

LAPORAN PENELITIAN FUNDAMENTAL



THE EFFECTIVENESS OF RIDDLE GAMES IN TEACHING READING

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PROGRAM PASCASARJANA
UNIVERSITAS AHMAD DAHLAN
2015

PENELITIAN INI DILAKSANAKAN ATAS BIAYA DARI ANGGARAN PENDAPATAN DAN BELANJA
UNIVERSITAS AHMAD DAHLAN NOMOR KONTRAK PF-164/LPP-UAD/III/2015

HALAMAN PENGESAHAN

Judul : The Effectiveness of Riddle Games in Teaching Reading

Peneliti/Pelaksana

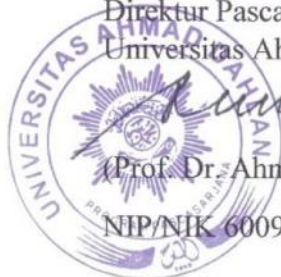
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Penanggung Jawab : Raden Muhammad Ali, S.S., M.Hum.
Tahun Pelaksanaan : 2015
Biaya Keseluruhan : Rp 5.000.000,-

Mengetahui,
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Azwar Abbas, S.Pd., M.Hum. 2016. *The Use of Articles in English.*

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to find out the types, the meanings, the functions, and the structures of Idiomatic Expressions Used in Business Articles of The Jakarta Post. The topic is definitely interesting to study because it offers to the learners how to use idioms in English language closely like natives. This research is qualitative descriptive research. The data sources of this research were business articles of The Jakarta Post. The data were collected by using note taking technique, recording technique, separating technique, transferring technique, and changing technique. After collecting the data the writer reduced and analyzed the data to find out the types, the meanings, the functions, and the structures of idiomatic expressions used in business articles of The Jakarta Post. The study showed that there are 93 idiomatic expressions. There are three types of idioms in this study, namely pure idiom, semi idiom, and literal idiom. There are 50 pure idioms, 36 semi idioms, and 7 literal idioms. The meanings of the idiomatic expression are figurative, connotative, and denotative meaning. The functions of idiomatic expressions are to replace a literal word or expression, to make their language richer and more colorful, to shorten the utterance, and to convey subtle shades of meaning or intention. The most typical structures of idiomatic expression found in this study are verb + preposition(s), the semi clause, adjective + noun, and preposition + adjective.

Keywords: *types, meanings, functions, structures, idiomatic expression.*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. INTRODUCTION

Idiomatic expressions have their own unique influence into English existence. They are some problems to study but extremely important to be gained. Spears (2004: ix) states that there are three general reasons why idiomatic expressions are problem for students, writers, and adults. The three problems are (1) difficulties with extracting the core of the idiomatic expression from a sentence or paragraph; (2) the variable nature of idiom; and (3) the basic opaque nature of these phrases. But anyway they will escort the learners to learn and to study English more enthusiastic especially when they are used in spoken and written activities. They give us some eye-popping experiences. According to Boers et al in Amer (2010: 02), there are three psycholinguistic reasons why idiomatic expressions beneficial for learners; (1) they help them achieve perceived native-like performance, (2) they are retrieved from memory in chunk which helps learners produce fewer hesitations; and (3) they facilitate fluent language production under real-time conditions.

Bortfeld (2003: 217), states that idioms is pervasive. It is proved when Boatner, Gates, and Makkai (1975) presented over 4,000 expressions occurring in English. But in new edition of this same dictionary (1995) it increased over 8,000 English language idioms. This is not to say that idioms

have increased in number in recent years, rather, it shows that people are increasingly willing to acknowledge these phrases for the major role they play in daily language use. And they are also used in some media to convey their expression in writing.

Most English speakers express about 10 million novel metaphors per lifetime and 20 million idioms per lifetime and mastering of an L2 may depend on how well learners comprehend initially and produce eventually the idioms encountered in everyday language (Zhang, 2009: 06).

Yeganehjoo and Thai (2008: 87) state that studies on the use of idioms in the speech of adult native speakers have revealed that about 70% of their speech consists of idiomatic expressions.

The idiomatic expressions such as rough diamond, kick the bucket, red handed, all in all, on and on, and so forth, are difficult to understand when they are found in the sequence of sentences in the newspapers. But these idiomatic expressions are really valuable and interesting in writing product especially for writers in enriching the words combination and more over they are obviously attractable to be learnt by English learners. On the other hand, the publishers like to put these requirements as a tool in attracting the consumers to buy and read their newspapers. Zabelkova (2009: 20) that newspaper publishers are always in competition each other which always try to attract the consumer by one of their strategy that is using interesting idioms in the writing product especially in their head lines.

Comprehending the aims of the writers in writing the articles completely are kinds of another problem to study. The readers have to understand not only the glossaries, structures and grammars but also the idiomatic expressions and furthermore the way of thinking how the native writers convey their ideas. Finally, the feeling of high satisfaction will turn immediately up when the readers understand those idiomatic expressions meanings.

According to the most common definition, idioms are linguistic expressions whose overall meaning cannot be predicted from the meanings of the constituent parts (Kovecses, 1988: 180). In Encarta Webster's College Dictionary, Soukhanov (2005: 716) defines idiom as a fixed expression with nonliteral meaning; a fixed distinctive expression whose meaning cannot be deduced from the combine meaning of its actual words.

