

Idiom translation strategies in Netflix subtitle of *Habibie and Ainun*: A comparative study with Deepseek-v3.2

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Abstract

*This research aims to analyze idiom translation strategies in the Netflix subtitles of the film *Habibie and Ainun* and to compare them with the machine translation generated by DeepSeek-V3.2 based on Baker's (1992) classification. Idioms expressions are one of the most problematic areas in audiovisual translation due to their literalness and cultural embodiment. Descriptive qualitative is used as the research methods in this research with 22 Indonesian idioms classified according to Fernando (1996) to which a comparative analysis was made investigate the use and diffusion of translation strategies, namely idioms of similar meaning and form, idioms of similar meaning but different form, paraphrase, and omission. The results suggest that the paraphrase strategy is also the dominant one across both human and machine translations, reflecting a stronger emphasis on achieving meaning understanding rather than idiomatic form. The strategies of idioms of similar meaning and form and idioms of similar meaning but different form in the TL are tendencies rather than strict rules, and they vary from case to case depending on the existence of idiomatic equivalents in Arabic, while omission is not identified this indicates that the source idiom are preserved for coherence. The results also show that human translators consider the narrative setting and emotional meaning, while machine translation focuses mainly on semantic equivalence. This study offers to Indonesian–Arabic translation studies and demonstrates the effectiveness of AI-based translation systems in controlling contextual and culture-specific idioms.*

Keywords: *Idiom Translation, Baker's Translation Strategies, Arabic–Indonesian Translation, Human Translation, Machine Translation*

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Introduction

Idioms, as expressions whose meanings cannot be derived literally, frequently pose problems of non-equivalence in translation (Arrasyid et al., 2022). This view aligns with Baker's (1992) argument that idioms often lack direct equivalents in the target language (TL) due to their contextual and culture-specific nature. Consequently, strategies such as paraphrasing or the use of neutral words are commonly employed to avoid semantic distortion, as identified by Baker as part of the strategies for overcoming lexical limitations.

However, not all translation strategies work well. Erroneous phrases that do not match synonyms or are too literal with the translation from the source language (SL) can pronounce mistakes in translations (Abidin et al., 2020). House's (2015) Translation Quality Assessment model demonstrates that acceptance demands a translation to be functionally and idiomatically adequate. Additionally, idioms rich in cultural meaning often get changed to non-idiomatic phrases in dubbing or subtitling processes (Retnomurti et al., 2020). According to Newmark (1988), it argues that this approach makes sense when idioms will not easily understood in the target culture. The goal of Translation is to make

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sure audiences from different languages and cultures backgrounds can understand the intended message, emotional undertones, and overall quality of the audiovisual work (Hanifa et al., [2025](#)).

Alfatha ([2024](#)) notes that the mismatch between translation strategies and Baker's framework can cause errors in idiom translation, stressing the need for choosing the right strategy in audiovisual translation. Paraphrasing is one of the most common techniques for translating idioms in both print and audiovisual formats. Studies by Floranti ([2020](#)) and Ariska ([2022](#)) show that while this method is effective for keeping the meaning intact, it often loses the original idiomatic expression. In subtitling and dubbing, Agung ([2022](#)) also adds that strategies such as substitution, generalization, and literal translation used to account for spatial and temporal limitations imposed by audiovisual media. However, translating taboo-laden idioms is more difficult.

Tong ([2024](#)) reports that there is no common method used for translating Verbally Expressed Humor (VEH) so far. Additionally, cultural gaps and structural discrepancies between the SL and TL as identified by Sipayung ([2024](#)), Haider ([2024](#)), and Shuhaiber ([2023](#)) are common contributors to idiomatic non-equivalence that may lead to meaning loss or semantic distortion. The problem of idiom translation grows more difficult in a more distant linguistic and cultural distance such as from Indonesian to Arabic (Saimin et al., [2024](#)). Gunawan et al. ([2024](#)) explains how the methods of Newmark were included in the spoken text of Saladin Al-Ayyubi film, and they are relatively conducive to achieve coherence in the meaning.

Literal translation of idioms could cause the cultural implications underpinning them to disappear, so that the audience failed to understand the emotional connotation of the story. On the other hand, translations that are capable of retaining meaning can help increase understanding and enjoyment for viewers. As a cross-linguistic communication, translations that successfully preserve meaning can enhance viewers' understanding and appreciation of the story. As a double act of interlanguage communication, translation must aim to present and convey the closest possible meaning of the source text into the target text (Al Farisi, [2020](#)).

