

**ANALYSIS OF IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL:  
THE WORST YEARS OF MY LIFE (MOVIE)**

**THESIS**

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
“Sarjana Pendidikan” (S1)**

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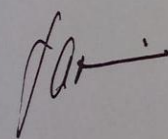
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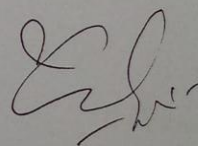
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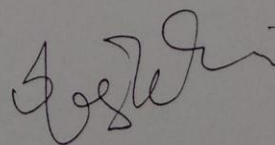


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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the writer discusses about research background, research questions, research objectives, research significance, research design, limitation of research, data collection technique, and data analysis technique.

#### **A. Research Background**

A human cannot live alone because they are social creatures who always communicate and share thoughts, ideas, opinions, and all kinds of other information with each other, both physically and verbally. To be able to communicate verbally human needs a “tool”, which is called language. Language is a sound symbol system which is agreed to use by the member society in cooperative, communication, and self-identity. Besides, language relates to all aspects of life and the nature around a society which uses. Language has characteristic flexible and dynamic which will create a new possibility in communication, so it is impossible that language just can stop in one word and one meaning because language can change as fast as the grown of human life it self (Harimurti,2019).

Learning a language is very important. Language is used by humans to communicate with other people. The identity of every human society is a well- developed language. Language is a very important communication system for humans. The language, which is used by human beings as tools of communication, indicate a certain meaning. As a result, it should be analyzed and assesed by using various approaches to study. Linguistics is one approach that can be used to assess a language because linguistics does not only study about language but also things related to language itself. Linguistics is the scientific study of language, and involves the analysis of language form, language meaning and language in context (Ananda kumar, 2019).

There are so many languages in this world. Most countries in the world have their own language. Languages have different characteristics. These differences are caused by the society and culture that make up these languages. Different societies and cultures shape so many languages in this world. One of the languages in this world is English. English is one of the languages that people should learn. According to Richards as quoted from Nur Indah, “Latin was the most studied foreign language five hundred years ago. However, English has become the most studied foreign language today. English is the most studied language because English has become an international language in this era. As an international language, English is widely used by people and English has become a popular language in this world. English is used in many aspects of life. One aspect of using English is technology.

English is used in many technological devices such as smartphones, personal computers, televisions, etc. Now, most of the devices use English. For example Smartphones, most Smartphones use English as the default language. Even though the Smartphone is not made in English, the Smartphone still uses English as the default language. Examples show that English has a big role in this life.

One of the most important aspects of English that is very important to learn is vocabulary. Vocabulary has a big role when people talk to other people. When people have a conversation, they need to have a lot of vocabulary so they can catch the gist of the conversation. When learning English there are so many challenges. One of the challenges in learning English is while learning about vocabulary but learning vocabulary is very important to understand the meaning of expressions in English. When learning vocabulary there are phrases or sentences that grammar theory cannot explain. In English phrases or sentences that cannot be explained by grammatical theory are called idioms. As quoted from Atiqah, Strasiene said that idioms are often unpredictable in their

meaning, meaning that their meaning cannot always be derived from the literal meaning of their constituent parts 5 The meaning of idioms cannot be predicted. The meaning of the idiom is different from the original meaning; In other words, idioms have a figurative meaning.

Idioms are used in many ways in language, including through movies where speakers must convey messages which can only be spoken with idiomatic expression. It is very interesting to study different types of idioms that were used by a group of society and categorizing the idioms into many groups. English has idiomatic expressions which English speakers used to express their feeling and conditions using idiomatic expressions. An idiom is an expression that cannot be understood if we try to analyze the meaning of each word in isolation because its meaning is different from its logic. According to Mona Baker, an idiom is defined as frozen patterns of language that allow little or no variation in form and often carry the meanings which cannot be decided from their components (Chear, 2017). It means that idiom cannot be translated literally from one language into another language without some changes in connotation. While according to Chaer, idioms are units of language whether in the form of words, phrases, or sentences whose meanings cannot be drawn from the general grammatical rules prevailing in the language or cannot be predicted from the lexical meaning of the elements that make up them ( Cambridge, 2018).

Meanwhile, according to Stephen Grambley, an idiom is defined as a complex item that is longer than a word form but shorter than a sentence and which has a meaning that cannot be derived from the knowledge of its parts. On the other hand, Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary stated an idiom is a group of words in a fixed order that have a particular meaning that is different from the meanings of each word understood on its own. Idiomatic expressions in formal situations can be found in lectures, academics, essays, and

business reports. Informal idiomatic expressions can be found in literature, music, and movies (Grambley, 2018).

