

**A NARRATIVE STUDY OF YOUNG LEARNER'S EXPERIENCE  
IN USING ENGLISH LISTENING LESSON LIBRARY ONLINE  
ON LEARNING ENGLISH IDIOMS**

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**ABSTRAK**

*Idiom banyak digunakan di kelas bahasa Inggris. Idiom menghadirkan kesulitan bagi pelajar muda dengan kekurangan literasi atau bahasa, dan kegagalan untuk memahami idiom dapat memiliki pengaruh negatif pada kinerja akademik. Biasanya, orang hanya mengambil metode atau sumber tradisional dalam pembelajaran bahasa Inggris, namun ELLLO bisa menjadi metode untuk memahami juga tentang idiom. Makalah ini mengeksplorasi pengalaman pelajar muda dalam menggunakan ELLLO sebagai alat untuk memahami salah satu keterampilan utama yang penting dalam pendidikan bahasa Inggris, yaitu; idiom. Makalah ini menyajikan desain naratif sebagai desain penelitian. Dua pelajar telah diuji pemahaman idiom mereka melalui ELLLO selama sebulan untuk mengetahui seberapa jauh keterampilan mendengarkan mereka berkembang dan menggunakan wawancara sebagai instrumen. Hasil makalah membuktikan bahwa ELLLO menambah wawasan dan mereka menjadi sadar akan banyak idiom sejak penelitian dilakukan. Mereka juga bisa belajar keterampilan mendengarkan menggunakan ELLLO.*

**Kata kunci:** Naratif, ELLLO, Idiom.

**ABSTRACT**

Idioms are widely used in the English classroom. Idioms present a difficulty to young learners with literacy or language deficiencies and failing to comprehend idioms can negatively influence academic performance. Normally, people only take the traditional method or sources in English learning. Nevertheless, ELLLO actually can be a method for understanding as well about idioms. This paper explores the experiences of young learners in using ELLLO as a tool for understanding one of the important main skills in English education; idioms. The paper presents a narrative design as a research design. Two young learners have tested their understanding of idioms through ELLLO for a month to know how far their listening skills developing and use the interview as instruments. The results of the paper prove that ELLLO adds insight, and they have become aware of many idioms since the research was carried out. They can also develop their listening skills through ELLLO.

**Keywords:** Narrative, ELLLO, Idioms.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Idioms are an element of human communication because they are found in all languages. Despite their widespread use in the English language, they continue to perplex young learners. They may present linguistic, cultural, and technical issues for non-English speakers learning English as a second language, and these issues may imperil communication (Thawabteh, 2011). This has led to a widespread opinion among language researchers that idiom knowledge is required for English proficiency and fluency (Shirazi, 2013) and a lack of Idiom knowledge is the most common cause of major misunderstandings. According to (Zwiers, 2007, cited in Guduru, 2011, p.540), idiomatic knowledge entails cognitive processes, complicated linkages, and abstract concepts that are difficult to perceive, point to, touch, or act out. As a result, young learners must learn idioms not just for academic objectives but also for everyday communication. Learning about idioms will be more effective if it is assisted by using interesting media, cheap and efficient by not ignoring the utilization of modern tools in accordance with the development of science and technology (Jaelani, A. & Sutari, D. R. (2021). Learning media are materials/tools in the form of physical and non-physical which are deliberately used as an intermediary delivery of messages between teachers and young learners in implementing teaching and facilitating student achievement of the goals or objectives of teaching (Sulistyo, Sunarmi & Widodo, 2011). In contrast, learning media's function is as a communicative tool, motivation, meaningfulness, equality of perception, and functioning for individuality because it has different

interests and learning styles (Sanjaya, 2015).

