

**CONTEXTUAL AND FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF IDIOMS IN *THE TOURIST* (2010)  
SCREENPLAY**

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ABSTRACT

This research discusses the Idiom in "The Tourist" Screenplay Movie by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. This research aims to discover the types of idioms, analyze their contextual meanings, and determine their functions. The data are taken from the screenplay in "The Tourist". The non-participant observational method is applied in this research. McCharty and O'Dell's theories are used in this research. The result of this research showed 6 idioms that are present in "The Tourist" screenplay. The idioms are divided into six types: 1 idiom of similes, 1 idiom of binomials, 1 idiom of proverbs, 1 idiom of euphemism, 1 idiom of clichés and fixed statements, and 1 idiom of other languages. The idiom is also analyzed based on its contextual meaning. The meaning of an idiom is not only determined by the dictionary, but it is influenced by its context and situation when the idiom is uttered/ spoken. Also, every idiom had its functions. The functions of idiom include giving emphasis, commenting on people, commenting on situations, and catching the reader's eye.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas idiom dalam skenario film "The Tourist" karya Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan jenis-jenis idiom, menganalisis makna kontekstualnya, dan menentukan fungsinya. Data diambil dari skenario dalam "The Tourist". Metode observasi non-partisipan diterapkan dalam penelitian ini. Teori McCharty dan O'Dell digunakan dalam penelitian ini. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan 6 idiom yang hadir dalam skenario "The Tourist". Idiom dibagi menjadi enam jenis: 1 idiom simile, 1 idiom binomial, 1 idiom peribahasa, 1 idiom eufemisme, 1 idiom klise dan pernyataan tetap, dan 1 idiom bahasa lain. Idiom juga dianalisis berdasarkan makna kontekstualnya. Arti idiom tidak hanya ditentukan oleh kamus, tetapi dipengaruhi oleh konteks dan situasi saat idiom diucapkan/diucapkan. Selain itu, setiap idiom memiliki fungsinya. Fungsi idiom meliputi memberi penekanan, mengomentari orang, mengomentari situasi, dan menarik perhatian pembaca.

## A. INTRODUCTION

In this research, the movie is an object of the study. Movie often contains idiom, and each has a specific meaning as shown in their screenplay. Thus, the researcher used the “The Tourist” screenplay movie by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. In addition, “The Tourist” was nominated for Golden Globe Awards and became one of the notable box office successes in 2010.

Idioms are part of Semantics, based on Palmer (1976, 98): “Semantically, like a single word, it does not function like one.” Some constituent words structure idioms, but their meanings are unrelated, and their functions differ for every word.

Moreover, an idiom is a unit of language (words, phrases, sentences) whose meaning is unpredictable from the structure of its lexical or grammatical form. Likewise, as McCarthy (2010, 6) said, “idioms are fixed combinations of words in which meaning is often difficult to guess from the meaning of each word.” For example, Little Jimmy has been *as quiet as a mouse* all day, *which is understood as extremely quiet*. Words cannot understand idioms, as it has a different meaning.

The idiom's meaning can be determined by the “dictionary meaning” of idioms and contextual meaning. As Ciccari and Tabossi

(1993, 163) stated, there is a situation when one meaning of the idiom is dominant than others; the idiom can be understood based on the idiom dictionary meaning, but it can also be based on contextual meaning. In addition, contextual meaning can be determined by observing every situation and condition when people utter the idiom, mainly in gesture, facial expression, intonation, or written form. The benchmark of meaning idiom is its appropriateness with all aspects above.

Semantics is the study of meaning. According to Stork and Widdowson (1974, 17), “Semantics is the study of all aspects of meaning in language, and examines the relationship between words and the concept to which they refer”. Semantic discussed all studies about meaning and how they relate to each other with words. Similarly, Bierwisch in Palmer (1976, 33) states, “Semantic is the interpretation of sentences and how these interpretations are related to the things spoken about”. Semantics examines how the meaning relates to something discussed in written or spoken language.

Moreover, in semantics, we discussed idioms found and seen in every word, different from its literal meaning. As Palmer (1976, 98) states, “idiom is semantically like a single word, it does not function like one.” For example, “Spilled the beans” means “reveal a secret”. As

can be seen, an idiom consists of several words whose meaning is unrelated. Also, the function of every word is different, consisting of a verb and a noun, similar to a normal sentence or phrase.

Based on McMordie (1988, 12), an idiom can be defined as several words which, when taken together, have a different meaning from the individual meaning of each word. According to McCharty and O'Dell (2010, 6), an idiom is a formulaic language. Formulaic language consists of fixed expressions learned and understood as units rather than individual words. Idioms are fixed combinations of words whose meaning is often complex, and it isn't easy to guess from the meaning of each word. It means that the idiom does not have a literal meaning, but they have a non-literal meaning.

