the subtitle text of the movie.
3. The researcher classified the data using the aforementioned theories regarding the topic.
4. Counting the frequency of each idiomatic translation strategies and equivalence.

### 3. Results and Discussion

The data in this study were analyzed using translation strategies by Baker (2018) and the equivalence view of translation by Nida (1964). The results and discussion were divided into two as follows:

#### 3.1 Translation Strategies Found in the Translation of Idiomatic Expression of “*Angel Has Fallen*” Movie

The types of translation strategies found in this study can be seen in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Translation Strategies Percentage

No	Translation Strategies	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Using an idiom of similar meaning and form	2	4.34%
2.	Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form	11	23.91%
3.	Borrowing the source language idiom	0	0%
4.	Translation by paraphrase	25	54.34%
5.	Translation by omission of a play on idiom	6	13.04%
6.	Translation by omission of entire idiom	2	4.34%

<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
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The most dominant translation strategy in the translation of *Angel Has Fallen* movie subtitle is translation by paraphrase, which means that the translator was restating the meaning SL to TL by means of other words. There were 25 translations by translation by paraphrase out of 46 cases. On the contrary, the most rarely used translation strategy in the translating the idiomatic expressions of *Angel Has Fallen* movie subtitle are 1) the use of an idiom of similar meaning and form as well as 2) translation by omission of entire idiom in which both of them merely found 2 times each. Meanwhile, there is a translation strategy that was not found in any of the data. It is borrowing the source language idiom. The discussion in table 1 is presented below.

### **3.1.1 Using an idiom of similar meaning and form**

Using an idiom of similar meaning and form in the TL is a translation strategy that requires the use of equivalent lexical items in which it carry roughly the same meaning as that of the SL idiom. Yet, there is no message distortion although its translation is deprived. The use of an idiom of similar meaning and form found in the subtitle of "*Angel Has Fallen*" movie was 4,34%. Some of those were as follows:

SL: Rain or shine

TL: *Hujan maupun terik*

The Source Language (SL) idiom "rain or shine" according to McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005) means "no matter whether it rains or the sun shines". Meanwhile the word *hujan* and *terik* based on *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (2016) means *titik-titik air yang berjatuhan dari udara karena proses pendinginan* and *amat; sangat (tentang panas matahari)*. The TL expression resemble with the SL in the way that it carries similar meaning and form. Therefore, the accuracy of the translation is second to none.

SL: "I, Marin James Kirby, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend The Constitution of the United States. So help me God."

TL: *"Saya Martin James Kirby bersumpah dengan setia menjalankan tugas presiden Amerika Serikat dan dengan kemampuan terbaik mempertahankan, melindungi, dan membela Konstitusi AS. Bantu aku, Tuhan."*

There are two idioms found in the SL. Those are "to the best of my ability" and "So help me God". Firstly, according to McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005), the idiom "to the best of my ability" means "to the best of one's ability. As well as one is able." While in the TL it was translated into *dengan kemampuan terbaik* in which it resembles the SL in terms of meaning and form. Secondly, the SL idiom "So help me God" according to McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005) means "so pledge and vow in God's name." It was translated into *Bantu aku, Tuhan* in the TL. The first and second idiom share the similarities in which both of them make use of the same meaning and form. However, the accuracy of the translation is kept.

### **3.1.2 Using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form**

It is possible to translate SL idiom into TL idiom that has similar meaning though it is in dissimilar form. The use of an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form found in the subtitle text of "*Angel Has Fallen*" movie was 23,91%. Here are some examples of the use of an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form:

SL: It's not the same fighting for money as when you fight for your flag.

TL: *Berjuang demi uang dan negara itu berbeda.*

The SL contains idiom in the phrasal verb "fighting for", in which according to McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal



Verbs (2005), it means "to go battle for the benefit of someone or something; to go battle in the name of someone or something." The translator made use of the TL idiom that has similar meaning though in dissimilar form that shown in the TL word *berjuang*. According to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (2018), it refers to *berusaha sekuat tenaga tentang sesuatu; berusaha penuh dengan kesukaran dan bahaya and untuk (kepentingan); atas nama*. Therefore, the idiom in the TL carry the similar meaning with the SL though it is in a different form in which the SL is in the form of verb phrase while the TL is a single word. However, the translator took good care of the accuracy of the translation so that there is not any message distortion in the translation.

SL: Pull over the vehicle!

TL: *Menepi!*

The SL idiom "pull over" is translated to "*menepi*" in Indonesian. According to McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005), the idiom "pull over" refers to "to steer over to something, such as the side of the road". In this case, it employs different lexical items so that the idiom in the form of verb phrase in the SL transformed into verb in the TL. However, it still holds the same idea. In Indonesian, *menepi* according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (2018) means *menuju ke tepi; meminggir*. However, the translator took good care of the accuracy of the translation so that there is not any message distortion in the translation.