There are some categories of idioms which mixed bag but they should be known. They are metaphors like spill the beans that means to let secret information become known; metonymies like throw up one's hands; pairs of words like cats and dogs; idiom with it like live it up; similes like as easy as pie; sayings like a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush; phrasal verbs like come up as in New year is coming up; grammatical idioms like let alone and others (Kovecses and Szabco, 1988: 189).

It is believed that in understanding English writing as to whether magazines, newspapers, or papers it needs especial skill that many English

learners need to achieve since it is a special competence for them to present their ability in comprehending the sentences. They must endeavor to cope this ability seriously and practice autodidactic is another way how to solve this problem favorably.

English reading activity is the way how to improve English competency. The readers read many sources of texts, for instances magazines, newspapers, and novels, to get much information on those writing products but only few of them have eagerness to learn or to study about the way of using idioms used in those media.

To be able to read magazines, newspapers and books of English, the readers need to have a lot of vocabularies and of course understanding the grammar rules. It is impossible to understand the reading text without having these skills. And understanding idiomatic expressions are the skills which every English learner is eager to acquire in order to understand the writing texts in newspapers.

Newspaper is one of the oldest written public media. Mitchell Stephens who works for Grolier Encyclopedia says that Rome and China were two countries which published newspapers earliest. Rome had published it from the year 59 B.C to at least A.D. 222. And China begin published the newspapers when governed by Han Dynasty from the year 202 B.C. to A.D. 221, and were printed at some point during the T'ang Dynasty in 618 to 906 (www.thehistoryofnewspapers.com March 31, 2013, 06 p.m.).

The Jakarta Post is a popular English Newspaper in Indonesia. It has been existing in this country for about 30 years. The founder was Late Ali Moertopo, the follower and the Information Minister of the former Indonesian President, Late Soeharto. Now this English newspaper is available in online edition too. Most of the people who know and study English always make this newspaper as their reference to improve their English skill better (<http://www.thejakartapost.com> March 31,2013,07 p.m.).

There are a lot of features in this newspaper like politics, economics and business, social and cultures, sports, and live. On the first page of course some headline news are available to attract the readers read the information deeper. Moreover some interesting articles lead the readers to read further.

According to Cristal and David in Zabelkova (2009: 15), a newspaper is very eclectic. Beside news items, people try to find an imaginative and exciting of various kinds of advertising, competition and so forth in articles. Hornby (1989: 833) states that newspaper is a set of large printed publication, issued usually daily or weekly with news, articles, advertisement, on various subject, etc.

This study will focus on the business articles of The Jakarta Post because it has its own page and the articles are more challenge to study. A lot of idiomatic expression is written in the business articles.

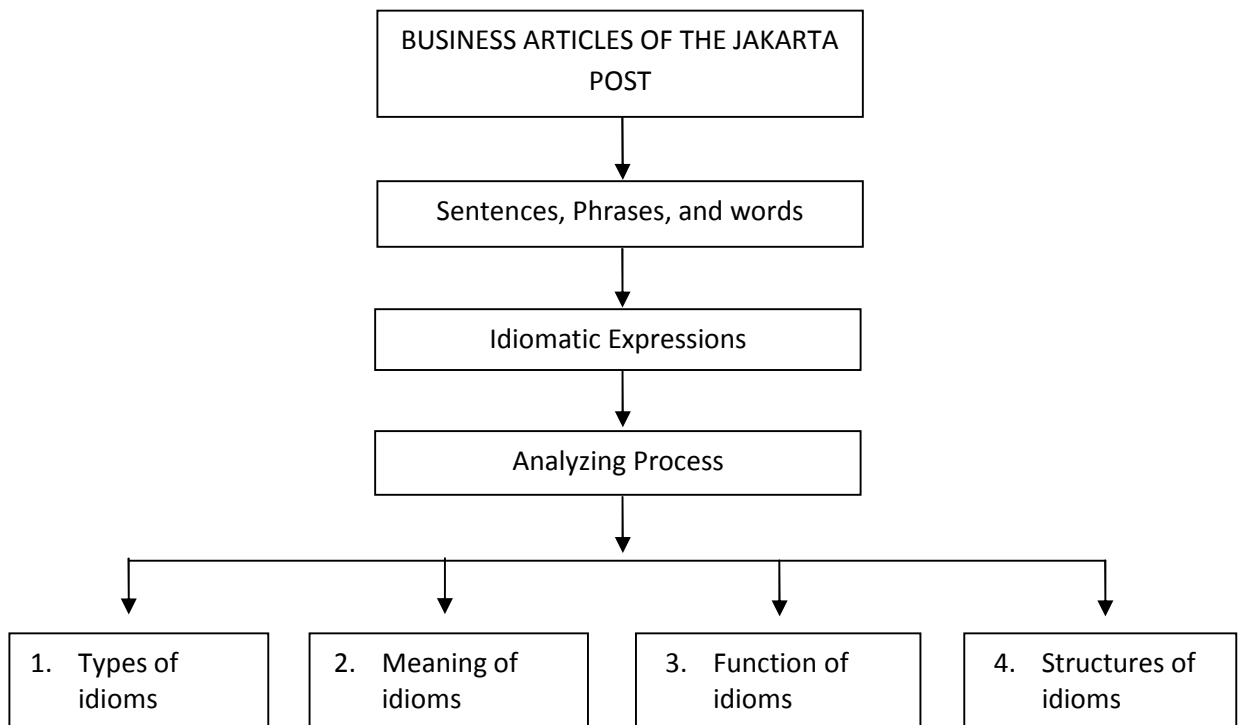


Figure 1. The Conceptual Framework

CHAPTER II

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A. Methodology

This study uses qualitative descriptive. Qualitative studies are inductive: the theory is derived from the results of our research (Litosseliti, 2010: 52). Moleong (2013: 08-13) mentions eleven characteristics of qualitative research as follows:

1. Natural background.

It means that the study takes root from the natural background as wholeness.