These difficulties are magnified when translation is done by Neural Machine Translation (NMT) system. Dewayanti and Margana ([2024](#)) conclude by showing that non-human, machines translators like Google Translate, DeepL are so literal minded in its translation thus loses idiomatic meaning of the context. Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) based on Large Language Models (LLMs) have recently led to the creation of more powerful generative AIs for language. One such model that has been very popular worldwide is DeepSeek-V3.2, that has been pretrained with large-scale capacity and the capability of attending to long contexts, a useful feature for narrative text such as film subtitles. A number of international technology reviews have positioned DeepSeek-V3.2 as a potential competitor to other large generative AI models (Bureau, [2025](#)).

However, the effectiveness of DeepSeek-V3.2 in translating context-dependent and culture-specific idioms remains underexplored, which justifies its selection as a comparative model in this study. Despite the growing body of research on idiom translation strategies across various language pairs and media, studies focusing on Indonesian–Arabic idiom translation, particularly in the context of film, remain limited. Most existing research has concentrated on English or other dominant language pairs and on written texts such as literary works or news articles.

While idiom translation has been examined from diverse perspectives, comparative studies investigating idiom translation strategies in officially produced film subtitles, such as *Habibie and Ainun* on Netflix, alongside AI-generated translations from DeepSeek-V3.2 are still scarce, especially within the Indonesian–Arabic language pair. Therefore, this study not only addresses a gap in Indonesian–Arabic idiom translation research but also extends understanding of the effectiveness of AI-based MT in handling contextual and culture-specific idiomatic expressions.

This research focuses on idiom translation strategies in the subtitles of *Habibie and Ainun*, examined through a comparative analysis with translations generated by DeepSeek-V3.2. It is expected that this study will contribute to translation studies and provide insights for the development of translation technologies that are more sensitive to cultural context and the SL.

Method

This study adopts a qualitative approach using a comparative analysis method to examine idiom translation in the Arabic subtitles of the film *Habibie and Ainun* on Netflix released in 2012 on Netflix and to compare them with translations produced by DeepSeek-V3.2 (DT). Ultimately the Netflix subtitles (NS) are human translation (HT), done by Muhammad Rajab Al Yamani and DeepSeek-V3.2 is machine translation (MT). This comparison enables the identification of similarities and differences in translators. Through this approach, systematic conclusions can be drawn regarding the effectiveness of each translation method.

Data sources include Indonesian-language dialogues from the original text and official Arabic subtitles provided by Netflix. Data were collected through observation and note-taking. The researchers reviewed the film and subtitles to identify phrases that contained idiomatic expressions. Each identified idiom and its Arabic translation are recorded for further analysis.

The selection of idioms was based on Fernando's (1996) idiom classification, which distinguishes pure idioms, semi-idioms and literal idiomatic expression. A total of 22 idioms met the predetermined criteria and were included in the dataset. These idioms represent all matched criteria; therefore, total sampling was employed. Although the dataset is limited in number, qualitative research prioritizes depth of contextual analysis rather than quantity of data. The selected idioms were purposively chosen based on their idiomaticity and relevance to the research objectives, allowing for detailed comparative analysis between NS and MT.

For MT data, each idiom was input separately into DeepSeek-V3.2 using the prompt "Translate this Indonesian idiom to Arabic." The translations were collected directly from the system without further processing to preserve the original MT results. This process ensured transparency and reproducibility for future studies. To ensure the reliability of the results, the evaluation was conducted through two independent raters. All comments and their translations were collected and administered using Google Forms to facilitate systematic rates. Each rater independently identified the translation strategies based on Baker's (1992) classification and evaluated the acceptance criteria with prior discussion. The results were then compared to measure agreement. Differences were resolved through discussion until consensus was reached, further enhancing the credibility and reliability of the results.

The collected data were analyzed by comparing HT and MT to determine the translation strategies employed. The analysis followed Baker's (1992) framework, including idioms of similar meaning and form (SMF), idioms of similar meaning but different form (SMDF), paraphrase, and omission.

Results and Discussion

This research investigates 22 idioms in the movie *Habibie and Ainun* sourced from the Netflix version translated into Arabic by both the HT and the MT. The idiom data are classified according to Fernando's (1996) criteria, which regards idioms as expressions whose meanings are not deducible from their linguistic constituents.

The analysis is carried out to investigate the translation strategies used in two translation sources and consequently differences or tendencies applied. The detected idioms are then described by analyzing the translation strategies following Baker's (1992) classification.

