

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This study is concerned with contextual meaning on the idiomatic expression. This chapter contains background of the study, statement of problems, objectives of study, limitation of the study, significance of the study, research method, clarification of key terms, and organization of the paper.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a communication system which is very important for humans. As a dynamic element, language is analyzed and assessed by using various approaches to study it. The approach that can be used to assess a language is meaning approach.

Chaer (1994) states that meaning can be distinguished based on several criteria and point of view. Based on the type of semantic, it can be distinguished into lexical meaning and grammatical meaning, whether based on the other criteria or other point of view it can be mentioned that there are associative meaning, reflective meaning, and idiomatic meaning.

Idiomatic meaning is a unit of speech in which the meaning is unpredictable from the meaning of its elements, both lexically and grammatically. Cooper (1998) states that the Meaning of idiomatic expression can be defined by two ways: lexically and contextually. From its lexical viewpoint, the meaning of idiomatic expression is the meaning that is conventionally assigned to the

common use in dictionary. On the other hand, the meaning of idiomatic expression can be understood contextually. The reason why it can be understood contextually because some idioms have various meanings depending on the context. According to Lyons, in his book he stated, “contextual meaning is the meaning of a word according to the situations in which they are used; different situation might give a sentence in a different meaning.” (Lyons, 1984:143). In short, contextual meaning is the meaning according to the context.

In this research, film becomes an object of the study. In our life, we are often watching film. Film is one of the literary works where the function is to entertain and to gain information. As with books or other printed works, photographs, sound recordings, paintings or other artwork, film is a conductor of information to the society. The information presented in a film providing new knowledge to society. Whatever the genre or the theme, film always leaves a moral message to people that can be absorbed easily. Also, understanding a film can be easier than reading a written text like a book. So, film is strategically used for communication tools for many people. Film is also a conductor of information to the society.

In his book, Biran (2006: 29) says that language in the film has very important role and function. Without language, film will lose its ‘strength’ because language is an effective element in conveying the information.

Moreover, Film often applies an idiom in it; of course, each idiom that appears on the conversations have a certain meaning.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher chose *The Parent Trap's* film to analyze which is focused on contextual meaning of the idiom found on the script. The researcher chose this film because there are many idioms can be found in the film script, both American and British Idioms. Many cultural knowledge give an impact to the statement of conversations in the film, so they need contextual explanation to interpret the meaning contained in it. Due to the reason above, this study is very significant and interesting to be conducted. Therefore, the researcher intended to conduct study entitled "***An Analysis of Contextual Meaning on the Idiomatic Expression in The Parent Trap film script***".

### **1.2 Statement of Problems**

Based on the background of the study, problems of the study are formulated below:

1. What types of idioms are found in *The Parent Trap's* film script?
2. What contextual meaning of the idioms are found in *The Parent Trap's* film script?

### **1.3 Objectives of Study**

This discussion is aimed to answer the questions posed in problems of the study above. To be more specific the researcher would like to:

1. To identify types of idioms which are found in *The Parent Trap* film script.
2. To interpret contextual meaning of the idioms found in *The Parent Trap* film script.

#### **1.4 Limitation of the Study**

In this study the researcher focuses her study on meaning or message based on the context that existed on the idioms found in *The Parent Trap* film. The researcher takes the idioms from the whole script of the film.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study is about how to understand meaning of idioms. Understanding meaning is very important to be analyzed because if we don't know the real meaning, the hearer couldn't understand the meaning which is delivered by the speaker. This kind of problem could bring uncondusive and unefficeint communication. Just like in many cases, there are a lot of mistakes made by the hearers who can't understand what the speakers say when the speaker using the idioms. So that, the researcher hopes this study is able to making light of understanding the idioms meaning in communication.

Furthermore, the results of this study are expected to give useful inputs for researchers who are going to do research in the same field, especially in study of idiomatic expression. Moreover, those who are interested in learning vocabulary, the findings of this research give valuable information about all kinds of idiomatic expressions. Finally, this study gives relevant information to anyone who does their study on literary works such as film.

## 1.6 Research Method

This study used descriptive qualitative method. The aim of descriptive was to explain, classify, and analyze the data from some instruments. Moreover, the qualitative was used to investigate the social phenomenon. This study applied qualitative method that used natural setting to describe the factual phenomenon.

The subject of this research was taken from 'The Parent Trap' film which was directed by Nancy Meyers. The data obtained the whole text of the film script. The script was chosen as the data source because the script applied various kinds of idiomatic expression. This film released on February, 1997. The researcher watched the film and then read its trascription.

There were some steps in conducting this research. The first step was reading and understanding whole 'The Parent Trap' film script. The second step was identifying the idioms used in the film script. The third step was classifying stage. The data collected were classified into some types of idioms based on theory from Hockett (1958). The fourth step was analyzing data. After classifying the data, the researcher tried to find the meaning or message based on the context in the film.

## 1.7 Clarification of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding on the terms used in this study, the researcher gives the definition of the following key terms:

1. **Contextual meaning**: is the meaning of words according to the situations in which they are used (Lyons, 1984:143).
2. **Idiomatic expression**: is a type of informal English where its meaning is different from the meaning of the words in the expression, or according to Fromkin (1987), “idiomatic expression is a kind of words such as fixed phrase, consisting of more than one word, with one meaning cannot be inferred by knowing the meanings of the individual words.”
3. **Film**: is a media to transfer a message. Functions of film are to entertain and – the most important thing – to gain or to deliver the information to the society. Moreover, Imanjaya (2006: 29) states in his book that film as social archives catches a spirit of the era of the society in that time.

### **1.8 Organization of the Paper**

This paper is presented into five chapters. Chapter I consists of introduction that covers background of the study, statement of problems, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, significance of the study, research method, clarification of key terms, and organization of the paper. Chapter II presents the theoretical foundation related to, idiomatic expression, types of idiom, contextual meaning, film, and previous studies. Chapter III deals with research method in order to accomplish the study. It comprises research design, source, research instrument, data collection, and data analysis. Chapter IV provides findings and discussion. This chapter report the result of the analysis. Chapter V contains some conclusions and suggestions/recommendations for

further research in accordance with the result of the research. The paper ends with references.

### **1.9 Concluding Remarks**

This chapter has discussed the background of study which outlines of why this paper is proposed, displayed the limitation of study which limited this study, specified the problem of the study which is formulated in research questions, presented the aims of study which explains for what this study is conducted, described its significance for whom this study is investigated, presents an overview of the method used, showed the clarification of the key terms which clarify some terms that are related in this study and finally presents the organizations of the paper.