

IDIOMS IN DIFFERENT LITERARY WORKS

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ABSTRAKSI

Idiom merupakan langgam ataupun corak khas yang digunakan dalam berkomunikasi secara lisan maupun tulisan. Selain itu istilah idiomatik adalah berhubungan dengan ungkapan tersebut. Idiom dapat digunakan dalam bentuk tulisan baik dalam fiksi ataupun non fiksi yang digunakan penulis untuk menyampaikan makna dan tujuan. Di dalam karya sastra yang merupakan bentuk tulisan fiksi khususnya cerita pendek dan novel, idiom digunakan untuk menambah khasanah dan menambah corak khas dalam karya sastra dalam penyampaian makna ungkapan.

Kata Kunci : *Idiom, karya sastra, literasi*

Introduction

Idiom is part of figurative language that is used in many kinds of texts. An idiom is an expression that cannot be understood from the meanings of its separate word but that has a separate meaning of its own. Beside that, idiom can be defined as a form of language that is spoken in a particular area and that uses some of its own words, grammar, and pronunciations. According to Redman (1997 : 40) an idiom is a group of words with a meaning that is different from the individual words and often difficult to understand from the individual words. It needs more awareness about the meaning of idiom in order to avoid the misunderstanding. Idiom itself can be used either in spoken or written communication. One kind of written communication is literary work. Literary is having a lot knowledge about literature ; known for reading or writing books. Furthermore, literary is of, relating to, or having the characteristics of humane learning or literature. In relation of the using of idioms in the literary work, therefore the writer would like to investigate about them which are used in short story and novel and the underlying reasons of using them.

Review of Literature

An idiom is an expression that cannot be understood literally. Even when a person knows the meaning of all the words and understands the grammar, the overall meaning of the idiom may be unclear. When students gain an understanding of American idioms, and the facility to use them,

they are truly a part of the American English speech community. This may be one reason why so many students are interested in learning idioms. Some idioms are so widely used that they are clichés—so commonplace in the spoken language that they are best avoided in writing for fear of suggesting an unoriginal mind! Clichés and proverbs, another form of idiomatic usage, do not vary in form, e.g., “Curiosity killed the cat” not “the dog” and “Too many cooks spoil the broth” not “the meal.” Other idioms may allow for some form of variation, such as “to look (or feel) like death warmed over;” or in the form of taking on modifiers, e.g., “It was (beautiful) music to my ears.”

According to Stein and Su in Irujo (1986) quoted that an idiom was defined as an expression whose meaning cannot be derived from its constituent. For example, the idiomatic meaning of *he kicked the bucket* has nothing to do with bucked or with kicking in its literal sense. Actually for the native speakers this expression is very common but for the second language learners this is unfamiliar and very difficult to understand the meaning. The other hand, the Office of English Language Programs (2010 : v) defined an idiom as a group of words that means something different than the individual words it contains. As with any language, American English is full of idioms, especially when spoken.

However, idioms are an important part of acquiring a language and often indicate a proficient learner. According to Burke in Rodriguez and Winneberg (2013: 8) claimed

that knowledge of slang and idioms is fundamental to nonnative speakers' understanding of the language that native speakers actually use. On the other side, D'Angelo Bromley in Rodriguez and Winneberg (2013: 8) agreed with this statement and remarked that idioms add confusion and difficulty to learning of language and so they occupy a special place in the teaching of language and reading. Moreover, Idioms are culturally bound, providing insight into the history, culture, and outlook of their users. This is because most idioms have developed over time from practices, beliefs, and other aspects of different cultures. As a culture changes, the words used to describe it also change: some idioms fall out of use and others develop to replace them. With idioms in particular, the beliefs or practices leading to their use may disappear while the idiom itself continues to be used. Idioms can be so overused that they become clichés; or they can become slang or jargon, expressions used mainly by specific groups or professions.

Idioms can be complimentary or insulting. They can express a wide range of emotions from excitement to depression, love to hate, heroism to cowardice, and anything in between. Idioms are also used to express a sense of time, place, or size. The range of uses for idioms is complex and widespread. The complexity of idioms is what makes them so difficult for non-native speakers to learn.

In written communication, especially in literary works the authors use the idioms in order to convey their imagination. They use idioms in case to add color and texture to language by creating images that convey meanings beyond those of the individual words that make them up. According to Drucker (2014) the five genres of literature are poetry, prose, drama, non-fiction and media. The most typical varieties of prose are novels and short stories, while other types are letters, diaries, journals, and non-fiction

Short story is a short written story usually dealing with few characters : a short of fiction or it is an invented prose narrative shorter than a novel usually dealing with a few characters and aiming at unity of effect and often concentrating on the creation of mood rather than plot. On the other hand, short story is a piece of prose fiction, usually under 10,000 words, which can be read at one sitting. Artistically, a short story is intended to create an impression via character, conflict, theme, setting, symbols and point of

view. Every detail contributes to this one impression -- a unity of effect. A short story is personal -- a part of the author -- and today is more concerned with character than action.

On the other hand, novel is a long written story usually about imaginary characters and events or it can be defined as an invented prose narrative that is usually long and complex and deals especially with human experience through a usually connected sequence events. Novel is a piece of prose fiction of a reasonable length (Eagleton, 2005 : 1). Moreover , Pratt in Colibaba (2010: 224) pushes this issue of "adjacency" to extremes, insisting that the relationship between the novel and the short story is asymmetrical, that the short story is secondary to and dependent on the novel – which is, historically, the dominant, normative genre. The short story cannot be defined except by comparison to the novel it must therefore be dependent on the novel. There are four propositions each based on the assumption that bigger is better:

- a. the novel tells life, the short story tells a fragment of a life;
- b. the short story deals with a single thing, the novel with many things;
- c. the short story is a sample, the novel is the whole hog;
- d. the novel is a whole text; the short story is not

Subjects of the Study

The subjects of this study are one short story with the title : "The Little Frenchman and His Water Lots " by George Pope Morris (1802-1864) , and one novel which the title:"Awakening Dreams" by Vanessa Grant (1990).

The Results

The results of the study could be concluded that there are 45 idioms found in the short story and there are 1007 idioms found in the novel. The underlying reasons of using idioms in literary works are the authors use the idioms in order to convey their imagination and they use idioms in case to add color and texture to language by creating images that convey meanings beyond those of the individual words that make them up. The other reason that the idioms in the novel are much more found than in the short story is the matter of the length of the prose that the short story consists usually under 10,000 words. On the other side, novel is a long

written story usually about imaginary characters and events or it can be defined as an invented prose narrative that is usually long and complex and deals especially with human experience through a usually connected sequence of events. Therefore, idioms are used much more in the novel than in the short story.

In conclusion, idioms are fixed combinations of words whose meaning is often difficult to guess from the meaning of each individual word. Idiomatic expressions have long played an important role in the English language. In fact, the use of idioms is so widespread that an understanding of these expressions is essential to successful communication, whether in listening, speaking, reading, or writing. Moreover, idioms are culturally bound, providing insight into the history, culture, and outlook of their users; therefore, the learners should understand it well in order to avoid misunderstanding and miscommunication in learning English.

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