2. Human being as the research instrument.

The researcher, helped by assistance, is the main instrument in collecting data.

3. Using qualitative method.

This method is used with some consideration. Firstly it is easier in facing the different reality. Secondly it is presented the interaction between researcher and respondent directly. Thirdly it is more sensitive and flexible in threating the new condition values.

4. Doing data analysis inductively.

5. Grounded Theory

This research believes in what has been seen to avoid the neutral action.

6. Descriptive data as the respond of qualitative method application.

7. Processes oriented.

This study emphasizes in its process for the reason that the interaction between object of the research will be more clearly when it is observed within the process.

8. A boundary which is determined by the focus.

It means that in finding of research limitation the researcher is able to determine the focus of the study.

9. Special criterion on validity of the data.

10. Temporarily design.

11. The result of the research is collectively agreed.

Moleong (2013: 06) claims that qualitative research is a study which results analysis procedure that does not use statistical analysis but written and spoken descriptive data.

Strauss and Corbin In Hartono, (2011: 170) state that qualitative research design is a kind of research which does not have any statistical element or any kind of quantification in its research finding.

Bogdan and Biklen in Fraenkel and Wallen (2008: 423) mention five characteristics of qualitative research as follow:

1. The natural setting is the direct source of data, and the researcher is the key instrument.
2. The data are collected in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers.
3. The researchers are concerned with process as well as product.
4. The researchers tend to analyze their data inductively.

5. How people make sense out of their lives is a major concern to qualitative researchers.

Sandelowski (2000: 01) states that qualitative descriptive studies have their goal as a comprehensive summary of events in the everyday terms of those events. She argues that the researchers in conducting qualitative descriptive studies defines that qualitative descriptive design typically is an eclectic but reasonable combination of sampling, and data collection.

B. Data and Data Source

1. Data

Sugiyono (2010: 193) asserts that data are divided into primary data and secondary data. Primary data are directly giving the data to the data collector. The data used in this study are primary data those are idiomatic expressions used in the business articles of *The Jakarta post*.

2. Data Source

Lofland and Lofland in Moleong (2013: 157) argue that the main data sources in qualitative research are words and actions and documents as the additional data source are very important too. Arikunto (2010: 172) defines that the data source in the research is the subject of where the data are collected. The data source in qualitative research may be obtained from human being, activities, place or location, several of pictures, transcriptions, documents, and archives (Sutopo in Hartono, 2011: 175). The data source in this study is Business Articles of *The Jakarta Post* as the documents. Guba and Lincoln in Moleong (2013: 216) state

that document is any kind of written products and they give some reason why document can become a data source as follows:

- a. Document is a stable, rich, and encouraging source.
- b. Document is beneficent as an evidence for a testing.
- c. Document is beneficent and appropriate with qualitative research since its character is natural agree with its context.
- d. Document must be discovered.
- e. Document is a data source which is possible to be analyzed and as the source which can be observed to escalate the knowledge.

The data source which is used in this study is Business Articles of The Jakarta Post in which every edition consists of 6 pages, 2 pages National Business column, and 4 pages of International -World business column.

C. Data Collecting Technique

Generally, data collecting technique in qualitative research according to Sugiyono (2010: 194) is divided into 3 techniques namely interview, questionnaire, and observation. Sudaryanto (1993: 72) point out that there are five strategies of data collecting technique in researches such as follows:

1. Taking note technique; this technique usually uses any kinds of instruments such as books, note books, and other instruments.
2. Recording technique; it uses a recording instrument.
3. Separating technique; this technique is a strategy of separating the data to others to find the similarities and the differences.

4. Transferring technique; it is used to transfer the data to the data of other media.
5. Changing technique; it is used to change the data which are necessary in a research in order to be understandable.

In doing this collecting the data the writer will use documentation-note taking technique. Goetz and Le Compte in Rakhman (2006: 53) say that to get a complete data in qualitative research the researcher can use document-note taking technique.

The steps of doing collecting the data in this study are follows:

1. Reading.

The writer read the object of the data in business articles of The Jakarta Post, identified and underlined the idiomatic expressions.

2. Identifying.

The writer identified the idioms used in Business articles of The Jakarta Post.

3. Underlining

In this research the writer underlined the idioms used in Business Articles of The Jakarta Post.

4. Making a file

The writer made the file of idioms used in Business Articles of The Jakarta Post.

