

An Analysis of Idiomatic Expression of Green's *The Fault In Our Stars*

A Research Paper

Submitted to The English Department Faculty of Arts and Letters
Pasundan University as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Taking the
Sarjana Degree

by:
Aprilia Safitri
127010039



**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF ARTS AND LETTERS
PASUNDAN UNIVERSITY
BANDUNG
2016**

Abstract

This research entitled An Analysis of idiomatic expression of Green's *The Fault in Our Star*. An idiom is a special feature of language that has a specific form or style presents only in a language. Even, in translating idiomatic expressions, we cannot translate them literally (word by word). This is caused of many idiomatic expressions which cannot be understood grammatically. At any rate, idiomatic expressions are very important for the English language learners either EFL (English as Foreign Language) or ESL (English as Second Language). In this research, there are two research problem: 1) What are the type of idiomatic expressions found in novel entitled "The Fault in Ours Stars" by John Green? and 2) What are the connotative meaning of idioms used in novel entitle "The Fault in Ours Stars" by John Green? So that, the objectives of this research are: 1) To find out the type of idiomatic expressions in novel entitled "The Fault in Ours Stars" by John Green 2.) To know the connotative meaning of idioms in novel entitled "The Fault in Ours Stars" by John Green. This research method used library research by applying content analysis. The data of this research is in the form of utterances and sentences that contained idiomatic expression. In addition, its data source is taken from John Green entitled The Fault In Our Stars and it's Indonesian version. The result of finding analysis, the researcher found out 281 idiomatic expressions in "The Fault in Our Stars" novel. Those idiomatic expressions are also interpreted into their connotative meaning based on the context of sentence in the novel.

Keyword : Idiom, Idiomatic Expression, Connotative Meaning

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1. Background of the Study

In daily life, we absolutely need a communication to fulfill our requirements. In general, we live in a world of language even though we need a set of for communication which is called language. In this case, a language can be used when we are talking about or having a conversation with others, such as when we talk to our parents, our teachers, our friends, our lovers, and even our rivals. Language itself is the source of human life and power. Language can also be used to establish rules and maintain humans culture. In short, everyone in this world knew at least one language.

There are many thousands variations of languages in this world, one of them is English language. As we know, English language is an International Language that is indispensable when we are going to overseas, especially the countries that uses English language as their mother tongue, such as British, American, Australian, and so on. Besides, we can encounter various things of English words in our daily life, for instance: in advertisements, reference marks, road and road sign, and so forth. Moreover, English language has an important role in the technological development. Hence, English language is taught in all level of educations (pre-schools, elementary schools, secondary schools, senior high schools, and even university).

One of the challenges in learning English language resides in its vocabulary. Undeniable, we have frequently the trouble when we want to translate a sentence or text into a language because many expressions written by native speaker cannot be translated word by word. Such expressions, either its phrases or sentences, have certain meaning that cannot be explained in grammar theories. This is a special feature of English language called idiom. An idiom is the part of the distinctive form or construction of a particular language that has a specific form or style presents only in that language.

Halliday (2007:154) says “an idiom in the language being described is anything for which no equivalent is found in the mother tongue.” Many linguists define an idiom as an expression which is fixed and cannot be understood literally; and its meaning cannot be found in the common dictionary. According to Jackson and Amvela (2001:65), idiom can be defined as “a phrase, the meaning of which cannot be predicted from the individual meanings of the morphemes it comprises”.

Grammatically as well as semantically, idiom has the special characteristics. Victoria (2011:192) states that an idiom belongs to lexicon or mental dictionary as single items with their meanings specified because the words (or morphemes) of a language are arbitrary (not predictable by rule). The meaning of lexicon is a repository of the words (or morphemes) of a language and their meanings. Thus, to understand them, the speakers must learn the special restrictions on their use in sentences.

Since idioms convey meaning quickly and enable language users express themselves more efficiently, they should be integrated into the teaching and learning process of foreign languages. As well as English language learners, either EFL (English as a Foreign Language) or ESL (English as a Second Language), idioms are considered to be one of the hardest and the most interesting parts of the English vocabulary.

