ENGLISH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS USED IN "THE FLASH"

TV-SERIES

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui penggunaan ungkapan idiomatis bahasa Inggris oleh aktor dan aktris dalam film seri "The Flash" season 4 episode 1. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif dan bersifat kualitatif. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah mencari, mengumpulkan, menggolongkan, menganalisa data, dan mengambil kesimpulan. Data yang dikumpulkan adalah ungkapan idiomatis yang ditemukan di dalam film seri "The Flash". Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan ungkapan idiomatis dalam film seri "The Flash" adalah 55% phrasal verb, 14% idiom dengan kata benda sebagai kata kunci, 10% idiom dengan kata kerja sebagai kata kunci, 10% frasa preposisi, dan 4% idiom dengan kata sifat sebagai kata kunci. Berdasarkan data yang ditemukan dan analisis data, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa penggunaan ungkapan idiomatis dalam film seri "The Flash" menunjukkan bahwa idiom dengan tipe phrasal verb lebih sering digunakan dibandingkan tipe-tipe yang lain. Hasil dari penelitian ini dapat digunakan sebagai bahan pertimbangan oleh para guru untuk mengajarkan ungkapan idiomatis bahasa Inggris kepada peserta didik dalam kegiatan belajar mengajar.

Kata Kunci*: Ungkapan bahasa Inggris, tipe-tipe idiom, film seri.*

ABSTRACT

This research aims to find out the use of English idiomatic expressions by actors and actresses in "The Flash" series season four episode one. This research uses descriptive qualitative approach. The method that the writer uses are seeking, collecting, classifying, analysing the data, and drawing conclusion. The data was collected from the idiomatic expressions found in "The Flash" series. The result of the research shows that the use of idiomatic expressions in "The Flash" series are 55% phrasal verb, 14% idioms with nouns as key words, 10% idioms with verbs as key words, 10% prepositional phrases, and 4% idiom with adjective as key word. Based on the data found and the analysis of data research, the writer can conclude that the use of idiomatic expression with the type of phrasal verb in "The Flash" series is more frequently used rather than other types. The result of this study can be implemented as a consideration for teachers to teach English idiomatic expression to their students in teaching and learning process.

Keyword*: English idiomatic expression, types of idiom, TV-series*

INTRODUCTION

Language plays an important role in human life. One seeks to acquire, study, and use language as a means of communication, and simultaneously as a social symbol of humanity. By using language one can make statements, conveys facts and knowledge, explains or reports something, and maintains social relationships between language users. This shows that by using language, people

can express their ideas, feelings, etc. through communication.

In a developing country like Indonesia, English has a vital role in all aspects of life, especially in science and technology. In addition, it can be used to develop relationships in international forums, to read English books (especially for students from elementary schools to students from colleges/universities), to strengthen relationships among nations in the world, etc. As students, learning English is intended to gain a wide range of knowledge, to understand English learning textbooks, to gain knowledge and skills, and as a preparation to register to a university, as one of the test requirements for senior high school students, etc. Looking at the important role of English, that is why English is very important to understand and master by everyone around the world since the previous year. The case is that actors and actresses, especially in movies or TV-series, tend to use idiomatic expressions to speak their mind as they use them in their daily conversation. For non-native English speaker, they usually have the difficulty in understanding the meaning of the idiomatic expressions used in movies or TV-series they watch.

In this research, writer is interested in analysing idiomatic expressions used in the first episode of the fourth season of a TV series entitled The Flash. Some people are struggling in figuring out the meaning contains in idiom. When they watch movie which idiomatic expression is used, they usually translate it word by word in which causes the confusing translation. To catch the meaning of some certain idioms, the use of idiom dictionary, whether by looking at a book dictionary or by searching on the internet, can ease us in translating idiomatic expressions.

Idioms are expression where the individual words have ceased to have independent meaning (Saeed, 2009). As an expression, the word-group becomes a team,

so to speak, that is the collocated words develop a specialized meaning as a whole and an idiom is born. An idiom is a group of words in which meaning of this group is different than what would be changed and the group of words would make no sense in its context as if it is understood as to be an idiom. When a person uses an idiom, the listener might be taking the actual meaning wrongly if he or she has not heard this figure of speech before.

Related to this study, there is a research conducted by Khofiana Mabruroh in 2015 which described about the analysis of idioms and their problems found in the novel The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain. The purpose of the research is to find out idioms, their types, dominant type, and problems in understanding idioms in the novel.

