

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Research Background

People use English as a way of conveying both verbally and written to advance thoughts and objectives. In communication, people sometimes do not know the true meaning of what other people say. Therefore we need to know about semantics. Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning of language. In other words, semantics is learning/knowledge about the meaning or meaning contained in a language, code/symbol, or other representation. One object of semantic study is the meaning of idioms. Idioms have an essential role in everyday communication. An idiom is a construction whose meaning is not the same as the combined meaning of its elements.

Using idioms can be a way of providing guidance, mocking someone, or offering advice. They are commonly found in various written formats (novels, stories, letters, poems, and others) and spoken language (radio, television, and others). Idioms can add a certain liveliness to a language. In addition, these expressions can bring a unique flavour and liveliness to their use, making them much more interesting. An idiomatic expression is a phrase or saying whose figurative meaning is often difficult to interpret from its literal interpretation. According to (McCarthy & Dell, 2010), An idiom is a collection of words whose meaning is often challenging to determine from the individual meanings of the words. This implies that idioms cannot be understood by defining the words separately. They are usually understood only within specific groups. Moreover, idioms are part of the culture. So when we encounter or learn a new culture, understanding idioms is very important. This is especially true when studying English as more than a world language spoken practically everywhere.

To support this, it can be seen that to become proficient in English, it is not enough to learn the rules of English grammar. It is also essential to gain an in-depth understanding of the idioms and expressions used in the language, as these are often difficult to interpret from their literal meaning.

Idioms may be a fun way to communicate when you listen and talk. Nevertheless, it may be challenging for students to acquire English as a

second or foreign language. Therefore, idioms should also be included in teaching and learning foreign languages.

For instance, "hit the books" can be interpreted as "study hard", while it means "hit the book". It is often used among students when they need to study, yet it is unsuitable for formal situations. An example sentence could be, "What are you doing? You have to hit the books now!". Similarly, "a piece of cake" expresses something straightforward. It can also be used to belittle something, as demonstrated in the sentence, "It will be a piece of cake to get concert tickets. Stay tuned!". Here, "a piece of cake" is a "simple task".

The use of idioms in spoken form is also seen in the movie. The use of idioms in movies is problematic because the idioms come from different cultures, for example, when watching English movies. Idiomatic expressions in the movie are related to the form of meaning to be conveyed. This use of idioms in movies also happens in *Knives Out*, which uses many idiomatic expressions that give complex meanings. The term's meaning is vary depending on the context in which it is used.

The 2019 American mystery flick "*Knives Out*" is written and directed by Rian Johnson, who also takes on the part of co-producer. The movie follows the story of master sleuth Benoit Blanc as he looks into the passing of a rich, yet dysfunctional family's patriarch. Featuring an impressive cast with Daniel Craig playing as Blanc, alongside Chris Evans, Ana de Armas, Jamie Lee Curtis, Michael Shannon, Don Johnson, Toni Collette, LaKeith Stanfield, Katherine Langford, Jaeden Martell, and the late Christopher Plummer in his final on-screen role. Supporting this, the movie has already achieved massive success at the box office.

B. Research Focus

By using the research background mentioned above, the researcher focuses on categorizing and understanding the idiomatic expressions used by the characters in the *Knives Out* movie. The analytical method, as defined by (McCarthy & Dell, 2010) is applied to explore the types and meanings of these idioms. This is provide a broader insight into the types and meanings of the idioms used.

C. Research Questions

The research decided several problems to be discussed. The research questions are as follows:

1. What are the types of idiomatic expressions used in Knives Out movie?
2. What are the meaning of the idiomatic expressions spoken by the characters of Knives Out movie?

D. Research Objectives

Referring to the statement above, the researcher describes the research objectives as follows:

1. To find out the types of idiomatic expressions used in Knives Out movie.
2. To identify the meaning of the idiomatic spoken by the characters of Knives Out movie.

E. Research Benefits

Researchers expect that the findings of this study is applicable for:

1. Reader

Through this study, researchers can obtain an overview of idiomatic expressions. This research is a source of reference and information for readers to discover idiomatic expressions in the Knives Out movie.

2. Researcher

This research can be used as a reference, acquiring information and relevant materials for future researchers on idiomatic expression to be further expanded in other learning materials to enhance their quality.

3. Institution

The researcher expects this study to serve as a resource for future scholars. The researcher believes that the following researcher would explore the same problem from the movie "Knives Out" from the oposite perspective, including research on the movie's summary, values, and linguistic style. Conduct research related to idiomatic expressions.