D. Data Analyzing Technique

According to Patton in Moleong (2013: 280) data analysis is the process of systematically organizing and arranging data into category, pattern, and basic

description unit to find a theme to formulate a hypothesis as the data suggested. In order to comprehend the process of non-interactive analyzes of idiomatic expressions, the writer adopts the data analyzing technique formulated by Rakhman (2006: 59):

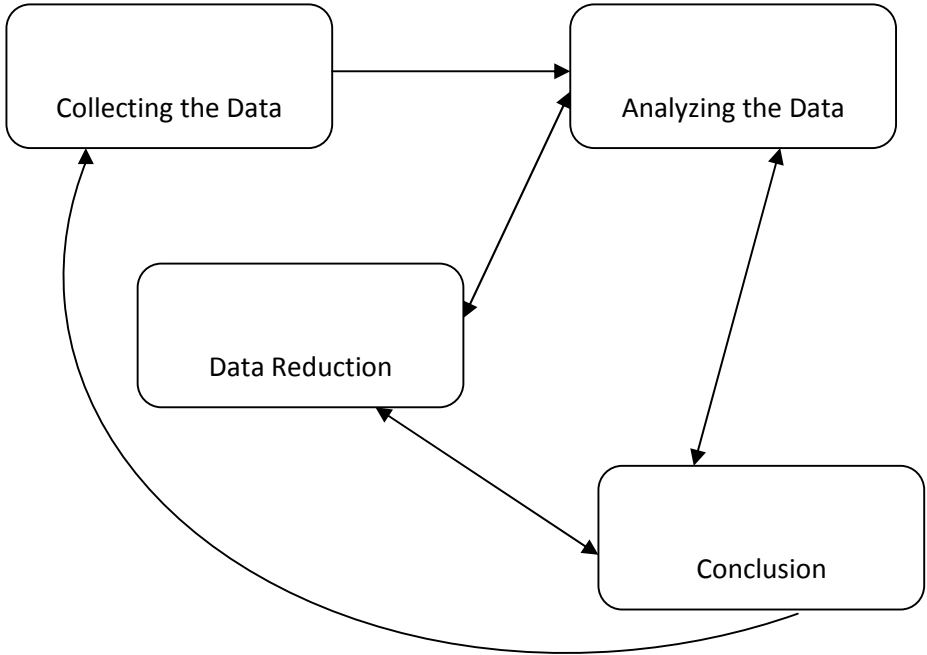


Figure 2. Data analyzing technique

CHAPTER III

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

A. The Types of Idiomatic Expressions

In this study it was found out that the idiomatic expressions in *The Jakarta Post* are pure, semi, and literal idioms. It is in line with Fernando (1996: 36) who says that idioms are divided into three types, namely pure idioms, semi idioms, and literal idioms.

1. Pure idioms

Fernando (1996: 36) states that pure idioms are the original idioms which have figurative meaning for example *spill the beans* which have nothing to do with *beans*. Here are some examples of pure idioms found in this study:

- (1) Mismanagement still *dogs* local airline operators (11 March 2013, p. 13).
- (2) *Rough diamonds* in the rag trade (18 March 2013, p.13).
- (3) If that happened on a large scale, Cyprus, which has evolved into one of the most important European financial centers in the past decade, would *face a blow* to the cornerstone of its economy (26 March 2013, p. II).
- (4) Desktop advertising, however, still accounts for bulk of digital advertising look to get the most *eyeballs* for their banners (09 March 2013, p.03)
- (5) According to the latest draft regulation from the Industry Ministry, manufacturers of petrol-powered vehicles, categorized as "low-cost

green cars', can obtain up to a zero percent tax when producing cars with 1,000-cc engines that run farther than 22 kilometers on a liter of fuel, or cars with 1,200-cc engines that run 20 kilometers per liter (11 March 2013, p. 03).

In example (1), the word *dogs* belongs to pure idioms because that word in this context has nothing to do with a kind of that loyal pet. Trask (1995: 47) refers to *Collins English Dictionary* defines *dog* as a domesticated canine mammal, *canis familiaris*, occurring in many breeds that show a great variety in size and form, but the utterance *dogs* used in this context that nothing to do with kind of animal explained above except as an expression to get the readers' attention.

In example (2), the phrase *rough diamonds* belongs to pure idioms because these words have nothing to do either with some of valuable stone or jewelry. In example (3), the type of pure idiomatic expression is *face a blow*. The phrase has nothing to do with a part of human body. In example (4), the word *eyeball* belongs to pure idioms because that word has nothing to do with the part of visual organ. And in example (5), the phrase *green car* has nothing to do with a color of vehicles.

2. Semi Idioms

Weinreich in Fernando (1996: 36) reveals that semi idioms have one or more literal constituents and at least one with a non-literal sub-sense, for example *cachone 's breath* means *check* and *foot the bill* means *pay*. It means that

the readers can figure out the types of semi idiomatic expression by seeing the word constituents.

Here are some examples the types of semi idiomatic expression found in this study:

- (6) The anti-virus industry has a *dirty little secret*; its products are often not very good at stopping viruses (02 January 2013, p.I)
- (7) “*The bad guys* are always trying to be a step ahead;” said Matthew D. Howard (02 January 2013, p.I)
- (8) Meanwhile, Cheng *pointed out* that the domestic market was increasingly warming to Asian brands and Parkson too looked to carry a mix of International and Asian brands “depending on demand and profile of our customers” (18 March 2013, p. 13).
- (9) Currently, the government imposes a variety of taxes on cars that makes it hard to *push down* car prices to below Rp. 100 million (US\$ 10,325), a benchmark considered affordable to many Indonesians, particularly the emerging middle-class (11 March 2013, p. 03).
- (10) Foreign Partners like Mr. Sekhri are necessary because “you can’t just *plunk down* an exact copy of the original,” said Malcolm M. Knapp, who heads a New York restaurant consulting company that bears his name (03 January 2013, p.IV)

In example (6), in line with the theory above, the phrase *dirty little secret* belongs to semi idiomatic expression because there are two literal constituent; *little* and *secret* and one non-literal sub-sense, *dirty*. In example (7), the semi idiomatic expression is *the bad guys*. This idiom is easily determined as semi idiom because it has a literal constituent, *guys* and non-literal sub-sense, *bad*. In example (8), The idiomatic expression is *point out*. This phrase has a literal constituent, *point*, and a non-literal sub-sense, *out*. It has the same reason with example seven why this phrase belongs to semi idiomatic expression.