The data were the phrases or words or collocations found in the novel. The data were taken by reading, identifying, and inventorying. Then, the data were analysed by using the theories offered by Makkai related to the topic and find out the problems in that analysis. The result of this study showed that there were 796 idioms found in the novel and classified into 6 types of idiom offered by Makkai used. The dominant type of idiom used in the novel is phrasal verb idiom with 446 idioms (56.03%). The research also gave the idea of the problem in understanding the meaning of idiom. There are 4 problems existed, that are distinction between phrasal verbs that is idiom or not idiom; translation of idiom; understanding the closest meaning of idiom; and no grammatical rule of forming idiom.

There is another previous study that was conducted by Rian Indriani entitled An Analysis of English Idiomatic Expressions Used by Actors and Actresses in the "DIE HARD 4" Movie. Based on the data, the writer found out that there were five most common used of idiomatic expressions by actors and actresses. They are: come on, let's go, all right, hang on, and get out. Based on

the data analysis, actors and actresses in American movie "Die Hard 4" tended to use polysemes English idiomatic expressions (68,37%), transparent idiomatic expressions (24,49%) and opaque English idiomatic expressions (7,14%) in their conversational script.

In contrast with the previous study used by researcher, this study will focus on the idiomatic expressions spoken by actors and actresses in TV-series. The researcher chooses The Flash season 4 episodes 1 as the object of the study, instead of a novel or a movie. In classifying the types of idiomatic expression, the writer uses the classification proposed by Lim. The writer gives his main focus on the meaning provided by the expressions in analysing them. The use of dictionary not only to find the appropriate meaning, but also to study the theory of meaning and get the deep interpretation of idiom's meaning.

Language

Language is a natural phenomenon, and language learning is common in childhood. In their form, human languages use pattern of sound or gesture for the symbols in order to communicate with other through the senses. Though there are thousands of human languages, they all share a number of properties from which there are known deviations.

According to Huxley in The Importance of Language (Black, 1962), "the existence of language permits human beings to behave with a degree of purposefulness, perseverance and consistency unknown among the other mammals and comparable only to the purposefulness, perseverance and consistency of insects acting under the compulsive force of instinct."

Idioms

Idiomatic expressions have played an important role in the English language. In fact, the use of idiom is so widespread that an understanding of these expressions are essential to successful communication, whether in listening, speaking, reading and writing (Dixson, 2004).

An idiom is a set expression of two or more words that means something other than the literal meanings of its individual words. Christine Ammer (1997) states that idioms are idiosyncrasies of a language. They are often defying the rules of logic. They pose great difficulties for non-native speakers.

According to Hornby in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (1974), idioms as a phrase or sentence whose meaning is not obvious through knowledge of the individual meanings of the constituent words but must be learnt as a whole, so the writer will not only focus on the sentence phrase, and also word generally as the parts of linguistics form.

Fernando (1996) cites that idioms yield three sub-classes: pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms. A working definition of a pure idiom which 'adequate for the present is a type of conventionalized, non-literal multiword and expression.'

A semi-idiom has one or more literal constituents and at least one with a non-literal sub scene, usually special to that co-occurrence relation and no other: drop has meaning 'overuse' only when it occurs with names.

Literal idioms meet the salient criterion for idioms: invariance or restricted variation. They are, however, less semantically complex than pure and semi-idioms.

The most common type of idiom is polysemes. They are words — often verbs — and phrases with multiple, somewhat related meanings. As an example, the verb "run:" to "run with a smart idea" or "run a computer program" are related to, but quite different from running a foot race.

Lim (2004) says that generally speaking, English idioms consist of the following several types:

- Phrasal verb, as in 'call on, put off, go away with.'
- Prepositional phrases, as in 'in a nutshell, from time to time.'
- Idioms with verbs as key words, as in 'come in handy, fight shy of.'
- Idioms with nouns as key words, as in 'a blessing disguise, child's play.'
- Idioms with adjectives as key words, as in 'cold comfort, wishful thinking.'
- Idiomatic pairs, as in 'safe and sound, aches and pains.'
- Idioms of comparison, as in 'as red as.'

Film

Film or movie is a kind of media in which can be used for learning language. It is influenced by actors and actresses with a certain language and makes people being more interested to watch their idols in a movie.

Film is a medium with huge potential of language and culture learning context. Film is designed to involve our emotion directly and fully, besides it is a medium of entertainment. This means the positive aspect of film is enjoyment and emotional involvement (Mishan, 2005). Documents on film were expensive to produce and hence rare until the late 1970s, when home equipment opened new horizons for studies relying on moving image documents (Schuller, 2008).

Film consists of two elements, namely picture track and sound track. In picture track, series of pictures are projected onto screen each second. In this process uses light that is controlled by the projector. The sound track is combined with the pictures in the projector.

