

Idiomatic Expression in American Sitcom Series Entitled Fresh Off the Boat Directed by Nahnatchka Khan

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ABSTRACT

During the development of language use, English idiomatic expression is embodied in a conversation. This research aims to analyse the form and types of idiomatic expression in conversation. The object of this research is American sitcom series entitled "Fresh Off the Boat". The sample of the research is season 5 and 6 that consist of 37 episodes. The data of the research are the main character utterances that attach idiom on it. This research followed Seidle and McMordie (1988) theory to analyze the form of idiomatic expression. To classify the types of idiomatic expression the researchers used O'Dell and McCarthy (2010) theory. To analyze the data, the researchers use descriptive qualitative method. After collecting the data, the researchers did data preparation, data reading, re-reading the data to confirm the data. Based on the data found, from 8 forms of idiomatic expression, there are only 7 forms. Those are 28 idioms with nouns and adjective, 3 idiomatic pairs, 38 phrasal verb, 33 verbal idiom, 34 idiom with key words from special categories, 11 key word with idiomatic use, and 14 idiom with comparison. According to the types there are 142 types of idiomatic expression, they are 12 simile, 2 binomial, 33 proverb, 40 euphemism, 39 cliché, and 16 fixed statement. Based on the type of idiomatic expression, euphemism is dominated the type of idiomatic expression in the series.

Keywords: Idiomatic expression, type, form

INTRODUCTION

English Idiomatic expression is a language variation that problematic to understand the meaning, especially for non-English speaker. English native speaker commonly attach idiom in conversation. However, idiomatic expressions do not only use in conversation or spoken form but

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also use in written form, either in formal or informal situations. (Seidl & McMordie, 1980). Idioms contribute significantly to the enrichment of English language. Idioms convey distinct cultural and historical information while also broadening people's comprehension and the use of English. Idiom is used by native speakers to make their speech lively and colourful. Idiom is a word or phrase that carry figurative meaning that differs from its literal meaning. According to Griess (2018), idiom uses to enhance the speaker or the writer message to gain the hearer or the reader attention.

Cooper (2008) assumed idiom as a figure of speech that negate the principle of word's structure. While according to Hornby (1987) idiom defines as a term or a group of words that the meaning cannot be deduced from its literal definition. Either can be phrase or sentence, idiom which meaning is not clear through knowledge of individual word meaning that construct a phrase or sentence. Thus, it must be learned as a whole component. Because of these the use of idiomatic expression may lead to misunderstanding. Therefore, it is needed to understand the form of idiomatic expression to distinguish the existing of idiom in a sentence or utterance. Another important thing is to know the types of idiomatic expression to understand the meaning or message stated by speaker or writer.

Beside idiomatic expression used in daily communication, it also found in literary work, for instance poetry, novel, movie, television series, etc. This research analyses idiomatic expressions found in television series because there are plenty of utterance that stick idiomatic expression in conversation. Other than that, television series is a depiction of social life and the language use and style is influenced by the use language in a speech community.

The researcher interest to examine idiomatic expression on an American Situational Comedy or Sitcom television series entitled "Fresh Off the Boat" directed by Nahnatchka Khan. This series released on February 4, 2015 and finished on February 21, 2020. Despite of the series expose the life of Taiwanese American family in 1990s that moved from Chinatown of Washington, DC to Orlando, the title of the series is eye-catching because it is an idiom. The phrase "Fresh off the boat" refers to people who newly immigrated, especially without having yet assimilated the host country's language, culture or behaviour. Other than that, this American series is the first series featuring of Asian cast as the main character in 100 episodes. This series also nominated for major award, such as NAACP Image Award and Critics' Choice Television Award.

Based on the phenomena states above, the researcher interest to examined the types of idiomatic expression based on O'Dell and McCarthy (2010) theory. Those types are divided into 6 types, they are simile, binomial, proverb, euphemism, cliché, and fixed statement.