In example (9), the phrase *push down* belongs to semi idiomatic expressions because the phrase has a non-literal sub-sense, *down* and one of literal constituent, *push*. In example (10), the phrase *plunk down* belongs to semi idiomatic expression because that phrase has also a literal constituent, *plunk* and a non- literal sub-sense, *down*.

3. Literal Idioms

Fernando (1996: 36) also point outs that there are literal idioms that exist in the language discussion. They have a clear meaning such as *on foot, tall, dark and handsome, waste not, want not, on the contrary, a (very) happy birthday, a merry Christmas* and *a happy new year* that meet the salient criterion for idioms; invariance or restricted variation. They are, however, less semantically complex than pure and semi - idioms. Here are some examples of literal idioms found in this study:

- (11) By the end of January, Hartadi pledged more intervention to protect the rupiah, saying that BI would enter the currency market "boldly" to reduce the gap between the *supply and demand* of dollars (08 February 2013, p. 3).
- (12) The anti-virus industry has grown as well, but experts say it is *falling behind* (02 January 2013, p. 1).
- (13) MuraliMenon, shopping mall director of Grand Indonesia, said that the mall expected Central to draw "Indonesian shoppers *hungry for something new*" (18 March 2013, p. 13).
- (14) After July, he said that the government would *speed up* construction of the 283 kilometer rail-road across the eastern part of Java between Gambiran, Bojonegoro and Surabaya (9 March 2013, p. 03).

In example (11), the literal idiomatic expression is *supply and demand*. It is in line with the theory that literal idioms are clearly recognized, invariance, restricted variation, and less semantically complex than semi idiom and pure idiom. In example (12), phrase *falling behind* belongs to literal idiom since the words are clearly understood. In example (13), the phrase *hungry for* belongs to literal idiom because it is in line with the theory that says the literal idioms have less semantically complex. And in example (14), the phrase *speed up* belongs to literal idioms because it has a clear meaning, invariance, and less semantically complex.

B. The Meanings of Idiomatic Expressions

Leech (2003: 19), states that meaning is divided into figurative, connotative, and denotative meaning. Figurative meaning is non-literal meaning, connotative meaning is the meaning which is communicated by virtues of what language refers to and denotative meaning is the basic meaning, the most specific or literal meaning of a word.

In this study the writer found out that the meaning of idiom of this study belongs to figurative, connotative and denotative meaning.

1. Figurative Meaning

Leech (2003: 19) states that figurative meaning is non-literal meaning. It always sticks on idiomatic expression. An example of phrase which belongs to figurative meaning is *a snake*, in the sentence, *His action in that politic movement is like a snake*.

Here are five examples of idiomatic expressions which have figurative meaning found in this study:

(15) Imverpa, which sponsored the anti-virus study, has *a horse* in this race
(02 January 2013, p. I).

(16) *The hottest* security start-ups today are companies like Bit9, Bromium, Fire- Eye, and Seculert that monitor internet traffic, and companies

like Mandiant and CrowdStrikes that have expertise in cleaning up after an attack(02 January 2013, p. I).

(17) "The government has *lost face* thanks to this incident," Hadi said (03 January 2013, p. 13).

(18) Eramet to *kick off* \$5.5 billion smelting project mid-2013 (09 February 2013, P. 03).

(19) Cigarette producer PT WismilakIntiMakmur (WIM) is expecting to *book* Rp. 1.6 trillion (US\$163.2 million) in net sales this year, with festive holidays in the second half of the year likely to see an increase in consumption, the company said recently (21 May 2013, p. 13).

In example (15), the phrase *a horse* belongs to pure idiom which has nothing to do with a four legged animal like zebra in lexical meaning or denotative meaning. Trask (1995: 51) asserts that the meaning of a word is related to the meaning of other words in way that may be simple or complex. In this context the phrase *a horse* has a figurative meaning. It means *someone who is extremely skilled*.

In example (16), the idiomatic expression is *the hottest*. It belongs to pure idiom. In lexical meaning the phrase means *something very warm, very spicy* as it is in food, and *can be causing controversy* when discussing a topic of something.

In example (17), *the government has lost face thanks to this incident*; its idiomatic expression is *lost face*. This idiom belongs to pure idiom which

has nothing to do with a part of human body. The lexical meaning of these words which are comprised of two words, *lost* and *face* are *gone or unable to find way* and *front of head*. The figurative meaning of the words is *bearing the shame*.

In example (18) the phrase *kick off* is belongs to pure idiom and it has a figurative meaning. The word *kick* itself, refers to lexical meaning has something to do with *strike with foot* or *move something with foot*. But in this context, combined with *off*, it means *start play* or *begin something*. And in example (19), the word *book* is the idiomatic expression of this sentence. It has nothing to do with a *bound collection of pages, published work, bound set of blank sheets*, or *division of literary work*, but it means *reserves something* or *acquires something*.