There are some teaching media available to develop young learners' idioms, such as ELLLO. ELLLO stands for English Listening Lesson Library Online. Generally, ELLLO is a site for listening learning founded in 2004 by an English teacher from Japan, namely Todd Beucken. Each activity is completed by idioms, vocabulary test, and listening comprehension test. Besides, it is also completed with scripts for each video and recording. While training their listening and idioms, the students can also train their pronunciation. Moreover, ELLLO is a good supporting media since the students have used it. The reasons are because the ELLLO has some varieties of materials which interesting for the students. It is also completed with quizzes or comprehension tests that can help them to train their listening comprehension (Palangngan, Atmowardoyo & Weda, 2016). This research aims to focus on understanding idioms and developing the listening skills of young learners through ELLLO.

## **Idioms**

Idioms are traditionally defined as fixed multi-word phrases whose meanings cannot be predicted from the literal meanings of individual words that constitute those phrases. As such, idioms are seen as a kind of linguistic idiosyncrasy – peculiar expressions that defy both the rules of logic and the Gricean maxims of cooperative conversation. According to Al-kadi (2015), the idiom is not literally translatable, as their meanings are unpredictable from the conventional meaning of their constituent elements, particularly idioms of socio-cultural, historical, or political contexts. It could

be concluded that an idiom is "a collection of words with a specific meaning that differs from the conventional meaning of each individual word" (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, 2012, p. 870).

Lundblom and Woods (2012) emphasized the necessity of understanding idioms. They believe that idioms are clearly given in academic settings and that inability to comprehend idioms could have an impact on academic achievement, written composition, reading comprehension, and vocabulary, especially as students' ages and grades progress.

### **ELLLO**

ELLLO stands for English Listening Lesson Library Online. It is a site for listening learning founded in 2004 by an English teacher from Japan, namely Todd Beucken. The application offers free listening activities for students in learning listening, which consists of different activities, namely view, idioms, videos, mixer, news center, games, and scene. Each activity is completed with a vocabulary test, idioms, and listening comprehension test. Besides, it is also completed with scripts for each video or recording so that, while training their listening, the students can also train their pronunciation and understanding of idioms. In ELLLO, the student also may choose the level, topic, and country of the speaker material they are going through by clicking the level, topic, and country features on the middle left of the site. Learning based on the level and topic that interest them will probably make them easier to learn listening comprehension and understanding idioms.

### **METHODS**

This research used a qualitative method. Palmer and Bolderstone (2006) explain that the qualitative method is an attempt to gain insight into certain meanings and behavior with an interpretative approach. The participants selected for this research were two young learners from one of the universities in Bogor, Indonesia. This research was conducted for a month as they (young learners) tested for their understanding of idioms through the ELLLO application. The researcher used an interview as the instrument of this research. In addition, an interview is a qualitative research method that is important and normally with collecting data directly from the participants and mostly paired with other research methods like a focus group, survey, etc. (Showkat & Parveen, 2020)

### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

This research aims to focus on understanding idioms and developing the listening skills of young learners through ELLLO. Since this research is an ongoing study, we may provide preliminary results and information about the outcome of this research. The preliminary findings of the research show that both young learners have started ELLLO in order to develop their listening skills and to get the newest experience in understanding idioms.

Another reason both the participants preferred to use specific media like ELLLO is that they believed that their learning of language could be more attractive, fun, and also enjoyable. Furthermore, the researcher gave them two questions in the interview which are "How do you think about understanding idioms during the past month after using ELLLO?" they answered that there were many idioms that they did not know, and they became aware after learning to use

ELLLO and that indirectly developing their listening skills.

## CONCLUSION

Idioms are traditionally defined as fixed multi-word phrases whose meanings cannot be predicted from the literal meanings of individual words that constitute those phrases. Since they spent a month on this research, they also took advantage of other media, which is ELLLO to develop listening skills. This research aims to focus on understanding the idioms of young learners through ELLLO. The researcher hopes not only young learners who can participate in this kind of research, but for further occasions, maybe every learner can participate in doing other research. In addition, ELLLO can be an effective tool in listening skills to increase critical listening. Critical listening can make young learners more fluent in other skills like speaking, and ELLLO helps young learners to encourage their listening skills more attractive and enjoyable.

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