### **3.1.3 Translation by paraphrase**

Paraphrasing is the most common way when it comes to translate idioms that are hardly find any match to the TL, or simply due to different stylistic preferences of the SL and TL. The translation by paraphrasing the idiom found in the subtitle text of "*Angel Has Fallen*" movie were 54.34%. Some translation by paraphrase were found:

SL: Well, if I can get a contract for your special ops to train here, it'd finally get me out of the red.

TL: *Kalau timmu mau latihan di sini, keuanganku bisa bangkit lagi.*

The translation is classified into translation by paraphrase due to the restatement of the SL idiom “get me out of the red” into “*bangkit*” in the TL. The SL idiom “get me out of the red” according to McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005) means “out of debt; into profitability”. While based on *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (2018), the word “*bangkit*” means “*bangun (hidup) kembali*”.

Though the SL idiom is paraphrased, the translator kept an eye on the accuracy of the translation.

SL: Tell you what, though. I’ll put in a good word for you when they pick the new director.

TL: *Begini saja. Aku akan merekomendasikanmu saat direktur baru terpilih.*

The SL idiom “put in a good word (for you)” according to McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005) refers to “to say something (to someone) in support of someone else.” It was translated into “*merekomendasikanmu*” in which the root word is “*rekomendasi*”. Based on *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*, the word *rekomendasi* means *hal minta perhatian bahwa orang yang disebut dapat dipercaya dengan baik (biasa dinyatakan dengan surat)*. The translator paraphrased the SL idiom so it became shorter into “*merekomendasikanmu*”. It is in line with the rule that should be conserved in translating subtitle text; shortening the text yet in the same time managed to keeping up the accuracy.

SL: Can you tell me your name? Who you work for?

TL: *Bisa sebut namamu? Apa pekerjaanmu?*

There is an idiom in the SL; “work for” in which according to McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005) means “to be employed by someone”. The idiom is translated into

"pekerjaanmu" in which it holds the meaning *pencapaian; yang dijadikan pokok penghidupan; sesuatu yang dilakukan untuk mendapat nafkah* according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (2018). It shows that the translator made use of paraphrase technique so that there is a change of viewpoint though the TL possess the similar meaning to the SL. The accuracy as well as the length of the translation is carefully considered by the translator so that there is no message distortion.

#### **3.1.4 Translation by omission of a play on idiom**

An idiom may sometimes be rendered through its literal meaning. It allows for a concrete reading rather than playful use of language so that the message is more easily to acquire. This strategy is the ones that mostly found in the subtitle text of *Angel Has Fallen* (45.65%). An example was:

SL: We're all set, Sector One.

TL: *Semua siap, Sektor satu.*

The idiom "all set" was translated literally to "siap". According to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (2018), the word "*siap*" means "*sudah bersedia (untuk); (dalam aba-aba berarti) berdiri tegak dan mengambil sikap pada waktu berbaris*". While according to McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005), the SL idiom "all set" means "prepared or ready to do something". However, this rendering that based on its literal meaning has not distorted since the TL carried the same meaning. All in all, the accuracy of the translation is still there without violating the translation length.

#### **3.1.5 Translation by omission of entire idiom**

This strategy involves omitting the whole idiom. Translation by omission of entire idiom found in the subtitle text of "*Angel Has Fallen*" movie was 4.34%. Here are some examples of them:

SL: You'll know where I stand on that issue at the G20.

TL: *Kau akan tahu nanti saat aku ke G20.*

The SL idiom “stand on” is not rendered in the TL. It is due to the hardly same meaning in the TL. Based on McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005), the idiom “stand on” means “to elevate oneself by standing on something”. The translation took good care of the accuracy of the message though there is an omission with the help of the context shown in the movie, in which it is the speaker’s answer to the question asked by a journalist. The length of the translated text is well-kept so it could make the text easier to read during watching and reading the subtitle text of the movie.

SL: Well, you can call in and warn them.

TL: *Kau bisa peringatkan mereka.*

The SL idiom “call in” based on McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005) refers to “go to call someone or something into something”. Thus, it is not translated into TL in order to maintain the length of the text. Moreover, the translator took good care of the accuracy of the message so that there is no message distortion even though the length of the translation was shortened than the SL text. It is for the viewers to grasp the meaning fast than those of a longer subtitle text.

### 3.2 The Types of Equivalence Found in Subtitle Text of “*Angel Has Fallen*” Movie

There are two types of equivalence based on Nida. Those are formal and dynamic equivalence. Both types were found in the subtitle text of *Angle Has Fallen* movie. The percentage and amount of equivalence can be seen in Table 2 as follows:

Table 2. Equivalence Percentage

No	Equivalence	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Formal	9	19.56%
2.	Dynamic	37	80.43%
<b>Total</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

It can be known from Table 2 that dynamic equivalence appeared 37 times out of 46, which represents 80.43%. On the contrary, formal equivalence merely appeared 9 times out of 402 which represents 19.56%. The factors that differentiate the use of formal and dynamic equivalence were varied. Mostly, it depends on how the translator managed to translate it to be accurate and be equivalent to the original text as much as possible.

