

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter comprises with six sub-chapter that is Background of Knowledge, Statements of the Research Problem, Objectives of the Research, Significances of the Research, Scope and Limitation of the Research, and Definition of the Key Term.

A. Background of the Research

In daily life, we absolutely need a communication in fulfillment our requirements. Naturally, we live in a world of language so that we need to tool of communication called language. In this case, a language can be used when we are talking about or having a conversation with others, such as when we talk to our parents, our teachers, our friends, our lovers, and even our rivals. Language itself is the source of human life and power. Language can also be used to establish rules and maintain humans' culture. In short, everyone in this world knew at least one language.

There are many thousands variation of language in this world, one of them are English language. As we know, English language is an International Language that is indispensable when we are going to overseas, especially the countries that uses English language as their mother tongue, such as British, American, Australian, and so on. Besides, we can encounter various things of English words in our daily life, for instance: in advertisements, reference marks, road and road sign, and so

forth. Moreover, English language has an important role in the technological development. Hence, English language is taught in all level of educations (pre-schools, elementary schools, secondary schools, senior high schools, and even university).

One of the challenges in learning English language resides in its vocabulary. Undeniable, we have frequently the trouble when we want to translate a sentence or text into a language because many expressions written by native speaker cannot be translated word by word. Such expressions, either its phrases or sentences, have certain meaning that cannot be explained in grammar theories. This is a special feature of English language called idiom. An idiom is the part of the distinctive form or construction of a particular language that has a specific form or style presents only in that language. Hallidayan (2007:154) says “an idiom in the language being described is anything for which no equivalent is found in the mother tongue.” Many linguists define an idiom as an expression which is fixed and cannot be understood literally; and its meaning cannot be found in the common dictionary. According to Jackson and Amvela (2001:65), idiom can be defined as “a phrase, the meaning of which cannot be predicted from the individual meanings of the morphemes it comprises”.

Grammatically as well as semantically, idiom has the special characteristics. Victoria (2011:192) states that an idiom belongs to lexicon or mental dictionary as single items with their meanings specified because

the words (or morphemes) of a language are arbitrary (not predictable by rule). The meaning of lexicon is a repository of the words (or morphemes) of a language and their meanings. Thus, to understand them, the speakers must learn the special restrictions on their use in sentences.

Since idioms convey meaning quickly and enable language users express themselves more efficiently, they should be integrated into the teaching and learning process of foreign languages. As well as English language learners, either EFL (English as a Foreign Language) or ESL (English as a Second Language), idioms are considered to be one of the hardest and the most interesting parts of the English vocabulary. Even, idioms are one of the greater problems in learning English because idioms present some of the most difficult materials for English language learners to successfully understand. However, idioms must be learned because they have an important role as the part of language. Hence, mastery of idiom is very needed to facilitate communication and promote an innovative environment of social interaction. So, if the English language learners do not learn English idioms, they will never know when the other person uses it; or they cannot understand what are talking about by the speakers. Moreover, the use of idioms in a conversation will be more attractive because of the beautiful to hear.

The use of idiom is applied in an idiomatic expression. Idiomatic expression is a kind of complex lexical item and its meaning cannot be inferred from its parts. In other word, idiomatic expression is special

expression which consists of a series of word or phrase in English which has different meaning in literary or word-by-word. Even, there are some distinctions the use of English idiom between British and America. Such distinctions are in the use of their meaning, phrase and form. The native speakers of the English language are very often used idiomatic expressions in their everyday speech. In spoken, idiomatic expressions can be used in songs, whereas in written, the use of idiomatic expressions are expressed in literature.

Essentially, literature as the shape and the result of a creative work is a medium which utilizes language to reveal about human life. Literary work is an art of language because it is an expression of the human person in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, spirit, and belief in a form of picture of life. In literary work, we can independently express our experiences, thoughts, feelings, and ideas. (Tarigan: 2011:118) states “The progression of a nation can be measured from its reading book that is read, from his society level appreciation to science and art, about literature.” In addition, because of literary cannot be separated by reading, we have to in love with reading.