As it is explained in an online dictionary, TV series is a group of episodes of a television program broadcast in regular intervals with a long break between each group, usually with one year between the beginnings of each. In the United States, it is usually called "seasons," while in the United Kingdom, it is called "series". (http://www.yourdictionary.com/tv-series.)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In concluding a research, deciding appropriate method is important. According to Kothari (2014), research methodology is a way to systematically solve the research problem. It may be understood as a science of studying how research is done scientifically. In this research the writer employs descriptive qualitative method. The writer employs descriptive method because the research deals with analysis, classification and explanation. A descriptive method is used in presenting the data.

The method that the writer uses are seeking, collecting, classifying, analysing the data, and drawing conclusion. In the process of writing the paper, the writer chooses idiom as the object. The data will be analysed in this research are idioms that can be found in the dialogues between actors and actresses in The Flash season 4 episode 1 movie script.

In this research, the data source obtained by the researcher is from the series entitled The Flash season 4 episodes 1: The Flash Reborn. The Flash is an American television series developed by Greg Berlanti, Andrew Kreisberg, and Geoff Johns, airing on The CW. It is based on the DC Comics character Barry Allen / Flash, a costumed superhero crime-fighter with the power to move at superhuman speeds. In this episode, The Flash opened with Barry gone and his team working to protect Central City while a little of that darkness remained. Things went crazy, but the story came out the other side with "The Flash Reborn". The Flash performed some actors and actresses, such as: Grant Gustin, Candice Patton, Danielle Panabaker, Carlos Valdes and Keiynan Lonsdale. Plus, this series also got several

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awards, Showing all 19 wins and 41 nominations.

On the other hand, corpus is a collection of language examples: written or spoken examples of words, sentences, phrases or texts. The corpus in this research is the idiomatic expressions used by actors and actresses in the series. The writer only takes 20 minutes out of 40 minutes of the show as a sample: 10 minutes from the beginning of the show and 10 minutes at the end of the show.

Instrument is a tool in collecting data. The researcher is a key of the instrumentation process in qualitative research. According to Fraenkel and Wallen (1993), "Qualitative researchers are especially interested in how thing occurs and particularly in the perspective of the subject of a study". In addition, Sugiyono (2006) states "The researcher is the key of instrument itself". So, the instrument of this research is the writer himself as the subject of the study.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
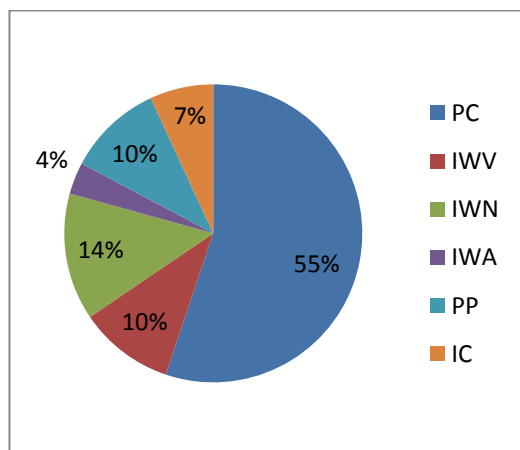
Research Findings

Figure 1: Types of Idiom

From the data given in the chart, it can be seen that the most idiomatic expression used in *The Flash Reborn* series is 55% phrasal verb (PV), 14% idioms with

nouns as key words (IWN), 10% idioms with verbs as key words (IWV), 10% prepositional phrases (PP), and 4% idiom with adjective as key word (IIWA). We can infer that phrasal verb is the most frequent idiomatic expression used in this series, while idiom with adjective as key word is the rarest idiomatic expression spoken in this show.

After the researcher analysed kinds of idiomatic expressions found in the series, for more detail, researcher made a table to conclude all the data found. There is a code in table; for example, 00:13, which means it represents the number of time in the series when the expression appears. In order to classify the types of idiom, researcher used the letter PV, which represents 'phrasal verb', IWN for 'idioms with nouns as key words', IWV for 'idioms with verbs as key words', PP for 'prepositional phrases', and IWA for 'idiom with adjective as key word'. For more detail, see the table below.

Table 1: Idiomatic Expressions Found in "The Flash" Series

Code	Idiomatic Expression	Context	Meaning	Types of Idiom
0.13	*Figure out*	And I need to *figure out* what that is on my own.	Discover or determine	PV
0.13	*On my own*	And I need to figure out what that is *on my own*.	by one's own efforts or resources	PP

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1.13	*As fast as*	I promised him I'd run, so that's what I've been doing these last six months, running *as fast as* I can.	quick or swift (with emphasis)	IC
1.30	*Work out*	Well, I gotta *work out* more.	a practice or exercise	PV
1.33	*Stepped up*	She's really *stepped up* her game.	to increase	PV
1.35	*Turn up*	Then let's *turn up* ours. I don't have eyes on her.	to increase the volume, speed, or intensity	PV
1.37	*Have eyes on*	I don't *have eyes on* her.	to monitor something continuously	IWV
1.47	*Peekaboo*	*Peekaboo.*	surprise	IWN
2.02	*Gets out*	If she *gets out* of the city, we're gonna lose her for good.	leave or escape	PV