A Comparative Analysis of Idiom Translation Strategies in Netflix Subtitles Vs DeepSeek-V3.2

A comparative analysis can be made to illustrate the disparity in idiom translation strategies used by HT and MT. While both translations are overall dominated by the paraphrase strategy, differences can be observed in terms of their inclination towards certain idiom translation strategies.

The distribution of idiom translation strategies in HT and MT are shown in [Table 1](#), which shows how often each strategy is used according to Baker's (1992) classification. This table summarizes an overview of translating idioms from Indonesian (ID) into Arabic (AR) on the text film subtitle.

Table 1. Idiom translation strategies: Netflix subtitles vs Deepseek-v3.2

Types of Translation	Translation Strategies	F (%)
NS	SMF	2 (9.09%)
	SDMF	5 (22.73%)
	Paraphrase	15 (68.18%)
	Omission	
DT	SMF	2 (9.09%)
	SDMF	5 (22.73%)
	Paraphrase	15 (68.18%)
	Omission	
Total	22	100%

[Table 1](#) shows that the use of paraphrase rule dominates over the others in processing the HT, which is 68.18%, followed by SMDF and SMF at 22.73% and 9.09%. No examples of omission strategies were observed in the data. Such evidence suggests that the successful human translator generally keeps overall vital information in the dialogue when translating idioms into non-idiomatic forms to keep meaning communicable.

This is consistent with the concept that subtitle translators may need to sacrifice target-language idiomaticity to maintain the completeness of information and coherency of plot within a translation (Baker, 1992). These findings are in line with earlier findings indicating that subtitle translators are

likely to avoid ignoring idiomatic meaning since such ignorance can hinder message flow in a film. (Agung, [2022](#); Suriadi & Kirana, [2024](#)).

Meanwhile, MT exhibits a distribution pattern of idiom translation strategies similar to that of the Netflix subtitles. The paraphrase strategy also emerges as the most dominant, accounting for 68.18%, followed by SMDF (22.73%) and SMF (9.09%), with no instances of omission identified. This similarity in distribution suggests that both human and machine translators face comparable constraints in preserving SL idiomaticity in the TL.

Nevertheless, similarity at the level of macro-strategies does not necessarily eliminate differences at the level of translation realization. MT tends to reproduce lexical and metaphorical structures in a more literal manner, whereas HT is more selective in adapting idioms to the pragmatic context of film dialogue (Ambarwati & Sari, [2024](#); Anis et al., [2021](#); Dewayanti & Margana, [2024](#)).

Idiom of Similar Meaning and Form

The SMF strategy is identified in a limited amount of data in both the HT and the MT. Its relatively low frequency (9.09%) indicates that cross-linguistic idiomatic equivalence that is fully aligned in both forms and meaning is limited. This finding reinforces Baker's ([1992](#)) assertion that the SMF strategy is rarely available, as idioms are highly culture-bound and rooted in language-specific conceptualizations. Data illustrating the application of this strategy are presented in [Table 2](#).

Table 2. Idiom of similar meaning and form

Code	Idiom	HT (Netflix)	Gloss (HT)	MT	Gloss (MT)
Data-1	<i>Pemerintahan boneka</i>	حكومة دُمى	Government Puppet	حكومة دُمى	Government Puppet
Data-2	<i>Bulan madu</i>	شهر العسل	Month the honey	شهر العسل	Month the honey

Based on [Table 2](#), the strategy of SMF is applied when a SL idiom has an equivalent idiomatic expression in the TL that is comparable in both meaning and form (Baker, [1992](#)). In this study, this strategy is employed by both the HT and MT albeit to a limited extent, indicating that full idiomatic equivalence between ID and AR is not always available. This finding aligns with recent studies suggesting that cross-linguistic idiom equivalence can only be maintained when the TL idiom is already well established both lexically and culturally (Istiqomah et al., [2024](#); Sinambela et al., [2023](#)).

Data-1 refers to an expression describing a government that appears formally sovereign but is substantively controlled by external forces. Both the HT and MT render this expression as حكومة دُمى (puppet government), indicating the use of the SMF strategy, as AR provides an idiomatic equivalent that is metaphorically and semantically aligned with the SL idiom.

The expression الحكومة الدُمى is commonly used in Arabic political discourse to describe regimes perceived as lacking independent legitimacy, as illustrated in the sentence احتج العديد من المواطنين ضد "الحكومة الدُمى التي أوجدها الدولة الغازية" many citizens protested against the puppet government established

by the occupying state” (Reverso Context, 2025). This example demonstrates the established idiomatic use of the expression for explicit political criticism.