Even, idioms are one of the greater problems in learning English because idioms provide some of the most difficult materials for English language learners to successfully understand. However, idioms must be learned because they have an important role as the part of language. Hence, mastery of idiom is very needed to facilitate communication and promote an innovative environment of social interaction. So, if the English language learners do not learn English idioms, they will never know when the other person uses it; or they cannot understand what are talking about by the speakers. Moreover, the use of idioms in a conversation will be more easy listening and attractive.

The use of idiom is applied in an idiomatic expression. Idiomatic expression is a kind of complex lexical item and its meaning cannot be inferred from its parts. In other word, idiomatic expression is special expression which consists of a series of word or phrase in English which has different meaning in literary or word-by-word. Even, there are some distinctions the use of English idiom between British and America. Such distinctions are in the use of their meaning, phrase and form. The native speakers of the English language are very

often used idiomatic expressions in their everyday speech. In spoken, idiomatic expressions can be used in songs, whereas in written, the use of idiomatic expressions are expressed in literature.

Here, the writer choose a novel as the data of this research because of many benefits that we can get in reading a novel. Majority, there are three broad types of literature that is drama, poetry and prose. Novel is one of them that belong to prose fiction. According to Tarigan (2011:120), there are five classifications of fiction namely novel, drama, poetry, prose and vignette. The meaning of novel is narrative text informing of prose with a long shape that including some figures and fiction event in a realistic of true-to-life manner. In a novel, the writer makes every effort to direct the reader to the reality of life images through the stories contained in the novel. Thus, the novel tells only one facet of the character's life that really special, which resulted in a change of fortune. One of the benefits in reading a novel is we can understand those meaning of idioms so that we will become richer with the treasury.

Essentially, literature as the shape and the result of a creative work is a medium which utilizes language to reveal about human life. Literary work is an art of language because it is an expression of the human person in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, spirit, and belief in a form of picture of life. In literary work, we can independently express our experiences, thoughts, feelings, and ideas. (Tarigan: 2011:118) states "The progression of a nation can be measured from its reading book that is read, from his society level

appreciation to science and art, about literature.” In addition, because of literary cannot be separated by reading, we have to in love with reading.

From the above reasons, the writer is interested to analyze a novel that is focused on the use of idiomatic expressions. The writer choose a novel entitled “*The Fault in Our Stars*” written by John Green is chosen to be the object of this study due to its reputation as a best-selling novel worldwide and because it has been published in Indonesia in both languages, English and Indonesia.

This novel is also considered as between children and young adult literature, which puts this book between the two most popular book categories in Indonesia. In addition, this book was also adapted into a movie with the same title in 2014 and stirred a pleasing reception from Indonesian market. Its prominence is hoped to bring greater impacts that this project can possibly bring. In this research, based on the explanation entitled *An Analysis of idiomatic expression of Green’s The fault in Our Star*.

1.2 Research Problems

According to the background of the study above, the problems in this research is elaborated into some questions, they are:

- What are the type of idiomatic expressions found in novel entitled “The Fault in Ours Stars” by John Green?
- What are the connotative meaning of idioms used in novel entitle “The Fault in Ours Stars” by John Green?

1.3 Objective of the Research

Referring to the statement of research problems above, the writer presents the objectives of the research below:

- To find out the type of idiomatic expressions in novel entitled “The Fault in Our Stars” by John Green?
- To know the connotative meaning of idioms in novel entitled “The Fault in Our Stars” by John Green?

1.4 Significances of the Research

The result of this research is hopefully useful for students as the basic information to learn idioms, especially in novel. Besides, the writer also expects this research can be an alternative reference for other writers who will research “The Fault in Our Stars” by John Green novel from the other side, for example the study about the characterizations, values, and language styles.

1.5 Limitation of the Research

The Limitation of this research is novel analysis about the intrinsic elements. To make it more detail and focus, the writer only limits this research on The Fault in Our Stars. In addition, the writer also limits this study on sentences and utterances contain idiomatic expression. Moreover, the writer only looks for the meaning of idiom based on the connotative meaning.