2.02	*For good*	If she gets out of the city, we're gonna lose her *for good.*	forever/ permanently	PP
3.00	*Dead bang*	*Dead bang*, fellas.	A perfect shot	IWN
3.25	*Put her down*	I was the one to *put her down.*	bring to an end or to repress	PV
3.27	*Helped him out*	And Wally and I *helped him out* with the assist.	to help someone do something	PV
3.34	*Go ahead*	Joe, *go ahead* and tell her how this went exactly as we planned.	Please do it; you have my permission to do it	PV
3.45	*On the case*	But Team Kid Flash is *on the case.*	actively engage in an official investigation	PP
3.53	*Fooling around*	Okay, guys, maybe a little less *fooling around.*	to engage in frivolous activity, waste time	IWN
4.24	*Better off*	I'm thinking it would be a lot *better off*	in a more favorable position	IWA

4.25	*Man down*	If we weren't one *man down*.	Someone falls down or is injured	IWN
4.40	*Get rid of*	We could just *get rid of* some more of your stuff.	to remove something that you do not want any longer	PV
5.29	*Moved back to*	Ever since Julian *moved back to* London,	to return to previous location	PV
6.16	*Curl up in a ball*	*Curl up in a ball* and cry all day?	emotionally wreck	IWV
9.14	*Blew us away*	Yeah, and your boy, Kurosawa, over there *blew us away* like ragdolls performing his reverse Excalibur.	to blow someone or something away from its current location	PV
9.42	*Offer up*	If we don't *offer up* The Flash, there's gonna be serious damage.	to give something to someone or something as a mark of devotion	PV
9.54	*Comes out*	If Barry *comes out*, the Speed Force Prison goes.	to exit a particular place	PV

32.1	*Hold your fire*	*Hold your fire*!	to refraining from shooting a gun	IWV
32.4	*Gave herself up to*	She *gave herself up to* him.	to hand someone or something over to someone	PV
36.4	*Soaking up*	Maybe you were *soaking up* its energy?	to absorb something	PV
38.3	*As long as*	You do what Amunet says for *as long as* she tells you.	for the period of time that/	IC
40.4	*Washed away*	it's all just *washed away*,	to get rid of (something) completely	PV

Discussion

Given the thought to the result of the research, it is showed that expression is often used by native speaker in their daily conversation. It can be seen from the amount of idiomatic expression found in The Flash series. As it explained in chapter two, Dixson (2004) states that the use of idiom is so widespread that an understanding of these expressions are essential to successful communication, whether in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Therefore, it is really important for non-native speakers to understand idiomatic expression in order to improve their ability in English, which includes listening, speaking, writing, and reading. Looking up to the result of the research, it shows that in

the 20 minutes of the length of the series, the researcher found 29 idiomatic expressions spoken by actors and actresses. It means that idiomatic expression is oftentimes used.

Lim (2004) classified several types of idioms, such as phrasal verbs (PV), prepositional phrases (PP), idiom with verbs as key words (IWV), idiom with nouns as key words (IWN), idiom with adjectives as key words (IWA), idiom pairs (IP), and idiom of comparison (IC). The result of the research shows that phrasal verb (PV) is the most frequent idiom used in the series, as opposed to idiom with adjective as key word (IWA) which the rarest idiomatic expression used in the series. However, idiom pairs (IP) has no finding result used in the series.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this research related to the statement of problems and the objectives of this research. Based on the classification of idioms by Lim (2004), the finding shows that there are seven types of idioms; for instance, phrasal verb, idiom with verb as key word, idiom with noun as key word, idiom with adjective as key word, idiom of comparison, prepositional phrase, and idiomatic pairs. However, in the series, there are only six types of idiom that appear. The most frequently idiom appears in the series entitle The Flash Reborn is phrasal verb at 55%. And the rarest idiom that appears in the series is idiom with adjective as key word at 4%. Based on the findings, the total of idioms found in the series are 29 idiomatic expressions.

Idiomatic expressions are widely used in speeches, as well as in writing and reading. It is important for students of English Department to have good knowledge about idiom because basically native speakers use idiom all the time in their daily conversation.

As a non-native speaker of English Department student, the researcher found out that English idiomatic expressions are immensely intriguing. It is expected that this research can support other researcher in analysing idiomatic expression in other field of the study.

In teaching learning process, the teacher should familiarize their students with idiomatic expressions comprehensively. In this case, the teacher can provide their students with practices in order to allow them dealing with this kind of expression. In addition, giving a special subjects or time for learning idiomatic expression is really recommended since idiomatic expressions have their own meaning and cannot be translated literally.

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