### **3.2.1 Formal Equivalence**

This is considered the word-for-word view of translation. Formal Equivalence found in the translation of *Angel Has Fallen* movie subtitle was 52.73%. Some formal equivalence was found:

SL: He's in line to be director of the Secret Service.

TL: *Dia akan jadi direktur Dinas Rahasia.*

The presence of SL idiom "in line" did not affect to the TL. According to McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005), the idiom "in line" means "standing and waiting in a line of people". It can be seen that the translator did not add his/her ideas and thoughts into the translation. It is proven in several parts of the sentence. Firstly, the SL word "to be" is equivalent to the TL "*akan jadi*". Secondly, the SL word 'director' is equivalent to the TL word '*direktur*'. Third, the SL phrase 'Secret Service' is equivalent to the TL phrase '*Dinas Rahasia*'. Those three parts of the SL and TL sentences were translated without any words or phrases added to the translation. Thus, it belongs to formal equivalence. Yet, the accuracy of the translation is still adequate since the message within the TL sentence stays the same as in the SL.

SL: Who would have the capabilities to pull this off, and who would benefit the most?

TL: *Siapa yang mampu melakukan ini dan siapa yang paling diuntungkan?*

The translator did not add his/her ideas and thoughts into the translation though there is an idiom “pull this off” in the SL. According to McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005), the idiom “pull (something) off” means “to manage to make something happen”. It similar to the TL “*melakukan*” in which according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*, it means *berbuat sesuatu terhadap (suatu hal, orang, dan sebagainya)*. It is shown that the SL idiom “pull this off” is equivalent to the TL “*melakukan*”. However, the accuracy of the translation is not violated since the message within the TL sentence stays the same as in the SL.

### 3.2.2 Dynamic Equivalence

The dynamic equivalent is applied when the translator translates the meaning of the original in such a way that the TL wording and or phrasing will carry the same impact as the original wording did upon the ST audience. It is meant to improve the readability of the translation by rendering the original into a TL sentence that carries the same meaning yet does not necessarily apply the exact idioms or phrasing of the original. This is considered the thought-for-thought of translation. Dynamic Equivalence found in the translation of *Angel Has Fallen* movie subtitle was 80.43%. Some dynamic equivalence was found:

SL: You can go ahead and extubate.

TL: *Lakukan ekstubasi.*

The TL “*Lakukan*” carried the same impact as the SL idiom did on “go ahead”. According to McGraw-Hill’s Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005), the idiom “go ahead” means “Please do it; you have my permission and encouragement to do it.” According to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (2018), the TL *melakukan* means (1) *mengerjakan (menjalankan dan sebagainya)* (2) *melaksanakan; mempraktikkan; menunaikan*. From the aforementioned explanation, it is known that the SL is equivalence to the TL though the translator omitted the SL “You can...” since it can be interpreted through the

context of the movie in which the doctor is told to do so by the authoratives. It can be concluded that the translator applied dynamic equivalence in rendering the message.

SL: Okay, listen up, everybody.

TL: *Dengar*.

The SL idiom "listen up" carried the same impact as the SL did on "Dengar", though there are several lexical items in the translation that omitted. The SL idiom "listen up" according to McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs (2005) means "to listen carefully. (Usually a command)". In the context of the scene, the noun "everybody" is omitted due to the speaker that can be seen on telling everybody to be all ears to him. Whereas the word "dengar" according to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (2018) means *tangkap suara*. Thus, the translation of the SL is equivalent though it made use of different phrasing. The accuracy of the translation is adequate since the message within the TL sentence stays the same as in the SL.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The analysis results on strategies used in translating idioms found in subtitle text of *Angel Has Fallen* movie were using an idiom of similar meaning (4,34%); using an idiom of similar meaning but dissimilar form (23,91%); translation by paraphrase (54,34%); translation by omission of a play on idiom (45,65%); and translation by omission of entire idiom (13,04%). Thus, the most dominant strategies used is translation by paraphrase. From the data, it can also be known that there were 80,43% of formal equivalence and 19,56% of dynamic equivalence. It can be inferred from the highest percentage is the translation by paraphrase and dynamic equivalence which means that the translator frequently selected to switch of notion though the TL possess the similar meaning to the SL. However, the precision alongside the length of the translation is cautiously measured by the translator so

that there is no message falsification. Meanwhile, dynamic equivalence is mostly applied in translating the idioms due to adjust the accuracy of the translation even though most context are in a formal occasion such as investigation scenes, broadcasting interviews, political speeches, and so on.

Based on the result of this study, it can be suggested the translator apply various kinds of strategies in translating idioms to make the product of the translation highly accurate. For several semantical issues such as rarely known terms, technical terms, and lengthy idioms and phrases, it may be necessary for the translator to render the message as similar as possible to the SL in terms of its message. However, it should be kept in mind that the translation in a movie subtitle should be shrunk but at the same time provide a viewer with the necessary comfort.

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