Chapter II

Idiomatic Expression of Green's *The Fault in Our Stars*

2.1. Definitions of Idioms

Idiom is an expression consisting of a combination of words that have a special meaning and must be understood as a single entity. For example "small talk" or "how come" not to be interpreted individually or interpreted per unit. When interpreted one by one idiom would be meaningless "Small talk" can not be understood as a "small" / not big / and "talk" / speak / but should be interpreted in one unit, "small talk" (basa -basi).

This research is going to explain about the terminology of idiom and idiomatic expression.

Idiom

Seidl and McMordie (1988:11-13), idioms are an essential part of language; they have a different meaning from the individual meanings of each word. Peacock (2009: 8) argues that "idiom are words and phrases that express more than the actual words themselves. Gairn (2010:35), an idiom is a sequence of words which operates as single semantic unit, and like many multi-word verbs the meaning of the whole cannot be deduced from an understanding of the parts, for example: "never mind", "hang on", "under the weather", and so on.

Based on some of the definition, the experts have different ways of defining idiom. In general, most experts found idiom must be learned and

understood because the idiom is an expression consisting of a combination of words that can not be translated word by word but should be interpreted as unity because when words that form the idiom stands alone, its meaning will different from these words when they appear together as an idiom.

2.2. Idiomatic Expressions

The use of idiom is always translated using an equivalent idiomatic expression in the target language. The idiomatic expression is not always grammatical, but it is established, accepted and used by native speakers of the language with a fixed structure and meaning. In this sense, idiomatic expressions have long played an important role in the English language.

Victoria (2011:191) says that language contains many phrases whose meanings are not predictable on its individual words. That phrases are called idioms, or idiomatic phrases. Meanwhile, Hurford (2007: 328) argues that idiomatic expressions (idioms) are multi-word phrases which that combines the literal senses of the individual words in each phrase. In the other hand, idiomatic phrase is an expression whose meaning does not conform to the principle of compositionality, and unrelated to the meaning of its parts. But, the meaning is intended usually depends on the context in which the expression is used.

The conclusion is idiomatic expression is an idiomatic expression that express a feeling, opinion or idea that meaning depends on the context of the use of expressions.

2.3.Types of Idioms

According to Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, there are two definitions of idioms type. Both of them are countable noun. The First, type is "a particular group of people or things which shares similar characteristics and forms a smaller division of a larger set". The second, type is "a person who seems to represent a particular group of people, having all the qualities that you usually connect with that group". Below are the types of idiom based on Cacciari and Tabossi (1993:27), and also McCarthy and O'Dell (2010:22-32).

Cacciari and Tabossi (1993:27), state that idiomatic expressions can be included into the vast family of fixed phrases, clichés, proverbs, indirect speech acts, speech formulas, and so forth. Then, it also gives some degree of conventionalization of meaning yet at the same time differs in semantic as well as syntactic properties. In a similar way, McCarthy and O'Dell (2010:22-32) divide the idioms into eight types of idioms as follows:

- a. Similes are expressions which compare two things; they always include the words as or like, example: My brother's as thin as a rake (extremely thin)
- b. Binomials are type of idiom in which two words are joined by a conjunction (linking word), usually "and", example: black and white
- c. Trinomials are a similar type of idiom, in which three words are joined, example: I've looked here, there and everywhere for my glasses but can't find them.

- d. Proverbs are short sentences which refer to something most people have experienced and which gives or warnings, example: We should buy extra travel insurance for our skiing trip. Better safe than sorry.
- e. Euphemisms are type of idiom used to avoid saying words which may offend or be considered unpleasant, example: Go behind a tree if you need to answer the call of nature.
- f. Cliché are a comment that is often used in certain common, everyday situations, example: Truth will out!
- g. Fixed statements are expressions that you can often hear and use fixed statements in everyday conversation, example: Get your skates on!
- h. Other language, it mostly comes from Latin or French, example: Ad hoc, De factor.