Data-2 refers to the early period of marriage characterized by happiness and romance. In Arabic, this idiom is rendered as *شهر العسل* (honeymoon), which literally means “the month of honey.” This expression is not only documented in idiom dictionaries but is also widely attested in authentic usage across Arabic-language news media, lifestyle articles, and social discourse.

For instance, a CNN Arabic travel article employs the term *شهر العسل* in the context of recommending travel destinations for newlyweds: “...أفضل 5 وجهات لقضاء شهر العسل مع شريك حياتك...” “the five best destinations to spend your honeymoon with your life partner” (CNN Arabic, 2022). Such usage indicates that *شهر العسل* functions as a conventional idiomatic expression in modern Arabic discourse. Therefore, the application of the SMF strategy by both Netflix and DeepSeek-V3.2 is appropriate in preserving the meaning of the source idiom.

Choosing these idiomatic equivalents indicates that when an equivalent idiom is available and established in the TL, direct idiomatic substitution becomes the best approach to keep the practical effect and rhetorical strength. Both translations are not only semantically accurate but also maintain the idiomatic power and political impact of the original expressions, fulfilling the principle of meaning equivalence in cross-language communication as highlighted by Saimin et al. (2024).

Idiom of Similar Meaning but Different Form

The higher frequency of the SMDF strategy compared to SMF indicates that both human and machine translators more frequently encounter partial idiomatic equivalents rather than full equivalents. This strategy allows idiomaticity to be maintained, albeit with metaphorical adjustments. Data related to this strategy are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Idiom of similar meaning but different form

Code	Idiom	HT (Netflix)	Gloss (HT)	MT	Gloss (MT)
Data-3	<i>Pasang surut kehidupan</i>	مدّ الحياة وجزرها	The tide of life and its islands	مدّ وجزر الحياة	Tide and ebb of life
Data-4	<i>Kini seolah sirna diterpa angin kebebasan</i>	زالت كلها مع رياح الحرية الجديدة	Disappeared all with winds of the new freedom	تلاشى بفعل رياح الحرية	Vanished by effect of winds of freedom
Data-5	<i>Engkau pegangan dalam perjalanan</i>	أنت سند في الطريق	You [are] support on the road	أنت معيني في الرحلة	You [are] my support in the journey
Data-6	<i>Jiwa besar dan suci membawaku kepadamu</i>	الروح العظيمة والمقدسة ستأخذني إليك	The great and sacred soul will take me to you	الروح العظيمة والنقية قادتي إليك	The great and pure soul led me to you
	<i>Di setiap</i>			في كل نفق نهاية	

Data– 7	<i>terowongan pasti ada ujungnya</i>	كل نفق لا بد أن ينتهي	Every tunnel must end	In every tunnel an end
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The SMDF strategy is used when the source-language idiom and the target-language idiom have the same meaning but different forms. This allows translators to keep the original meaning while adjusting the idiomatic structure or expression in the TL. The analysis looks at two idioms translated by both Netflix and DeepSeek-V3.2, “*pasang surut kehidupan*” and “*engkau pegangan dalam perjalanan*”, as these idioms reflect different idiomatic types and have Arabic equivalents that do not match perfectly.

Data–3 shows that the expression “*pasang surut kehidupan*” is translated as *مدّ الحياة وجزرها* in the HT and *مدّ وجزر الحياة* by MT. Despite their differences in forms, both translations do have the same meaning of T4b2 and hence signal SMDF. The term *مدّ وجزر* is a frequently accessed ensemble in the Arabic language as in the article *العلاقات الأميركية السعودية بين مدّ وجزر* (A’yun, 2023).

This is a true attestation to the idiomacy of Arabic equivalent while translators adopt the form in accordance with sentence context maintaining original meaning. This finding is consistent with Rusyana & Nugroho (2022), who argue that metaphorical idioms tend to retain their meaning even when their form is adjusted to suit the TL.

Data–5 shows the expression “*engkau pegangan dalam perjalanan*” translated in Netflix as *أنت سند في الطريق* and by DeepSeek-V3.2 as *أنت معيني في الرحلة*. Both forms correspond to the same meanings however; they indicate slightly different forms which is an evidence of the use of SMDF. In Arabic rhetoric, the words ‘support’ or *معين* (helper/supporter) are popularly used expressions to denote physical one.