Here, the researcher chooses novel as the data of this research because of many benefits that we can get in reading a novel. Majority, there are three broad types of literature that is drama, poetry and prose. Novel is one of them that belong to prose fiction. According to Tarigan (2011:120), there are five classifications of fiction namely novel,

novelette, short story, short short story, and vignette. The meaning of novel is narrative text informing of prose with a long shape that including some figures and fiction event in a realistic of true-to-life manner. In a novel, the author makes every effort to direct the reader to the reality of life images through the stories contained in the novel. Thus, the novel tells only one facet of the character's life that really special, which resulted in a change of fortune. One of the benefits in reading a novel is we can understand those meaning of idioms so that we will become richer with the treasury.

From the above reasons, the researcher is interested to analyze a novel that is focused on the use of idiomatic expressions. The researcher chooses Sarah Dessen's novel entitled "Lock and Key". She is the author's novels for young adults. Her novel entitled "Lock and Key" belongs to New York Times Best-sellers. This novel is a novel fiction tells about heart of a gutsy, complex girl dealing with unforeseen circumstances and learning to trust again. Moreover, "Lock and Key" is a touching story of moving on but hanging on, accepting love and giving love.

Based on the explanations above, the researcher wants to conduct the research entitled "**An Analysis of Idiomatic Expression in *Lock and Key* Novel by Sarah Dessen**".

B. Statement of Research Problems

According to the background of knowledge above, the problems in this research is elaborated into some questions, they are:

1. What are the type of idiomatic expressions found in novel entitled “Lock and Key” by Sarah Dessen?
2. What are the classification of idiomatic expressions found in novel entitled “Lock and Key” by Sarah Dessen?
3. What are the connotative meaning of idioms used in novel entitle “Lock and Key” by Sarah Dessen?

C. Objectives of the Research

Referring to the statement of research problems above, the researcher presents the objectives of the research below:

1. To find out the type of idiomatic expressions in novel entitled “Lock and Key” by Sarah Dessen.
2. To find out the classification of idiomatic expressions in novel entitled “Lock and Key” by Sarah Dessen.
3. To know the connotative meaning of idioms in novel entitled “Lock and Key” by Sarah Dessen.

D. Significances of the Research

The result of this research is hopefully useful for students as the basic information to learn idioms, especially in novel. Besides, the researcher also expects this research can be an alternative reference for

other researchers who will examine “Lock and Key” novel from the other side, for example the study about the characterizations, values, and language styles.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

The scope of this research is novel analysis about the intrinsic elements. To make it more detail and focus, the researcher only limits this research on Sarah Dessen’s Lock and Key. In addition, the researcher also limits this study on sentences and utterances contain idiomatic expression. Moreover, the researcher only looks for the meaning of idiom based on the connotative meaning.

F. Definitions of the Key Term

This research used some terms related to the title that is the definition of idiom and idiomatic expression below:

1. Idiom

Many experts interpret the term of idiom into some way. Here some definition of idiom:

- a. Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary (pg.219), idiom is group of words with a meaning this is different from the meaning of all individual words.
- b. Cruse, D. A. (1987:37), an idiom is an expression whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of its parts.

- c. Seidl and McMordie (1988:11-13), idioms are an essential part of language; they have a different meaning from the individual meanings of each word.
- d. Gairn (2010:35), an idiom is a sequence of words which operates as single semantic unit, and like many multi-word verbs the meaning of the whole cannot be deduced from an understanding of the parts, for example: “never mind”, hang on, under the weather, and so on.

2. Idiomatic Expressions

The use of idiom is always translated using an equivalent idiomatic expression in the target language. The idiomatic expression is not always grammatical, but it is established, accepted and used by native speakers of the language with a fixed structure and meaning. In this sense, idiomatic expressions have long played an important role in the English language. Below is the definition of idiomatic and expression according to Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary (Bull, V. 2011):

- a. Idiomatic = (of language) natural and correct. (Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary, pg.219).
- b. Expression = (1) things that people say, write or do to show their feelings, opinions, or ideas (2) look on somebody’s face that shows a feeling (3) word or phrase (4) feeling shown when acting, singing, etc. (Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary, pg.156).

Victoria (2011:191) says that language contains many phrases whose meanings are not predictable on its individual words. That phrases are called idioms, or idiomatic phrases. Meanwhile, Hurford (2007: 328) argues that idiomatic expressions (idioms) are multi-word phrases which that combines the literal senses of the individual words in each phrase. In the other hand, idiomatic phrase is an expression whose meaning does not conform to the principle of compositionality, and unrelated to the meaning of its parts. But, the meaning is intended usually depends on the context in which the expression is used.