McCharty and O'Dell (2010, 21-32) classified idioms into several types. There are: 1) simile, expressions which compare two things; they always include the words *as* or *like*. Using similes will make the spoken and written English more colourful and the comparisons more powerful. 2) Binomial, a type of idiom in which two words are joined by a conjunction (linking word), usually "*and*". 3) *Proverb*. *These short sentences refer to something most people have experienced, which gives advice or a warning*. 4) Euphemism is an idiom usually used to avoid saying words that may offend or be considered unpleasant. 5) Clichés and fixed statements are

comments often used in certain common, everyday situations. It is a comment that most people are familiar with and is therefore not original. 6) Other languages, such as those that contain idiomatic expressions, especially those taken from Latin or French.

The meaning of an idiom can be determined by contextual meaning. As Palmer (1976, 93) stated, the sense of a word or morpheme is determined by the environment in which it occurs. In the language field, meaning primarily concerns the relation between language and the world in which we use it.

## B. METHOD

This research is categorized as descriptive qualitative research. As Flick (2014, 5) stated, "Qualitative data is the classification and interpretation of linguistic (or visual) material to make statements about implicit and explicit dimensions and structures of meaning-making in the material and what is represented in it." The qualitative method is used when the results are presented in writing. Several steps will be applied in conducting the research, such as collecting, analyzing, and delivering the analysis result (Sudaryanto, 1993).

The researcher used the Metode Simak (Observational Method) to collect the data. *In this method, the researcher listens to or reads the research object. According to Sudaryanto (1993:133), the observational method is the method in which the researcher does not collect*

*the data. This method is supported by applying Teknik Simak Bebas Libat Cakap (SBLC). Simak Bebas Libat Cakap adalah teknik dimana si peneliti tidak terlibat langsung dalam dialog, konversasi, atau imbal wicara (Sudaryanto, 1993:134).*

### C. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Idiom is used to make everyday conversations more colourful than usual. There are diversities to express something in conversation, especially by using idioms. In this chapter, the researcher described the result of the analysis of the uses of idiom in “The Tourist” screenplay movie by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. This analysis includes the idioms' types, contextual meaning, and function.

In the section on finding and discussion, the researcher focuses on the types, contextual meaning, and function of idioms found in “The Tourist” screenplay. After the author acquires the related data, the author determines the types of idioms based on McCharty and O'Dell's (2010) classification, then analyzes the contextual meaning of idioms based on Palmer (1976), and analyzes the functions of idioms based on McCharty and O'Dell's (2010) classification. Here are some idioms in the “The Tourist” screenplay.

#### Similes

Elise: “You’re like a bull in a china shop.”

The utterance occurs when Elise comments on Frank’s clumsy and awkward manner. “Like a bull in a china shop” is an idiom and categorized as a simile

because it compares two things using the word like. Based on contextual meaning, it means Frank behaves recklessly and clumsily. The function of the idiom is to comment on people, in this case, Frank.

#### Binomials

Frank: “I looked high and low for you.”

The situation occurs when Frank expresses how desperately he tried to find Elise. “High and low” is a binomial idiom meaning "everywhere." The idiom reflects the intensity of his search, and the function is to comment on the situation.

#### Proverbs

Inspector: “You made your bed, now lie in it.”

This idiom appears when the inspector reminds another character of the consequences of their actions. The proverb means people must accept the outcome of their own choices. The function is to comment on the situation.

#### Euphemisms

Elise: “He’s not with us anymore.”

“Not with us anymore” is a euphemism for “dead.” The expression softens the unpleasant truth and avoids direct mention of death. The function is to avoid offense and express delicately.

#### Clichè and Fixed Statements

Frank: “Let’s get this show on the road.”

The idiom is used when Frank is ready to proceed with their plan. It is a cliché/fixed statement often used in casual speech to begin an activity. The function is to catch the reader's or listener's attention.

### Other Languages

Elise: "C'est la vie."

This French idiom means "That's life" or "Such is life." It is used to express acceptance of an unfortunate but unavoidable situation. The function is to give emphasis and reflect Elise's calm demeanor.

### D. CONCLUSION

The first objective of this research is to find out the types of idiom in "The Tourist" screenplay by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. Here, the researcher discovered all kinds of idioms in the screenplay based on the theory of McCharty and O'Dell (2010, 22-32). There are six types of idioms: similes, binomials, proverbs, euphemisms, clichés, fixed statements, and other languages. The second is to analyze the contextual meaning of idioms. In understanding the meaning of idioms and seeing the original definition in the dictionary of idioms, one also needs to know the context in which the idiom is uttered/ spoken. Thus, it is proved that the meaning is closely related to its context. Context refers to the idiom that can be analyzed by watching the movie, situation, condition, and character expression in every idiom appearing in the conversation. The third is to explore the

function of idioms based on McCharty and O'Dell (2010, 8). There are functions of idiom, either for emphasis, to agree with the previous speaker, to comment on people, to comment on a situation, to catch the reader's eye, or to indicate membership of a particular group. Every idiom has its function, and the researcher can reveal all of them.

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