

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the general overview of the research. This consists of background of research, problem of research, purposes of the study, significances of research and clarification of key terms.

1.1 Background of Research

Everything has a meaning, in our ideas, daily activity and every part of our life. Moreover in language, every word, every phrase and every sentence contain meaning. Joseph Keim Campbell, Michael O'Rourke, and David Shier (2002:1) argues "Meaning is everywhere — in our thoughts, in our words, in our actions, in the world." They make our life so close with meaning, because it is very important to understand about something. Sometimes people misunderstand about something because they do not understand the meaning about it.

Especially when talking about language orally or in written form, it always contains meaning. Based on Sapir (1956) in (Dollerup 1994:25), "Language is a guide to social reality and human beings are the mercy of the language that has become the medium of expression from their society." It means, all of humans get communication through language, not only by speak with others but also when read a written language in letter, news, or magazine forms.

Language has a study about meaning, it is semantics. It is proved that meaning is very important, especially in language. Griffiths (2006 : 1) explains "Semantics is the study of the "toolkit" for meaning: knowledge encoded in the vocabulary of the language and in its patterns for building more elaborate meanings, up to the level of sentence meanings." The meaning can

be expressed through language as a semantic medium. When in the dialogue or book contains with meaningful sentence or phrase, automatically it contains with message which want to be understood by the readers or someone. Then, in English usually sentence contains with phrase, or words as idiom, because the meaning of world level is idiom.

English is rich with idiom expressions. They are used in daily dialogue, poetry, novel, and song. Idioms are the most interesting part of the English vocabulary. In one hand, idioms are formed by particular words become one meaning but in other hand it is unpredictable to find the meaning. Then, the idiom also did not bind with grammatical. It makes idiom hard to understand about the meaning. McMordiew in Straksiene (2009:13) argues that “We can say that idiom is a number of words which, taken together, mean something different from the individual words of the idiom when they stand alone”. The statement shows that every word that forms the idiom has different meaning when they alone and when together become the idiom.

People realize that idiom expression can be formed in a dialogue or in literary work. One of literary work is novel which contains with dialogue from the characters. In Oxford Dictionary (2011: 298), “Novel is a long written story”. It tells about story. Hence, the writer can find idiom easily from it. Thus, the writer decided to take novel as object study because reading the novel, the readers not only get entertainment but also knowledge in it such as culture or a history. Especially when reading Great Gatsby’s novel, which becomes a classic literary and in 1998, the Modern Library editorial board voted it the 20th century’s best American Novel and the second best English-language novel of the same period.

Therefore, the researcher decided to find idiomatic expressions and then get the meaning of it. In doing this analysis, the researcher refers to material from previous analysis, it is: Bachtiar (2014) in “Mistranslation of Idiomatic Expression in the Queen’s Song Lyrics on

Album “The Greatest Hits” for listener Album” He explained the abilities of student’s English literature to translate idiom in the Queen’s song lyrics and factors that make the student’s English Literature false when translating it then found the solution from that problem.

Hanifah (2011) in “The translation of Idiomatic Expression from English into Bahasa Indonesia on Black Swan Movie Script” told the kind of idiom and then translated it into Bahasa Indonesia with Peter Newmark’s translation method. Fahmi (2015) in “Idiomatic Expression Translation in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Movie” found the type of idiomatic expression and idiomatic translation strategies in his object research. There are the differences between these analyses with previous analysis although both of them have the same main focus on idiom. This analysis focuses on the meaning of idiomatic expression of which they were not covered by Fahmi, Hanifah and Bachtiar’s study especially about meaning of idiom. Thus, the researcher decided to analyze it and becomes challenge for well doing.

1.2 Statement of Problems

Based on the background above, there are two research problems, they are:

1. What the forms of idiomatic expressions are found in Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby?
2. What are the meanings of idiomatic expression found in Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby?

1.3 Purposes of Research

The objective of the analysis concern with the problem of that analysis, they are:

1. To find out the forms of idiomatic expression in Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby.
2. To explore the meanings of idiomatic expression in Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby.

1.4 Significances of Research

This research is expected to give academics and practical contribution. Academically, this research is expected to increase knowledge about idiom and enriching the findings of previous research. Practically, the research has a function as a practical guidance for readers to get knowledge about idiom, for linguistic community to explore knowledge about idiom and study of meaning, and for other researcher to increase knowledge in linguistic field, then becomes object or reference to make another research that more deeply about idiom.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1. Semantic: According to Van Dijk (1985) semantics is a component theory within a larger semiotic theory about meaningful, symbolic, behavior. Semantics, the study of word meaning and sentence meaning, abstracted away from contexts of use, is a descriptive subject.
2. Idiom Expression: According to Setiawan (2002:5) idiomatic expression is the expression of meaning and message idiomatic cannot be searched or fixed from meaning of every word that form the sentence, but it is influenced by logic, habit, nuance, emotion, context, background, and culture.
3. Great Gatsby's Novel: a classic literary and in 1998, the Modern Library editorial board voted it the 20th century's best American Novel and the second best English-language novel of the same period.



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