

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter discusses the method employed by the writer to find the answers of the research questions which have been already mentioned in the first chapter. The first question is ‘what types of idioms are found in *The Parent Trap* film script?’, while the second question is ‘what contextual meanings of the idioms are found in *The Parent Trap* film script?’

This chapter includes research design, source, research instrument, data collection and data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

This study conducted qualitative approach. Fraenkel and Wallen (1993: 380) says about qualitative approach that “the quality of relationships, activities, situations or materials”. While, Merriam (1998: 5) defines qualitative research as “an umbrella concept covering several forms of inquiry that helps us understand and explain the meaning of social phenomena with as little disruption of the natural setting as possible.”

In this research, the writer was the instrument of the study (human instrument). Because just like Fraenkel and Wallen (1993: 380-381) said that in qualitative research, the appropriate instrument was human or the researcher because it concerns with the processes which can simply be observed by human.

Moreover, the study did not give any control or treatment, which may influence the variable. On the other, descriptive research allowed the use of statistics, called descriptive statistics. The main function of descriptive statistics was to describe information or data through the use of numbers.

There are five characteristics of qualitative research according to Alwasilah (2002: 107-109) as follows: “ (1) Understanding the meaning, (2) Understanding the particular contexts, (3) identification the phenomena and the effect that unexpected, (4) Existing grounded theory, (5) Understanding the process”

The research here used descriptive qualitative method because the data were in the form of words or written language rather than number. The writer believed that descriptive qualitative method was appropriate for this research because as Sugiyono (2007: 15) says that, “descriptive problems formulation guided the writer in exploring and capturing the social situation to be studied thoroughly, widely, and intensively.

3.2. Source

The source of this study was “The Parent Trap”, a Drama-Comedy film which was directed by Nancy Meyers. In the film script, there were found 97 idioms. Those were potential to be analyzed by Hockett’s Types of idiom and Firth’s contextual theory.

3.2.1 Synopsis of “The Parent Trap” Film

“The Parent Trap” is a 1998 remake of the 1961 family film of the same name. It was directed and co-written by Nancy Meyers, and produced and co-written by Charles Shyer. It stars Dennis Quaid and Natasha Richardson as a couple who divorce soon after marrying, and Lindsay Lohan in a dual role as their twin daughters, Hallie Parker and Annie James who are accidentally reunited after being separated at birth. Both films are based on Erich Kästner's novel *Lottie and Lisa (Das doppelte Lottchen)*. The novel and the 1936 Deanna Durbin film *Three Smart Girls* are the basis of the screenplay written by David Swift for the 1961 and 1998 film, only the novel is credited however. Meyers and Shyer are credited as co-writers of the 1998 version along with Swift.

This film is full with idiomatic expressions both of American and British. The statement in the conversations in the film is full with cultural influence and need contextual explanation to interpret the meaning contained in it.

3.2.1.1 Synopsis

Nick Parker (Dennis Quaid) and Elizabeth James (Natasha Richardson) met and married each other during an ocean cruise on the *QE2* (Queen Elizabeth 2). Nick and Elizabeth gave birth to their twin daughters, Hallie Parker and Annie James (both played by Lindsay Lohan), but they divorced and lost contact with each other, each parent raising one of the twins without telling her about her sister. Nick raised Hallie in the Napa Valley and he became a wealthy wine

grower, while Elizabeth raised Annie in London and she became a famous wedding gown designer.

After the ocean cruise and onboard wedding ceremony, the story jumps ahead to a summer in which Nick and Elizabeth coincidentally enroll their daughters in the same summer camp in Maine. Hallie and Annie, who are now eleven years old, first meet at the end of a fencing match, when they remove their masks and see that they look alike. A comical hostility between the two girls leads to a prank war that ends when the camp counselors fall into one of Hallie's traps and isolate the twins from the other girls.

Living together, Hallie and Annie discover that they were born on the same day and they each have half of a torn wedding photograph of their parents. Realizing with delight that they are twins, the girls hatch a plan to meet their previously unknown parents: Each girl will train her twin to impersonate her, and they will switch places at the end of the summer camp.