2. Connotative Meaning

Leech (2003: 19) defines that one of the meaning in idiomatic expression is connotative meaning. Connotative meaning is the meaning which is communicated by virtues of what language refers to. An example of word which belongs to connotative meaning is *write down* in the sentence, *the journalists wrote down about what the witnesses said in that case*.

Here are some examples of semi idiom which belongs to connotative meaning found in this study:

(20) Those moves *pump* money *into* the economy (23 May 2013, p. 11).

- (21) Krakatau to up stakes in two *joint ventures* (24 May 2013, p. 13).
- (22) They can *blow up* a firm with the best of intentions (5 April 2013, p. III)
- (23) "When you stand in front of it, you're *blown away*," Mr. Cohen said (5 April 2013, p. II).
- (24) The Democratic Party politician also *played down* concern by labor unions- such as the Confederation of Indonesian Workers Union (KSPI)- that the government might side the Freeport in the aftermath of the incident (22 May 2013, p. 03).

In example (20), the phrase *pump into* belongs to semi idiom. It has connotative meaning because this phrase has an additional meaning. The word *pump* refers to denotative or lexical meaning has some meanings such as *make liquid or gas flow, make something move up and down, and make somebody excited*. Refers to another denotative meaning which correlate with man and woman, it means *woman's shoe and man's formal shoe*. In this context this word *pump* that followed by *into*, means *supply money for something*.

In example (21), the phrase *joint ventures* belong to semi idiom and this phrase has connotative meaning for the reason that this phrase has a broader meaning than the phrase itself Neither word *joint* nor *ventures* in this context has correlation with the denotative or figurative expression. This phrase

means *go into business with others who share the initial investment, risk, and profits.*

In example (22), the phrase *blow up* belongs to semi idiomatic expression and it belongs to connotative meaning. Refers to lexical meaning the phrase *blow up* means *destroy by explosion, enlarge image, and become angry.* But in this context the phrase *blow up* can be meant *make things a lot bigger than before.* In example (23), the phrase *blown away* belongs to semi idiomatic expression and has connotative meaning. In lexical meaning it means *move by wind,* but in connotative meaning it can be meant *kill somebody.*

And in example (24), the phrase *play down* belongs to another semi idiomatic expression and goes to connotative meaning. The word *play* in lexical meaning means *engage in enjoyable activities, take part in sport or game, and compete against somebody.* The word *down* in grammatical meaning means *to indicate a lower movement or put something lower on the ground* But when the phrase sticks together, it has different meaning, *minimize important of something.*

3. Denotative Meaning

Leech (2003: 19) asserts that there is another kind of meaning namely denotative meaning. It is the basic meaning, the most specific or literal meaning of a word, for example *to call up* in the sentence taken from Essential English Idioms, *I forgot to call up Mr. Russel yesterday.*

Here are some examples of literal idiom which belongs to denotative meaning found in this study:

(25) "That is why we take into consideration the design and color when making the refrigerators," he said, adding that the manufacturer noticed similar trends in the *washing machine* segment (24 May 2013, p. 13).

(26) After July, he said that the government would *speed up* construction of the 283 kilometer rail-road across the eastern part of Java between Gambiran, Bojonegoro and Surabaya (09 March 2013, p. 03).

(27) *Separately*, Garuda Indonesia president director Emirsyah Satar said that careful business planning and good management were the keys to running a state-owned publicly listed company (11 March 2013, p.13).

(28) "They have created a *domino effect* of uncertainty," Mr. Biderman Said (26 March 2013, p. II).

(29) Astra Agro Lestari's *sales up, prices down* (22 May 2013, p. 14).

In example (25), the meaning of the idiom *washing machine* belongs to denotative meaning because the word itself has a basic-specific- literal meaning. There is no acceptable meaning except *machine for washing clothes*, most kind of things made from fabric, and possible washing stuffs in this context. Thus, the sentence in this example has a clear meaning. In example (26), the phrase *speed up* belongs to denotative meaning since there

is no more possible meaning to replace it except lexical meaning or basic meaning, *increase in speed*.

In example (27), the word *separately* has also basic-literal meaning that automatically belongs to denotative meaning and has meanings; *not together, not in the same place, and not connected* In example (28), the phrase *domino effect* also belongs to a denotative meaning since the phrase has basic-literal meaning too. And in example (29), the phrase *sales up, prices down* belongs to denotative meaning since that phrase has literal meaning, *increase in sales* and *decrease in price*.

C. The Function of Idiomatic expressions

The function of using idiomatic expressions in writing and speaking is making the utterance richer, colorful, and has a characteristic. Gail Brenner in www.grammarabout.com assert that idioms have four functions such as (1) to replace a literal word or expressions in such a way that in has a characteristic, beauty and full nuance of meaning (2) to make their language richer and more colorful, (3) to shorter the utterance, and (4) to convey subtle shades of meaning or intention.

1. To replace a literal word or expression.

Gail Brenner (2003: 44) states that one of the functions of idiomatic expression is replacing a literal word or expression in such a way that it has a characteristic, beauty, and full nuance of meaning, for example the phrase *go on*

a fishing expedition means to attempt to discover information, in the sentence,
We are going to have to go on a fishing expedition to try to find the fact.

Here are some examples of idiomatic expressions found in this study which belong to this function:

(30) Imperve, which sponsored the anti-virus study, has a *horse* in this race
(02 January 2013, p.II)

(31) *The hottest* security start-ups today are companies like Bit9, Bronium, Fire Eye, and Seculert that monitor internet traffic (02 January 2013, p.I).