The noun *سند* literally denotes “support” or “something relied upon,” and is commonly used metaphorically to refer to a person who provides emotional or practical support as shown in the sentence *قوة المجتمع تُقاس بمن هو سندٌ للآخرين* “the strength of a society is measured by those who provide support to others” (Almaany, n.d.).

This shows that both translators successfully maintained the meaning of the source idiom while adjusting its form using different word choices in Arabic. These findings agree with Haq (2022), who states that social idioms are often reformulated in form without losing meaning to keep practical and emotional resonance.

Paraphrasing strategy

The higher frequency of the SMDF strategy compared to SMF suggests that both human and machine translators more frequently face partial idiomatic equivalents instead of full equivalents. This strategy helps keep idiomatic qualities, even with metaphorical changes. Data related to this strategy are shown in Table 4. It is the most common strategy used in both the HT and the MT. What is also notable here, however, is that the occurrence of this strategy at all as one of the most dominant reflects an orientation on part translators toward meaning transparency rather than maintaining SL idiom form.

Table 4. Paraphrasing strategy

Code	Idiom	HT (Netflix)	Gloss (HT)	MT	Gloss (MT)
Data-8	<i>Salam dari kota kembang</i>	بالسلام من مدينة الزهور	With-peace from city-the flowers	بالسلام من مدينة الزهور	With-peace from city-the flowers
Data-9	<i>Mencari udara segar</i>	لإستنشاف الهواء الطلق	For-exploring the air open	لإستنشاف الهواء الطلق	For-exploring the air open
Data-10	<i>Hancur badan tetap berjalan</i>	مدمرا إستمر في السير	Destroyed continue in walk	الجسد منهك لكن الروح تستمر	The-body exhausted but the spirit continues
Data-11	<i>Seperti angin segar</i>	نسمة منعشة	Breeze refreshing	كنسيم منعش	Like-breeze refreshing
Data-12	<i>Mari kita berlayar lagi</i>	لنبحر مجددا	To-sail again	هيا نبحر مرة أخرى	Come-let's sail once again
Data-13	<i>Teman spesial</i>	صديق مقرب	Every tunnel must end	صديق خاص	Friend special
Data-14	<i>Jangan dianggurin</i>	لاتدعيه يجلس مكانه	Don't-let-him sit his-place	لا تهمل	Do-not neglect
Data-15	<i>Nona kritis</i>	فتاة عنيدة	Girl stubborn	الآنسة الناقدة	The-miss critic
Data-16	<i>Ceplas ceplos</i>	صريحة جدا	Frank very	صريح صريحة	Frank
Data-17	<i>Mengabdikan diri</i>	يُكرّسُ نفسه	Dedicates himself	تكريس الذات	Dedication self
Data-18	<i>Cakrawala batu untuk negara berkembang</i>	آفاق جديدة للبلاد النامية	Horizons new for-the countries developing	أفقٌ حجري للدول النامية	Horizon-stony for-the countries developing

Baker (1992) further indicates that paraphrase “occurs when an idiom is not existent in the TL and thus a direct translation yields ambiguity or nonsense”. This result is similar to previous findings of idiom use in which, when employed in subtitling or L2 contexts, these chunks are often described due to the need for message clarity and space economy. (Purnama et al., 2024; Suriadi & Kirana, 2024)

In audiovisual translation, technical limits such as subtitle display duration and viewers' reading speed further promote using paraphrase as a safe and functional strategy. Yuniarti and Fajria (2023) and Galinggging dan Tambunsaribu (2021) found that in film and television subtitles, idiom translation

often sacrifices idiomaticity for better readability. Similar findings are reported by Gunawan et al. (2024), who emphasize that paraphrase is more frequently selected to maintain semantic continuity in audiovisual dialogue.

Data-8 shows that the expression “Salam dari kota kembang” is translated by both Netflix and DeepSeek-V3.2 as *روهزلا ةنيدم نم ملاسلا ب*. Both translations preserve the greeting meaning tied to the identity of Bandung, even though the expression is not strictly literal translated. Thus, the paraphrase strategy is used.

The phrase *روهزلا ةنيدم نم ملاسلا ب* is often found in Arabic to communicate formal greetings, especially in travel writing or news contexts, such as articles that use the phrase *نم ملاسلا ب*. This shows that, despite slight changes in idiomatic form, the intended meaning is conveyed clearly, in line with Fauzan Fauzi and Wahyudin’s (2025) assertion that idiomatic meaning can be maintained even when the form is adapted to the TL.

