

ABSTRACT

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This study aims to investigate the difficulties faced by students in translating idiomatic expressions and to explore their perceptions for overcoming these challenges. This research employed a descriptive qualitative research method. The participants of this study were 10 English students of the 2021/2022 academic year and they were asked to translate 10 sentences containing idiomatic expressions. Subsequently, three of them were selected for in-depth interviews based on the level of the correctness of their translation tasks, consisting of one student with high accuracy, one with moderate accuracy, and one with low accuracy to provide varied insights in answering the research questions.

The findings reveal that students primarily encounter two main difficulties in translating idiomatic expressions: (1) difficulty in finding equivalent expressions in the target language, and (2) difficulty in understanding the cultural context of idiomatic expressions. Students' perceptions of these difficulties varied, ranging from underestimating the challenges to fully recognizing their complexity. To overcome these difficulties, students employed various strategies, such as looking at dictionaries, and utilizing online resources. However, the effectiveness of these strategies varied depending on individual factors such as language proficiency and learning style. The study concludes that a solid foundation in idiomatic expressions, effective learning strategies, and access to reliable resources are crucial for overcoming the challenges associated with translating idiomatic expressions. By developing a deeper understanding of idiomatic expressions and employing appropriate strategies, students can enhance their translation skills and achieve better results.