

Challenges in Translating Malay Idiomatic Expressions: A Study

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Abstract : Translating Malay idiomatic expressions into other languages presents unique challenges due to the deep cultural nuances and linguistic intricacies embedded within these expressions. This study examined these challenges through a two-pronged methodology: a comparative analysis using survey questionnaires and a quiz administered to 50 semester 6 students who are taking Translation 1 course, and in-depth interviews with their lecturers. The survey aimed to capture students' experiences and difficulties in translating selected Malay idioms into English, highlighting common errors and misunderstandings. Complementing this, interviews with lecturers provided expert insights into the nuances of these expressions and effective translation strategies. The findings revealed that literal translations often fail to convey the intended meanings, underscoring the importance of cultural competence and contextual awareness. The study also identified key factors that contribute to successful translations, such as the translator's familiarity with both source and target cultures and their ability to adapt expressions creatively. This research contributed to the field of translation studies by offering practical recommendations for improving the translation of idiomatic expressions, thereby enhancing cross-cultural communication. The insights gained from this study are valuable for translators, educators, and students, emphasizing the need for a nuanced approach that respects the cultural richness of the source language while ensuring clarity in the target language.

Keywords : idiomatic expressions, cultural competence, translation strategies, cross-cultural communication, students' difficulties

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