(32) *Rough diamonds* in the rag trade (18 March 2013, p. 13).

(33) "They have created a *domino effect* of uncertainty," Mr. Biderman said
(26 March 2013, p. II).

(34) Indofood *eyes* emerging markets to boost growth (31 May 2013, p. 13).

In example (30), the function of this idiom, *a horse*, based on the theory, is replacing a literal word or expression in such a way that it has a characteristic, beauty and full nuance of meaning. Word *a horse* in this sentence is certainly enriches the glossary of English word too and introduce to the readers that the word can be meant something else and be used in different model of sentence. Moreover the word *a horse* also makes the sentence more colorful. Not only has the meaning a four lagged animal but also it has a meaning someone who has extremely skilled.

In example (31), the writer believes that the word *hottest* belongs to the category of this function too. The word *hottest* refers to the literal meaning

means a very hot of something such as water, climate, and temperature. In this sentence this word means *the very good* of something. In example (32), the phrase *rough diamond* also belongs to the category of this function. It replaces a literal word or expression in such a way that it has a characteristic, beauty and full nuance of meaning. The phrase means *a crude diamond* based on literal meaning. But the meaning of this phrase is different when it personates as an idiomatic expression.

In example (33), the phrase *domino effect* definitely replacing the literal words to make the sentence full of nuance. And in example (34), the phrase *eyes* belong to the category of this function to replace the literal word *observing*.

2. To make their language richer and more colorful.

Gail Brenner (2003: 44) defines that one function of idiomatic expression is making their language richer and more colorful, for example *Green with envy* means envious, jealous, in the sentence: *I feel green with envy whenever I see you in your new car.*

Here are some examples of idiomatic expressions found in this study which belong to this function:

(35) They do not do it suddenly, “ I hate the whole *Black Swan concept*,” he said, referring to the notion, popularized by Nassim Nicholas Taleb that that true risk lie in unforeseeable event that occur with much more frequency than mathematical models suggest (05 April 2013. P.III).

(36) They have *put the nails in their own coffin* (26 March 2013, p. II).

(37) "It is still a *desktop world* now (09 March 2013, p. 03).

In example (35), the phrase *black swan concept* belongs to the category of this function because it makes the sentence more colorful and this phrase make the vocabulary of English richer. This phrase occurs recently of answering the economic issues. In example (36), the phrase *put the nails in their own coffin* is another idiomatic expression which belongs to the category of this function since it makes the sentence richer and more colorful too. In example (37), the phrase *desktop word* belongs to the category of this function too since the word of desktop occurs in this millennium age. Of course it makes the vocabulary of English richer and more colorful.

3. To shorter the utterance.

Gail Brenner (2003: 44) defines that one function of idiomatic expression is shortening the utterance, for example *white lie* means something that is not true in order to be polite or so as not to hurt someone's feelings. In the sentence, *He told a white lie to his parents about the incident.*

Here are some examples of idiomatic expressions found in this study which belong to this function:

(38) Telkomsel *ramps up* mobile ad service (23 May 2013, p. 13).

(39) Imperva, which sponsored the anti-virus study, has *a horse* in this race
(02 January 2013, p. 1).

(40) According to the latest draft regulation from the Industry Ministry, manufacturers of petrol-powered vehicles, categorized as "low-cost *green*

cars", can obtain up to a zero percent tax when producing cars with 1,000-cc engines that run farther than 22 kilometers on a liter of fuel, or cars with 1,200-cc engines that run 20 kilometers per liter (11 March 2013, p. 03).

In example (38), the phrase *ramps up* belongs to this function since that phrase is shorter the utterance of *to increase something sharply and move to a higher level*. In example (39), the phrase *a horse* besides has function to replace a literal word or expression to be more beautiful and full of nuance, this phrase is clearly make the utterance shorter than *someone who is extremely skilled* In example (40), the phrase *green cars* clearly make the utterance shorter than the phrase *vehicles which have an easy environment characteristic*.

4. To convey subtle shades of meaning or intention.

Gail Brenner (2003: 44) defines that one function of idiomatic expression is conveying subtle shades of meaning or intention, for example *passed away means dead* in the sentence, *all the passengers passed away in that tragedy*.

Here are some examples of idiomatic expressions found in this study which belong to this function:

(41) "The government has *lost face* thanks to this incident," Hadi said (02 January 2013, p. 1).

(42) Samudra plunges deeper into the *red* (24 May 2013, p.14).

(43) ...manufacturers of petrol-powered vehicles, categorized as "low-cost *green cars*", can obtain up to a zero percent tax when producing cars with

1,000-cc engines that run farther than 22 kilometers on a liter of fuel, ... (11 March 2013, p. 03).

In example (41), the idiom *lost face* has function to convey subtle shades of meaning replacing the real utterance *shame*. In example (42), the word *red* represents the category of this function to convey and subtle shade the real utterance *negative scale or in the risk situation*. In example (43), the word *green* categorizes to this function too that subtle shade the word *easy environment*.

D. The structure of Idiomatic Expressions

Fernando in Zabelkova (2009: 22) describes that the most typical structure of English idioms are (1) verb + preposition(s); put up, put up with, (2) the semi clause; smell a rat, (3) adjective+ noun; bear market, (4) preposition+ adjective; in short, etc.

