

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of some subchapters, namely background of the study, statements of the problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. Those are important to be explained because they describe this study generally.

1.1 Background of the Study

Idioms are plentifully used in everyday language, especially in English. The idioms become special interest to many linguists to do research because the idioms are unpredictable in meaning for people who have never heard them before. People who have not known the idioms will get confused in interpreting idioms because the idioms generally consist of words with unpredictable meaning. This usually happens to someone who learns English at the first time.

Hurford (2007) states that idioms are multi-word phrases whose overall meanings are idiosyncratic and largely unpredictable, reflecting speaker meanings which are not derivable by combining the literal senses of the individual words in each phrase according to the regular semantic rules of the language. In other words, the meaning of idioms which is intended usually depends on the context in which the expression is used. They cannot be interpreted word to word.

Idioms are included as figurative language or non-literal meaning. It means that idioms cannot be understood literally, for instance, the idiom *you are an apple*

of my eyes. The idiom does not mean that someone is a real apple appearing in the eyes of someone else. However, the idiom is used to express someone's interest to have more attention to someone else. Therefore, to understand the idiom, someone cannot interpret it literally because the idiom involves figurative meaning.

Figurative language uses figures of speech to be more effective, persuasive and impactful (Grice, 1975). Therefore, people have different purposes in using idioms in either conversation or literary works. They will have different reasons based on their needs in stating idioms. However, idioms are often used to deliver the speaker's or writer's intended messages to the hearer or reader so that their words can be smoother when using the idioms.

Recently, many forms of literary works such as drama, poetry, novel, song lyric, short story and movie script become sources of data in doing research using the theory of idioms. The research focuses on the words found in the literary works indicating idioms. Therefore, the writer uses *Freedom Writers* movie as the source of data to analyze idioms.

Freedom Writers is a movie based on a true story which was taken from the *Freedom Writers Diary* by Erin Gruwell and her students. This movie took place in California, the United States of America. This movie was released on January 5th, 2007. The running time or the duration of this movie is about 122 minutes or one hour and twenty-two minutes. The language used in this movie is English. *Freedom Writers* was directed by Richard LaGravenese and produced by Danny De Vito, Michael Shamberg, and Stacey Shen.

The movie tells about racism problems happening in Long Beach,

California. This movie was started with the scene of the *Roodney King* riots in Los Angeles at 1992. In Long Beach, the society was divided into several groups which were Latino, Asian, White and Black. The first story came from Eva, a Latino girl. She told that the groups killed each other for the sake of their race, prestige, and the proud for their groups.

There are several reasons why the writer choose *Freedom Writers* movie as the source of data. The first reason is because the movie shows a number of forms of self-expression spoken by teenagers from different ethnic groups. The second reason is that the movie ever won 2 awards. The first award mentioned Hillary Swank as the Best International Actress category from Golden Camera (Germany) in 2008. Then, the second award was Humanitas Prize (America) in 2007 for Feature Film Category because the movie included as educated movie.

In addition, the writer decided to analyze idioms in *Freedom Writers* movie because of two reasons. The first reason is that many data (idioms) can be found in this movie that are appropriate to the theories used, for example, *That's why you're over there wagging your tongue*. The bold expression in the sentence above is one of idioms found in the *Freedom Writers* movie. Based on the theory of the types of idioms proposed by Fernando (1996), the idiom includes as *pure idioms* because to understand the meaning of the idiom, the words of the expression do not contribute to construct the meaning of the idiom. Here, the word *wagging* and *your tongue* have different meaning with the basic meaning of each word semantically when the words are united as an idiom.

Based on the theory of Nunberg, Sag and Wasow (1994) relating to the

properties of idioms, the idiom *wagging your tongue* involves three properties: *conventionality*, *informality*, and *affect*. In the property of *conventionality*, the idiom is conventionalized in meaning that is *to talk gossip*. While in the *informality* property, the idiom is used by Jamal in the movie to talk with his classmate in informal situation. In addition, the idiom involves the property of *affect* because the idiom is used by Jamal in the movie to insult his friend who likes gossip that affects his friend to be angry.

The second reason is because this study becomes the first study of idioms using movie as the source of data in English Department of University of Trunojoyo Madura. There are two related studies that had been conducted by other writers. They were an analysis of idioms found in 366 Fair Tales by Colin Clark conducted by Siti Sri Wahyuningsih (2012) and a study conducted by Ja'far (2017) to analyze idioms found in *A Boy and a Bear in a Boat* short story. Neither analyzed idioms in *Freedom Writers* movie.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problems

Through this research, the writer emerges the following questions:

1. What are the types of idioms found in *Freedom Writers* movie?
2. What are the properties of idioms found in *Freedom Writers* movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements of research problems, the purposes of the study are:

1. To explain the types of idioms found in *Freedom Writers* movie.

2. To explain the properties of idioms found in *Freedom Writers* movie.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study is expected to give both theoretical and practical contributions. Theoretically, the results of this study are expected to give understanding about idioms. The writer also hopes this study can help readers and other students who plan or look for references about idioms.

Practically, the purpose of this study is to help people in interpreting the idioms. This study also becomes an alternative way for the readers in understanding *Freedom Writers* movie that contains several amounts of idioms. People will not be confused when they find some idiomatic expressions found in the movie.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is in the field of semantics focusing on idioms using two theories. The first theory is used to analyze the types of idioms proposed by Fernando (1996) and the second theory analyzes the properties of idioms proposed by Nunberg, Sag and Wasow (1994). Furthermore, the limitation of this study is idioms found in *Freedom Writers* movie in 2007.