Idioms are groups of words that have separate meanings that are different from the meaning of each word in the group, while the form of idioms can be in the form of words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. Argues that the notion of an idiom is a construction whose meaning is not the same as the meaning of its components. Mentions that idioms are discussed in relation to the use of words and the suitability of word choice. It is said that idioms are equated with proverbs in Indonesian. To know the meaning of an idiom, one must study it as a native speaker, it is not possible through the words that make it up.

Idioms are divided into two types, namely full idioms and partial idioms. Full idioms are idioms in which all the elements have merged into a single unit so that the meaning it has comes from the whole unit. For example, light-hearted means helping. Some idioms are idioms in which one of the elements still has its own lexical meaning. For example, complete darkness means a quiet situation. An iron fist means power because of violence. In other words, an idiom is a group of words resulting from news research, two or more words to express an intention that has assumptions, figures or connotations. From the frequency of use, more expressions are used in everyday language, as well as essays when compared to proverbs (Atma, 2018).

Since English is an international language, everyone should deepen their understanding of English. English has idiomatic expressions that English speakers use to express their feelings and conditions using idiomatic expressions. In other words, the intended meaning of an idiom usually depends on the context in which the expression is used. Idioms are included as figurative language or non-literal meanings. Idiomatic expressions are used in formal and informal situations. Idiomatic expressions in formal situations can be found in lectures,

academic essays, and business reports. Informal idiomatic expressions can be found in literature, music, and movies.

Therefore, the researcher chose idioms as objects in this study because idioms are a unique part of the English language where the meaning of idioms cannot be predicted. Because an idiom is a phrase with a figurative meaning that cannot be understood just by knowing the meaning of the words in the phrase. Idioms are widely used in everyday language, especially in English. Idioms are always something special about any language; they develop several characteristics that distinguish one language from another. In English, idiomatic expressions are spontaneously used by native speakers in everyday life. It is an important part of the English lexicon and vocabulary. Idioms have become one of the special features in English and can provide special challenges for learners as they learn about English vocabulary.

In this research, the movie becomes an object of the study. The movie is one of the literary works which people often watch to entertain and gain information. As with books or other printed works, the movie is a conductor of information to society. The information presented in a movie providing new knowledge to society. Whatever the genre of the theme, the movie always leaves a moral message to people that can absorb easily. Besides, understanding a movie can be easier than reading a written text like a book. Based on this reason, the movie is strategically used as a communication tool for many people. Many of the English idioms that a person may hear spoken in America came from the movies. In watching a movie, a lot of people hardly understand the meaning of the idioms, because the meaning of the idioms is unpredictable from the grammatical rule. Moreover, the aim of the idioms in the movie can be accomplished only because words have a certain meaning.

Presently the production of the movie is dominated by the United States and even from the beginning until now. Since American movies are made in English, large numbers of



globally popular movies are subsequently in English. Although the movies are produced in a foreign language, Indonesians enjoy English movie it has been evident that their enjoyment continues to increase. This is shown by their positive response toward English language movies which are popular in movie theatres, television broadcasts, and as recordings for homeviewing circulated through various media in Indonesia.

The researcher uses the Middle School film *The Worst Years of My Life* as a data source to analyze idioms. This study focuses on idiomatic expressions found in oral dialogue in a film entitled *Middle School The Worst Years of My Life* which has been written in the form of a film script. The use of idioms used to translate uses equivalent idiomatic expressions in the target language. Idiomatic expressions are not always grammatical, but are formed, accepted and used by native speakers of the language with a fixed structure and meaning. In this regard, idiomatic expressions have long played an important role in English.

Middle School's film *The Worst Years of My Life* contains many idiomatic expressions in its dialogues. This film is interesting to analyze because it not only provides information about idiomatic expressions in real life versions/forms, but also provides the best practical medium for understanding idiomatic expressions themselves. In addition, this film also tells about the life of a teenager named Rafe Khatchadorian (played by Griffin Gluck), where Rafe is a student at Patterson High School, United States. He is a man full of problems. He was forced to continue school even though he had good plans if he didn't go to school. At school, Rafe has a friend named Leonardo. Leonardo often helps Rafe in doing all the bad things so that Rafe can be immediately expelled from school. Among them, chewing candy during class time is subject to 5000 points, running around the school yard is subject to 1000000 points, and many others. The story gets more interesting, when Rafe is focusing on collecting points, he is faced with two difficult choices. That is whether he should

continue his delinquency or must be willing to obey all the rules at school, due to a certain reason.