Cacciari and Tabossi (1993:27) and McCarthy and O'Dell (2010:22-32) both states that idiomatic expressions can be included into the vast family of fixed phrases, clichés, proverbs, indirect speech acts, speech formulas, and so forth. Then the writer also conclude to determine the type of idiom based on statement from Cacciari and Tabossi (1993:27) and McCarthy and O'Dell (2010:22-32)

2.4.The Meanings of Idiom

The meaning of idiom in literal meaning and idiomatic meaning. The literal meaning is the sum up of the meaning of the constituents, pattern of

figuration. Meanwhile, the idiomatic meaning is the lexicalized extended meaning of the construction. According to Langlotz (2006:3), “Idiomatic construction can be described as complex symbols with specific formal, semantic, pragmatic and sociolinguistic characteristics.” The composite structure of idiom is: phrases or semi-clauses, idiomatic compounds (blackbird, chatterbox), phrasal verbs (stand by, see through, come across) and proverbs (Birds of a feather flock together) also belong to the group of composite idiomatic constructions.

Carstairs, and McCarthy (2002:10) say that “Idioms are enormously various in length either structure or function.” For example, “take a shine to” is an idiom. In idiomatic meaning sense, it means “become attracted to”. Such idiom functioned as single unit which that meaning not being predictable from that words individually. But, the word Shine can has a literal meaning is “Shine” meaning. So, it can be said that the word in an idiom can has literal or idiomatic meaning when its word apply in other sentences.

In other word, an idiom can have two meaning that are literal meaning and idiomatic meaning. Mostly, the literal meaning of an idiom refers to denotative meaning whereas the idiomatic meaning refers to connotative meaning.

2.5.About the Novel

The Fault in Our Stars is a young adult, stand-alone novel written by John Green’s American. However, the Indonesian version appears to be intended for children readers.

2.6.The Author

John Michael Green is an American novelist. He was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on August 24th 1977. Green has written six novels and several short stories. The main characters in Green's novels are mostly teenagers and the stories are mainly related to romance. Green received many awards for his novels, such as Michael L. Printz Award, Edgar Allan Poe Award, and Corine Literature Prize.

The New York Times Best Seller list for children's books listed *The Fault in Our Stars* at number one for two weeks in January and February 2012. In 2013, Green was awarded with Teen Book of the Year award in the annual Children's Choice Book Award and won the Innovator's Award in Los Angeles Times Book Prize Award. The latest award he received is the Visionary Award from mtvU Fandom Awards (John Green (Author), 2015).

2.7.The Summary of the Novel

The Fault in Our Stars follows the story of Hazel Grace Lancaster, a sixteen-year old girl who suffers from cancer. In the beginning of the story, she meets Augustus Waters, a cancer survivor, in a support group. Augustus later admits that he finds Hazel beautiful and asks her to come to his house to watch a movie. Afterwards, Augustus and Hazel share their favorite book to each other. Augustus is to read *An Imperial Affliction*, Hazel's favorite book, while Hazel reads *The Price of Dawn*, Augustus's favorite.

Once he's done reading the book, Augustus becomes intrigued by *An Imperial Affliction* and decides to contact the writer of the book, Peter Van Houten, to clear up the novel's ambiguous ending. Hazel, as curious as Augustus about the ending, has already tried that and gets no response. However, Augustus manages to start an email correspondence with the author. Augustus and Hazel start to send their questions to the reclusive author, but Van Houten says that he can only answer those questions in person. He invites them to stop by if they are in Amsterdam, where Van Houten lives.

Due to her family's financial situation, Hazel cannot go to Amsterdam. However, Augustus has a Wish from a foundation that grants the wishers of kids with cancer. He uses his Wish to take Hazel to Amsterdam to meet their favorite author. This is where Hazel realizes that she falls for Augustus. However, she believes that she will hurt Augustus when she dies, so she allows herself to only have a platonic relationship with Augustus.