METHOD

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The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. According to Moelong in (Elfath, 2021), qualitative research is a research procedure which acquire descriptive of spoken or written data from people and their behavior which is being the object of the research. This method deals with the aims of the study which is to identify and classify the types and form of idiomatic expression uttered by the three main characters' utterance in the *Fresh Off the Boat* series in season 5 and 6. Those characters are Eddie Huang, Louis Huang, and Jessica Huang. The form of data in this research are utterance that contain idiomatic expression which uttered by those main characters.

This research is library research because according to Khatibah in Sari and Asmendri (2020), library research is a systematic activity that used to collect, elaborate, and conclude data that use certain method or technique to answer the statement of problem.

The method to collect and capture the data in this research is the method of referral. While collecting the data, the researcher use note taking method to record the data and add the data into the bookmark to recheck the data. After the data collected and recorded, the researcher analyzed the data by using the referential identity method. This method is called the referential identity method because to analyze the data the researcher will use references as direction. In addition, the basic technique of this method is using the equalizing techniques as the following technique to analyze the data. Researcher uses this technique to analyze the data because researcher will select, distinguish and find similarities in data based on references. The researcher uses theory as a criterion to decide the types and forms of the idiomatic expression. The researcher classify the types of idiomatic expression based on O'Dell and McCarthy theory, meanwhile to analyze the form of idiomatic expression, the researcher used Seidl and McMordie theory.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing the data, the researcher has gotten the result. The research question has been answered by the source data that taken from the movie and the movie's subtitle. In this research, the researcher took 2 of 6 seasons of *Fresh Off the Boat* series as the sample. Those seasons are season 5 and 6 that consist of 37 episodes. From 37 episodes, found 142 types of idiomatic expression according to O'Dell and McCarthy (2010) theory. They were are 12 simile, 2 binomial, 33 proverb, 40 euphemism, 39 cliché, and 16 fixed statement.

Meanwhile, based on the idiomatic expressions that have been collected, the writer classified the form of idiomatic expression according to Seidl and McMordie (1987) theory. The data analysis show, from 8 forms of idiomatic expression, there are only 7 forms. Those are 28 idioms with nouns and adjective (10 noun phrase and 18 adjective + noun), 3 idiomatic pairs (pairs of noun), 38 phrasal verb, 33 verbal idiom, 34 idiom with key words from special categories (6 idiom with color key word, 9 idiom with animal key word, 8 idiom with

number or size or measurement key word, 9 idiom with part of body key word, 2 idiom with time key word), 11 key word with idiomatic use (3 adjective and adverb, 7 noun, 1 miscellaneous), and 14 idiom with comparison (4 comparison with 'as' and 10 comparison with 'like').

Based on those result, the researcher assumes that those result has a relation with the background of American culture. As an immigrant family who have to adapt with the culture which insert idiom on their utterance, the Chinese characters used to attach idiom in everyday life especially when speak with American people. Furthermore, Americans do not really like modesty, especially young people. They go straight to the point and avoid a long sentence. They will give explanation using simple word such as phrasal verb. For example *catch up, butter up, watch out, and good luck*. In conclusion, they use phrasal verb more dominantly in their utterance than other form of idiomatic expression.

CONCLUSION

Based on the result data analysis and finding, the research question had been answered. The research question of this research was, what were types of idiom used in *Fresh Off the Boat* series and what were form of idiom used in *Fresh Off the Boat* series. Based on the data the researcher found, from 8 forms of idiomatic expression, there are only 7 forms. Those are 28 idioms with nouns and adjective, 3 idiomatic pairs, 38 phrasal verb, 33 verbal idiom, 34 idiom with key words from special categories, 11 key word with idiomatic use, and 14 idiom with comparison. According to the types there are 142 types of idiomatic expression, they are 12 simile, 2 binomial, 33 proverb, 40 euphemism, 39 cliché, and 16 fixed statement. Based on the type of idiomatic expression, euphemism is dominated the type of idiomatic expression in the series.

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