Because of that, the researcher chooses this title for the thesis studied as a material because the idiomatic expression is one of figurative language that the meaning difficult to understand for the commonviewers. Also, the researcher often found movies containing idiomatic expressions in their dialog, so the researcher was interested in describes the types of idiomatic expressions and the meaning of the idiomatic expressions in this movie. Moreover, the researcher chooses this movie because the storyline was good, acceptable to all ages, the message can be received with good viewers, have a good language structure, and this movie like the heroic themed stories in general, this movie also hastwo opposing characters, namely hero and villain who act as Middle School's The Worst Years of My Life (movie), but in contrast to the general description of the heroic-themed story, this movie offers something new and fresh.

Movie is one of the literary works whose function is to entertain and obtain information as well as to convey information to the public. Therefore, movie is very strategically used as a communication tool for many people. Biran said that language in movie has a very important role and function. Without language, movies will lose their 'strength' because language is an effective element in conveying information. Moreover, this movie often uses idioms in it, every idiom that appears in the conversation has a certain meaning.

Learners can use movies as a medium to learn idioms. Movies as reflections of real life abound in idioms. Movies that are used as learning media can be useful for students because movies are a combination of audio and visual aspects. In addition, idioms may appear in a movie. Currently, idiomatic expressions are very productive in movie scripts because idioms can enrich diction in movie scripts. Idioms are used in many ways in

language, including through movies where the speaker must convey a message that can only be spoken with idiomatic expressions. Each idiom that appears in the movie's dialogue has a certain meaning. Every language has its own idiom.

Before the researcher took this study, the researcher took four previous studies related to this research. The first research is entitled Analysis of Idiomatic Expressions in the Comic Doraemon Volume 4 & 6 by Desmanita (2019). The similarity of this research with Desmanita's research is the object of the research, the researcher discusses idiomatic expressions. The difference between this research and Desmanita's research is that the researcher focuses on the types and contextual meanings of idiomatic expressions, while the research focuses on the types and forms of idiomatic expressions. Then, the researcher investigated the idiomatic expressions in the movie while he investigated the idiomatic expressions in the comics.

Based on the explanation above, the aim of the researcher is to choose the Middle School film The Worst Years of My Life for analysis which focuses on contextual meaning. This research focuses on idiomatic expressions found in spoken dialogues in the script. Middle School's film The Worst Years of My Life has a variety of English accents and dialects, many interesting idioms are used and all of them are not so easy to understand for certain people who don't know the current situation of why, where, and when spoken. The benefit of this research is that researchers can analyze and find out the types of idioms contained in the Middle School film The Worst Years of My Life providing an opportunity for researchers to identify idioms.

The amount of cultural knowledge has an impact on the conversational statements in the movie, so contextual explanations are needed to interpret the meanings contained in it. Based on the reasons above, this research is very important and interesting to do.

Therefore, the researcher intends to conduct a research entitled "An Analysis of English Idiomatic Expression in Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life (Movie)".

## **B. Research Limitations**

In this study, the researcher focused on the meaning or message based on the context in the idioms contained in the Middle School movie The Worst Years of My Life. Researchers took idioms from the entire movie script. The researcher uses the Middle School movie The Worst Years of My Life as a data source to analyze idioms. The researcher uses the theory of Fernando (1996) to analyze the types of idioms. There are three types of idioms, namely: pure idioms, semi idioms, and literal idioms. Then the researcher uses Firth's theory in Haliday (1994) to analyze the contextual meaning of idioms.

## **C. Problem formulation**

Based on the background of the problem above, the researcher makes the formulation of the problems are arranged as follows:

1. What are the type of idiomatic expressions used by the found in the Middle School movie The Worst Years of My Life?
2. What are the meanings of the idiomatic expressions used by the Middle School The Worst Years of My Life (movie)?

## **D. Research Objectives**

This discussion aims to answer the questions posed in the research problems above. To be more specific, the researcher wants to:

1. Exploring about idioms in sentences and types of idiomatic expressions

2. Investigating the contextual meaning of the idioms contained in the Middle School The Worst Years of My Life (movie)

## **E. Research Benefits**

The Researcher hopes that this research can be useful, both theoretically and practically:

### **1. Theoretical Benefits Theoretically**

The author hopes that this research can be used as additional knowledge, additional information about categories and contextual meaning of idiomatic expressions in English. In addition, for those who are interested in learning vocabulary, the findings of this study provide valuable information for anyone who studies literary works such as movies.

### **2. Practical Benefits**

#### **a. Lecturer or Teacher**

The results of this study can be additional information for lecturers or teachers to teach students in language teaching to carry out general conversations while in class or to interact with other students outside, such as lecturers or teachers. The teacher can insert idiomatic expressions when explaining the material.

#### **b. Students**

The results of this research can be additional knowledge on the same research or assignment.

#### **c. Research**

The results of this study can be information for further researchers to conduct further research on idiomatic expressions in English.