Hazel, Augustus and Hazel's mother leaves for Amsterdam. When Hazel and Augustus finally meet Van Houten, they discover that, instead of a genius, Van Houten is a mean drunk. Van Houten says that he doesn't really invite them to come to Amsterdam and refuses to answer their questions. Outraged, Hazel and Augustus leave in disappointment. Van Houten's manager, Lidewij, who feels horrified by her boss's behavior, invites Hazel and Augustus to visit Anne Frank's house where Hazel and Augustus share a romantic kiss. Hazel and Augustus head back to the hotel and make love for the first and only time.

The following day, Augustus confesses that before they leave home, he goes in for a PET scan and finds out that his cancer has returned and spread everywhere. From this point, Augustus's health deteriorated quickly. Several weeks later, Augustus dies. At the funeral, Hazel is surprised to find Van Houten. Van Houten explains that Augustus demands Van Houten to come to his funeral to see Hazel and answer Hazel's questions about *An Imperial Affliction*. Hazel refuses Van Houten's answers and tells him to leave her immediately, sober up and write another book.

Several days later, Isaac tells Hazel that Augustus writes something for her, probably a sequel of *An Imperial Affliction* that Augustus promises when they leave Van Houten's house. Hazel tries to locate the paper but she comes to a deadend. A friend of Hazel unintentionally tells Hazel to ask about the pages to VanHouten, since Augustus spends his final days corresponding to him. When Van Houten doesn't reply her message, Hazel tries to communicate to Lidewij and ask her to find the pages. At the end, Hazel learns that the missing pages contain Augustus feeling about Hazel and his request to Van Houten to write a eulogy for Hazel.

Bibliography

- Cacciari, C and Tabossi, P. 1993. *Idiom: Processing, structure, and Interpretation*. USA : Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Publisher
- Cartstairs, A and McCarthy. 2002. *An Introduction to English Morphology : Words and Their Structure*. Britain : Edinburgh University Press
- Cohen, L. 2007. *Research Method in Education (6th edition)*. NY :Routledge
- Fahrizky, R.B. 2015. *English-Indonesia Translation of Idiomatic Expression in John Green's The Fault In Our Stars* by Rindang Bartha Fahrizky. Semarang State University: English Department, Faculty of Language and Arts
- Fromkin, V. 2011. *An Introduction to Language (9th edition)*. USA : Wadsworth Cengage Learning
- Gairns, R and Redman, S. 1986. *Working With Words (A guide to Teaching and learning Vocabulary)*. New York : Cambridge University Press
- Halliday, M. A. K.2007. *Language and education (volume 9)*. New York: continuum
- Hurford, J. R. 2007. *Semantics : A Course Book (2nd edition)*. New York: Cambridge University Press
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Fault_in_Our_Stars (Accessed on June 8th 2016, 20.30 pm)
- <http://repository.widyatama.ac.id/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/3778/Bab202.pdf?sequence=7> (Accessed on June 20th 2016, 20.30 pm)
- Jackson, J and Amvela, E. Z. 2000. *An Introduction to Modern English Lexicology*. London and New York : Cassel
- Krippendorff, K. 2004. *Content Analysis : An Introduction to Its Methodology (2nd edition)*. USA : Sage Publications
- Lambert, V.a., & Lambert, C. E (2013). *Qualitative Descriptive Research: An Acceptable Design*. *Pasific Rim Internasional Journal of Nursing Research*,16 (4), 255-256. Retried from <http://antispam.kmutth.ac.th/index.php/PRIJNR/article/download/5805/54>

- Langlotz, A. 2006. *Idiomatic Creativity: A Cognitive-Linguistic Model of Idiom Representation and Idiom-Variation in English*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company
- McCarthy, M and O'Dell, F. 2003. *English Idioms in Use*. UK: Cambridge University Press
- McCarthy, M and O'Dell, F.2010. . *English Idioms in Use (Advanced)*. UK: Cambridge University Press
- Seidl,J and McMordie, W.1998. *English Idioms. (5th edition)*. New York: Oxford University Press
- Tarigan, H.G. 2010. *Prinsip-Prinsip Dasar Sastra*. Bandung : Angkasa