Data-15 illustrates the idiom “*Nona Kritis*”, which is translated by Netflix as *فتاة عنيدة* and by DeepSeek-V3.2 as *الآنسة الناقدة*. Both translations express the idea of a woman who is critical or assertive, but through different word choices, reflecting the paraphrase strategy. Netflix subtitle’s choice of *فتاة عنيدة* emphasizes stubbornness, thereby maintaining emotional nuance and character portrayal within the dialogue, whereas DeepSeek-V3.2’s use of *الآنسة الناقدة* foregrounds evaluative or critical traits, consistent with the tendency of MT to focus on formal lexical equivalence (Reverso Context, [n.d.](#))

This difference shows that HT views idioms from the perspective of narrative context and characterization, while MT focuses more on literal meaning of equivalence. The terms *عنيدة* (stubborn) and *ناقدة* (critical) are both commonly used in Arabic discourse, as illustrated in examples such as *هي فتاة عنيدة وتصبر على رأيها* “She is a stubborn woman who insists on her opinion” (Elles, 2026) and *الآنسة الناقدة دائما تطرح الأسئلة الصحيحة* “The critical lady always asks the right questions (Reverso Context, 2023).

This finding is in line with Hala et al. (2022), who argue that social or character-related idioms can be rendered in different forms without compromising meaning, so that the paraphrasing strategy remains effective in maintaining the comprehensibility and pragmatic resonance of the text.

Omission Strategy

The omission strategy is not observed in either the HT or the MT in this study. The absence of this strategy indicates that both HT and MT systems tend to retain idiomatic elements in dialogue, albeit through adjustments in form or meaning by employing alternative strategies.

This finding suggests that complete omission of idioms is perceived as potentially disruptive to message comprehensibility and narrative coherence within the context of film subtitling. This result is consistent with previous studies reporting that the omission of idiomatic elements in subtitles is generally avoided, as it may reduce semantic continuity and disrupt the narrative flow of films (Agung, 2022; Suriadi & Kirana, 2024).

The findings of this study reveal differences in the application of idiom translation strategies in the audiovisual context. Previous studies have emphasized that idiom translation in subtitles commonly faces technical constraints, particularly limitations of space and on-screen duration, which lead

translators to employ reduction or omission strategies to maintain readability (Agung, [2022](#); Hala et al., [2022](#); Suriadi & Kirana, [2024](#)).

In addition, Zayed et al. ([2021](#)) reported that MT systems tend to preserve lexical structures more literally than human translators. In contrast to these findings, the present study demonstrates that both the Netflix subtitles and DeepSeek-V3.2 translations are predominantly characterized by the use of paraphrase, while omission is not observed at all. This indicates that both HT and MT prioritize the explicit conveyance of idiomatic meaning rather than deleting it.

This study shows that the differences between HT and MT do not lie in the macro-level distribution of strategies, but rather in their micro-level linguistic realizations. Human translators tend to adjust idioms according to pragmatic context, emotional nuance, and character portrayal in the dialogue, whereas MT is more oriented toward lexical and structural equivalence.

These findings suggest that the selection of idiom translation strategies is contextual and influenced by the communicative purpose of subtitles, rather than solely by the availability of idiomatic equivalents in the TL. The results are consistent with Baker's ([1992](#)) view that paraphrase is the most flexible strategy when no direct idiomatic equivalent is available. It also supports the findings of Arrasyid et al. ([2022](#)) and Istiqomah et al. ([2024](#)), which highlight that clarity of meaning and audience are more important than keeping idiomatic form in audiovisual texts.

Conclusion

The analysis comparing between the Netflix subtitle and the DeepSeek-V3.2 leads to be conclusion that the paraphrase strategy is the main method used to translate idioms from Indonesian into Arabic. This dominance shows that both human and machine translators care more about meaning comprehension than preserving idiomatic forms.

Meanwhile, the SMF and SMDF strategies are used less frequently, depending on whether suitable idiomatic equivalents are available in the TL. SMF is used when an idiomatic equivalent in Arabic exists that matches both meaning and form, whereas SMDF is for cases where the idiomatic meaning can be expressed, but the form needs to be adapted.

Paraphrase emerges as the most flexible and frequently applied strategy, particularly for idioms that lack direct equivalents or require adjustment to narrative context and character portrayal. The differing approaches between HT and MT indicate that human translators tend to consider emotional nuance and dialogic context, while MT places greater emphasis on literal or formal equivalence.

The findings of this study affirm that successful idiom translation depends not only on semantic equivalence but also on the translator's ability to adapt idiomatic form and style in ways that remain communicative, pragmatic, and appropriate to the audiovisual context.

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