

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In its role as a means of sharing information, the movie provides us information through the stories and characters interacting in it. It does not only show oral and written information, but also show images, gestures, mimics, symbols, and many more. Movies are problematic as they may contain foreign idiomatic expressions that cannot be understood by non-native.

One of the language barriers that may lead to different understanding is an idiom. In linguistics, an idiom is a part of a semantic study. Idiom deals with fixed phrase and meaning. Idiom tells us the unspoken meaning or we might call it artistic meaning. Liu (2012) said that idiom is speech form or an expression of a given language that could not be understood from the individual meaning of its elements. A clear example of English idiom is *an egghead*. “*The professor in physic class was an egghead*”. It is false to have an understanding that the professor had an egg-shaped head. Egghead itself means brilliant. Therefore, the correct understanding should be the professor in physic class was a brilliant person.

The previous example has clearly portrayed that idiom appears between words. In fact, idiom does not only come between words, but it also comes in a sentence. The sentence ‘*it rains cats and dogs*’ conveys a meaning that the rain does not drop any water like it is supposed to be, but instead it drops cats and

dogs. That sounds ridiculous, funny, and impossible. However, the sentence has a figurative sense which means that the rain is pouring down heavily.

For a better look at this research, the writer had found some previous studies. This is needed in an attempt to have background information and relevant references prior to the making of a questionnaire. The first study which was conducted by Lontas (2002) in his book *Exploring Second Language Learner's Notions of Idiomaticity* showed participants' general perception of familiarity and confidence level on interpreting idiom. Students were instructed to have idiom understanding and learning by giving their opinions, beliefs, and interests, such as "*how many idioms can you use correctly when you speak?*", "*how often do you read specialized idiom dictionaries?*", and "*idioms should be used for classroom practice and testing.*" While the study on *A Cognitive Linguistic View of Learning Idioms in a Foreign Language Testing Context* by Kövecses (2001) describes how the key options give participants a simple match of missing phrasal verb in a sentence. The idiom understanding was built into the task which involved filling in the missing adverbial particles of 20 phrasal verbs in the context of a sentence. Students were ordered to match each idiom with missing sentence content in the attempt to complete the whole sentence meaning. The last study, by Boers & Demecheleer (2001) on *Measuring The Impact of Cross-cultural Differences On Learner's Comprehension of Imageable Idioms* to trigger participants on guessing the meaning by using imagery idiom to know how students guess the meaning of the selected idioms without contextual clues. The imageable idiom had its own source, such as food and drinks group containing idiom of "*have egg on one's*

face”, and “*cry over spilt milk.*” and idioms with ships – theme containing “*sail through something*” and “*take something on board.*” Therefore, the writer gets references and chooses of the last two studies above for shaping the idiom understanding by looking for idiomatic meanings from related context.

Due to the importance of the viewer’s need to understand the meaning and context of use, the writer needs to explore idiomatic expression meaning in the subtitle of the film. The reason for choosing this topic is due to the fact that the writer recognizes that this study has an effect to have an understanding of context help to learn idiomatic expression meanings. This was a good idea to put idiom as artistic meaning in the movie. It could manipulate viewers to have critical thinking. The idea is to trigger film viewers to be an active viewer of the artwork, while at the same time enjoying the movie.

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of this study is Linguistics within the domain of Semantics. This study discusses a variety of idioms from a movie which is used to gain knowledge on context understanding.

1.3 Scope of the Study

This study focused on how students interpret idiomatic expression meaning through context understanding.

1.4 Problem Formulation

The writer formulated problems of the study of this research as follows:

1. What are the types of English idiomatic expressions found in *Captain America: Civil War* movie script?
2. To what extent does context help student to understand the meaning of idiomatic expression found in *Captain America: Civil War* movie?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems above, this study was conducted to aim on some following objectives:

1. To find out the types of English idiomatic expressions found in *Captain America: Civil War* movie script.
2. To have a clear explanation of how well context helps students to understand the meaning of idiomatic expression found in *Captain America: Civil War* movie.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Upon conducting the study, the writer expected these research findings to be a reference for students and teachers who looked for an alternative or unique strategy to strengthen idiomatic expression knowledge. Further, the result also would be a measurement of students' abilities to absorb idiom context understanding through the movie.

1.7 Definition of Terms

1. Semantics

In short, semantics is a branch of linguistics which focuses on the meaning in language or the study of linguistics reference and truth condition in language. Semantics deals with words, phrases, and sentences (Erviana & Sumartini, 2017).

2. Idiom

An idiom is a fixed phrase the meaning of which does not reflect the meanings of its component parts. Benson, 1989 (as cited in Gledhill, 2012)

3. Idiomatic expressions

The meaning of an idiomatic expression can be defined as lexically and contextually. From its lexical viewpoint, the meaning of idiomatic expression is the meaning that is conventionally assigned to the common use in a dictionary. Meanwhile, the meaning of an idiomatic expression can be understood contextually because some idioms have various meanings depending on the context. Copper, 1998 (as cited in Erviana & Sumartini, 2017).

4. Context understanding

Context is any information that can be used to characterize the situation of an entity. An entity is a person, place, or object that is considered relevant to the interaction between a user and an application, including the user and applications themselves (Dey & Abowd, 1999).