

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the research, scope of the research, statements of the problem, objective of the research and significance of the research.

A. Background of the research

Language is as a tool of communicating and expressing people's ideas, feelings and expectations when they interact to each other. According to Guralnik (1996:15), language is used to express or Guralnik communicate thoughts and feelings, and it is a system of combination of vocal sounds to convey meaning as language has some units and structure. Finegan (2004: 185) describes words and sentences as the two units of language that carry meaning. When we use the language, we need to know the meaning of words or sentences we utter. Semantics is the study of the meaning of words and sentences. Some definitions of semantics are stated by some linguists. Saeed (2005:3) states that semantics is the study of meaning communicated through language, while Yule (2006:112), states that semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences. In Yule semantic analysis, there are phrases or expressions consisting of more than one word or sentence, whose meaning cannot be inferred from the meanings of the individual words. For these expressions, the usual semantic rules for combining meanings do not apply. Such expressions are called idioms. Idiom is a phrase or a sentence whose meaning cannot be literally translated. Idiom is one aspect of semantics that is sometimes difficult for people, especially students to understand. According to Fromkin and Rodman (2007:185), idiom is often difficult to translate because the meanings of idiom cannot be inferred.

From the meanings of the individual words in it. For examples, (1) "rain cats and dogs", means "rain heavily", (2) "live from hand to mouth", means "spend money as soon as it is

earned”, (3) “kick the bucket”, means “die”. Idioms are usually used in novels, poems, plays and songs. A song means a lyric from the poem or a history of poetry (Roberts and Jacobs, 1989:901). The characteristics of the songs are short poems, formal in meter and rhyme, and concerned with personal feelings rather than stories or ideas. There are many songs which are well known to listeners and some of the song lyrics which contain idioms and are popular are sung by Westlife boy band. Westlife is an Irish pop group formed on 3 July 1998. The personnel’s of the group are Nicky Byrne, Kian Egan, Mark Feehily, Shane Filan and Brian McFadden (who left in 2004). Their first seven singles went straight to Number 1, and they have been sold for over 45 million records worldwide. Their greatest songs are My Love, I Lay My Love on You, Up Tiown Girl, Queen of My Heart, I Have a Dream, Fool Again, Seasons in The Sun, If I Let You Go, Flying Without Wings, Swear it Again, I Need You, More That Words, I Left My Heart in California, and Heart Without a Home. To understand what the singers try to express in their songs, one needs to understand the lyrics which include the idioms. However, it is not usually easy to understand the idioms. It needs processes to make sure what the meanings of them are. Based on the explanation above, the writer were interested in analyzing the idiomatic expressions used in Westlife’s songs, through semantic approach.

In song, idiomatic expressions frequently appear to make song becomes more beautiful. its refers to a set expression or a phrase comprising two or more words. An interesting fact regarding the device is that the expression is not interpreted literally. The phrases understood to mean something quite different from what individual words of the phrase would imply. Alternatively, it can be said that the phrase is interpreted in a figurative sense. Further, idioms vary in different cultures and countries.

The writer of the song uses idioms generously. The purpose behind this vast use of idioms is to elaborate their language, to make it richer and spicier, and to help them in conveying subtle meanings to the unintended audience. Not only do idioms help in making the

language beautiful, they also make things better or worse through making the expression good or bad. For example, there are several idioms that convey the death of a person in highly subtle meanings, and some do the same in very offensive terms. They are also said to be exact and more correct than the literal words, and sometimes a few words are enough replace a full sentence. They help the writer make his sense clearer than it is, so that he could convey maximum meanings through minimum words and also keep the multiplicity of the meanings in the text intact. It has also been seen that idioms not only convey subtle meanings, but also ideas not conveyed through normal and everyday language, and they keep the balance in the communication. Furthermore, they provide textual coherence, so that the reader could be able to piece together a text that he has gone through and extract meanings the writer has conveyed.

Idiomatic expressions are very unique property in the linguistic. Idiomatic expressions are often used in song to express feeling, imagination, and thought. This is because an idiom can be used as an artistic expression. The use of idioms can be extended to make a mock and give advice to someone. Consequently, there are many idiomatic expressions found in spoken language (daily conversation) and written texts stories, letters, poetry and etc.). They make the language richer and more colorful. However, not all the reader can understand the meaning behind idiomatic expression. Thyab (2016), confirms test finding the meaning of idiomatic expressions may not be as easy as one might think. For instance, the meaning of an idiomatic expression is not always included in the dictionary.

Therefore, teaching idiomatic expression in EFL/ESL environments and classrooms is a necessity. Nevertheless, most importantly is that non-native speakers should practice how to use idiomatic expressions. The more a non-native speaker of English is capable of using idiomatic expressions, the closer he or she is to English Language competence, using idiomatic expressions in an adequate amount, parallel to native speakers brings the non-native speaker

closer to English Language proficiency. Lack of idiomatic use and knowledge by non-native speakers equates their lack of English language competence.

In English language education study program of Khairun University the students Learn the use idiomatic expression especially in poetry classroom. They practice how to find the denotative meaning idiomatic expression and understanding the meaning of overall lines in song. Based on this reason, the researcher is interested to conduct a research the students' analysis idiomatic expressions in westlifes' at English Education Study Program, Khairun University. The purpose of idiomatic expression analysis is to see how far students can understand the meaning of song, it is also to see the quantity of the song in using idiomatic expression in their song.

B. Scope of The Research

The research focuses on students' analysis of idiomatic expression in westlifes' song of khairun University

C. Statement of the problem

What is the students in students' analysis of idiomatic expressions in westlifes' song at English Education Study Program Khairun University.

D. Objective of the research

This research aims to find out the students' analysis of idiomatic expressions on westlifes' song at English Language Education Study Program Khairun University.

E. Significances of The Research

1. Theoretical Significance

The result of this research is hopefully useful for students as the basic information to learn idioms, especially in song. Besides, the researcher also expects this research can be an alternative reference for other researcher who will examine the song from westlifes' song from the other side, for example the study about the characterizations, value, and language style.

2. Practical Significance

The results of this research are expected to help readers and learners who want to understand about idiomatic expression in song. It also may be used as a reference for other researcher who wants to conduct further research, concerning idiomatic expression.