When camp is over, the plan succeeds: Hallie goes to London (pretending to be Annie), where she meets her mother, her grandfather, and the James family's butler Martin (Simon Kunz). Annie goes to California (pretending to be Hallie), where she meets her father, the Parker family's housekeeper Chessy (Lisa Ann Walter), their dog Sammy, and Nick's young, opportunistic fiancée Meredith Blake (Elaine Hendrix), who is only interested in Nick's money. Distressed by Meredith's deviousness, Annie telephones Hallie and persuades her to bring Elizabeth to California to break up the engagement. Soon the girls' identities are

discovered by everyone except for Nick and Meredith, who remain unaware of the switch their newfound family members tearfully welcome them.

In order to bring Nick and Elizabeth together, Hallie, Annie, Chessy, Martin and Charles conspire to have them meet at a hotel in San Francisco by arranging for Nick to meet Meredith's parents and by not telling Elizabeth about Meredith. Nervous about meeting Nick, Elizabeth asks Martin to accompany her and Hallie. After a few comical mix ups in the hotel, Nick and Elizabeth see each other, Nick finally learns about the switch and the girls host a candlelit dinner for Nick and Elizabeth, served by Chessy and Martin, on a yacht decorated to recreate their first meeting. At dinner, Elizabeth mentions that Nick did not follow her after she left him, and Nick responds that he was not sure if Elizabeth would want him to. They make plans for the girls to spend holidays together, but decide against resuming their relationship.

Hallie and Annie dislike this idea, so they force their parents to take them camping by refusing to reveal which twin is which. After Elizabeth persuades Nick and the girls to take Meredith instead of herself, the girls play tricks on Meredith, who becomes enraged and insists that Nick choose between her and his daughters. Nick chooses the girls and Meredith breaks off the engagement.

After Meredith leaves, Nick shows Elizabeth his wine collection, which includes the wine they drank at their wedding. Elizabeth is touched by this gesture at first, but has a change of heart and returns to London with Annie. However, when Annie and Elizabeth get home, they find Hallie and Nick waiting for them, having flown there on the Concorde. Elizabeth is fearful of remarrying, but she

yields to Nick's confidence, and Hallie and Annie look on happily as Nick and Elizabeth embrace. The end credits feature photographs of Nick and Elizabeth's second wedding, also aboard the *QE2*, with the girls as bridesmaids, and Martin presenting Chessy with an engagement ring.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Parent_Trap_1998_film)

3.2.1.2 Cast

The casts/characters of the Parent Trap film are Lindsay Lohan as Hallie Parker and Annie James, Dennis Quaid as Nick Parker, Natasha Richardson as Elizabeth "Lizzie" James, Elaine Hendrix as Meredith Blake, Lisa Ann Walter as Chessy, Simon Kunz as Martin, Polly Holliday as Marva Kulp, Maggie Wheeler as Marva Kulp Jr, Ronnie Stevens as Charles James, Joanna Barnes as Vicki Blake, J. Patrick McCormack as Les Blake, Erin Mackey as Hallie/Annie double.

3.3 Research Instrument

This study was qualitative research with actual settings as the direct source of data (Bogdan & Biklen, 1998: 4); thus, the key instrument of gathering the data in this research was the researcher herself, because there was no other research instrument which was suitable to collect the data.

3.4 Data Collection

According to Alwasilah (2002: 67), data were commonly viewed as information used to decide and discuss object(s) of investigation. In qualitative

research, there were three kinds of data collection: interview, observation, and documents. So, for this study documents is a kind of data collection.

In this research the researcher utilized some techniques of collecting the data, which were elaborated as follows:

1. Choosing film.
2. Watching the original DVD of “The Parent Trap” several times to comprehend the whole of stories.
3. Reading and understanding all of The Parent Trap film script which is transcribed by Ryan.

3.5 Data Analysis

To analyze the data, the researcher employed four steps. The first step was identifying the idioms used in the film script, the second step was classifying the idioms found based on Hockett’s types of idiom, the third step was finding meaning based on the context by using Firth’s contextual theory, and the fourth step was drawing conclusions according to result.

3.6 Concluding Remarks

This chapter has presented how the study was designed and implemented. It has outlined the aspects of methodology used which consists of research design, source, data collection, and data analysis. The forthcoming chapter will develop the analysis of the results while the later chapter will conclude the results of the analysis.