1. Verb+ preposition

Fernando in Zabelkova (2009: 22) describes that the most typical structure of English idioms is verb+ preposition(s), for example *put up or put up with*.

Here are some examples of idiomatic expressions which belong to this typical structure found in this study:

- 1) Currently, the government imposes a variety of taxes on cars that makes it hard to *push down* car prices to below Rp. 100 million (US\$10,32S), a benchmark considered affordable to many Indonesians, particularly the emerging middle-class (11 March 2013, p. 03).

- 2) We still want to connect Batam with Jakarta, but we have to *stop over* in Padang (West Sumatra) (11 March 2013, p. 13).
- 3) They can *blow up* a firm with the best of intentions (05 April 2013, p. III).
(47)"When you stand in front of it, you're *blown away*," Mr. Cohen said
(05 April 2013, p. III).
- 4) The cost of services, in addition to the \$10 million general and administrative expense, \$3.4 million financial cost and \$2 million income tax expense, *wiped out* the \$133 million service revenue the company booked in the first quarter (23 May 2013, p. 14).

In example (44), the idiomatic expression is *push down and* the structure of this idiom is *verb + preposition*. In example (4S), the phrase *stop over* is another idiomatic expression which has structure *verb + preposition*. Also in example (46), the phrase *blow up is* an idiomatic expression which has structure *verb + preposition*. And, in example (47) and (48) the phrase *blown away* and *wiped out* belong to the idiomatic expression too which have structure *verb + preposition*.

2. Semi clause

Fernando in Zabelkova (2009: 22) describes that one of the most typical structure of English idioms is semi clause. It is a part of sentence that is composed from some part of speech, for example *smell a rat* that is composed by verb + noun.

Here are some examples of idiomatic expressions which belong to this typical structure found in this study:

- (49) If that happened on a large scale, Cyprus, which has evolved into one of the most important European financial centers in the past decade, would *face a blow* to the cornerstone of its economy (18 March 2013, p. 13).
- (50) ...in which the number of air passenger is expected to reach 88 million *by the end* of 2013 (11 March 2013, p. 13)
- (51) Other than *mom-and-pop* shops, most businesses in Cyprus have foreign owners (26 March 2013, p. II).

In example (49), the idiomatic expression is *face a blow* which has a characteristic as a semi clause and it is composed by verb + noun. In example (50), the phrase *by the end* is categorized as semi clause and this phrase is composed by preposition + noun. In example (51) the phrase *mom and pop* belongs to the categorized of semi clause too and even though the phrase is composed by noun + noun.

3. Adjective + Noun

Fernando in Zabelkova (2009: 22) describes that one of the most typical structure of English idioms is adjective + noun, for example *bear market*.

Here are some examples of idiomatic expressions which belong to this typical structure found in this study:

- (52) Relatively slow growth is still creating enough jobs to provide full employment for the country's *blue-collar* workers (14 June 2013, p. II).

(53) But much faster growth may be needed to create *white-collar* jobs for graduate pouring out of universities (14 June 2013, p. II).

(54) Unsettled law revisions give oil giants *hard times* (21 May 2013, p.13)

In example (52), the phrase *blue collar* is its idiomatic expression and the structure form of this idiom is composed by adjective+ noun. In example (53), the idiomatic expression is *white collar* and the structure of this idiom is adjective + noun. In example (54), the *hard times* is the idiomatic expression which has structure adjective+ noun too.

4. Preposition + adjective

Fernando in Zabelkova (2009: 22) describes that one of the most typical structure of English idioms is preposition+ adjective, for example *in short*.

Here are some examples of idiomatic expressions which belong to this typical structure found in this study:

(55) *In general* multinational companies or those that are part of global structure are more advance when compare to other private business (17 June 2013, p. 13)

(56) *In Total*, the electricity consumption in January-May this year grew by 7.6 percent (18 June 2013, p.13).

(57) This joint venture is clearly important to the (Michelin) group's strategic goal-diversified growth\, in particular emerging areas (18 June 2013, p.13)

In example (55), the idiomatic expression is *in general*. It belongs to semi idiom and it is composed by preposition+ adjective. In example (56), the phrase *in total* is the idiomatic expression of the sentence. It belongs to the semi idiom and has sentence structure preposition + adjective. And finally in example (57), the phrase *in particular* is the idiomatic expression in this sentence and it is composed by proposition + adjective also.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

After studying 40 editions of idiomatic expressions in business articles of *The Jakarta Post* the writer found out that the idiomatic expression used in this English newspaper had three types namely pure idiom, semi idiom, and literal idiom. The type of idiom which mostly appeared belongs to pure idioms. From 93 idioms found, 50 of idioms belong to the type of pure idioms, 36 idioms belong to the type of semi idioms and only 7 idioms belong to literal idioms.

The meanings of these idiomatic expressions consist of three kinds, namely figurative meaning, connotative meaning, and denotative meaning. The study found that the pure idioms have figurative meanings. The semi idioms have connotative meanings. And the literal idioms have denotative meanings.

The functions of most idioms are to replace a literal word or expression in such a way that it has a characteristic, beauty and full nuance of meaning, to make their language richer and more colorful, to shorten the utterance, and to convey subtle shades of meaning or intention.

And the structures of most idioms are verb+ preposition(s) for example *put up*, *put up with*, the semi clause, for example *smell a rat*, adjective + noun, for example *bear market*, and preposition+ adjective, for example *in short*.

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