Introduction

This chapter contains the information of the research background. Identification of the problem and limitation of the problem is added to make this study more specific. The researcher puts a number of research questions concerning the important issue which is appropriate with the context of the study. At the end of this chapter, the researcher writes the objective of the research, significances of the research and outline of the research as to why this research is important to be conducted.

Background of the Research

English becomes one of popular languages in the world. Many people want to learn English because English is an international language and used globally. However, English is not a simple language to learn. It is because the people who learn English should master all aspects correlating to the language itself such as phonology, syntax, pragmatics, and semantic.

Those aspects have different roles in language learning. Phonology is the study of sounds. It is different from how to learn structure and how words can be formed to create grammatically correct sentences. Pragmatics is the study of the use of language and deals with the intentions behind the utterances. Semantics is the study of the meaning of language. In the way of learning a language, it is important to learn all the aspect especially the semantic. The meaning of semantic is an extra

amount of language because if a language does not have a meaning it will be useless then listener confuse with the word of a sentence. Palmer (1976) argued semantic is the technical term used refers to the study of meaning. It means that semantic is a study to investigate the meaning of the word, the development, alteration of meaning and relation meaning.

Generally, semantic is divided into literal meaning and figurative meaning. In literal meaning, the meaning of a word can be found in the dictionary. Meanwhile, figurative meaning means that the meaning cannot to be both found and interpret by the dictionary. According to Araya (2008), there are some figurative meanings such as metaphor, simile, personification, and idiom. English can be spoken in so many ways and one of them is using idiom. There is a little thing that makes idiom interesting to be discussed. The idiom cannot be predicted from word by word meaning.

There are some cases in English Education Department UMY in which the meaning of idiom is different from the proper meaning. The researcher found confusion among the students when one of the English Education Department UMY lectures had discussed about idiom. Most of the students felt confused through the appropriate meaning of an idiom. Another case when researcher used the idiom in the way of a conversation. The idiom "I'm broke" which means by "I do not have any money with me right now" is interpreted in a different way by the listener, "the broken heart or broke up".

Idiomatic expression can also be found in listening section at TOEFL test. It can be a big problem if the students get stuck on TOEFL's listening section only because of idiomatic expression. In TOEFL listening section, idiomatic expression includes in short conversation. It will be disadvantageous for students because they will lose score for about seven until eight number then it will give bad impact for their TOEFL score. Based on that reasons, the researcher interesting to conduct a research on "The students' difficulties in understanding English idiomatic expression".

Identification of the Problem

Idiom is an important part to be learned. English idiom can be stated as one of the most difficult linguistic aspects in second language acquisition because of their apparent incongruity between form and meaning. Based on above statement, the researcher has listed some problems referring to idiomatic expression which can be conducted into a research such as correlation between idiom and students' comprehensive in English, the effectiveness used idiom in conversation, the meaning of idiom, idiomatic expression in TOEFL test, the problem in using idiom, and the problem in understanding English idiomatic expression.

Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem, this research focused on the difficulties of English idiomatic in daily conversation and in an academic purpose. The researcher limits the research on students' difficulties in understanding English idiomatic expression.

Formulation of the Problem

This research was conducted to find out the students' difficulties in understanding English idiomatic expression by students of English Education Department UMY. There are two main questions which address in this research:

1. What are the difficulties faced by students in English Education Department UMY in understanding English idiomatic expression?
2. What are the student's efforts to cope with the difficulties in understanding English idiomatic expression?

Purpose of the Study

There were several objectives in this research, as follow:

1. To explore the difficulties faced by the students of English Education Department UMY in understanding English idiomatic expression.
2. To identify the student's efforts to cope the difficulties in understanding English idiomatic expression.

Significances of the Study

This research is about students' difficulties in understanding English idiomatic expression. Based on the problem, this research will have benefit for students, researcher and lectures.

The students. This research will help the students to find out the difficulties and the best strategies or efforts to cope with the difficulties.

The researcher. In order to find the difficulties in idiomatic, it is possible for the researcher to find or make a new technique and strategy to make idiomatic expression easier to understand.

The lecturers. This research was designed to help the lecturers find the common problem made by students in their use of idiomatic expression. Therefore, lecturers could look for appropriate strategies to cope the problems.

Outline of the Research

This research consisted of five chapters. In the first chapter, the researcher discusses the background of the study. The researcher provides the reason for conducting the study, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, the purpose of the study, significances of the study and outline of the research. In the second chapter, the researcher focuses on the literature review. This chapter provides the information about the theory to be the basis of this research. The third chapter is methodology. The main idea of this chapter was about research methodology which is used in this research.

The fourth chapter focused on finding and discussion. All the data of the research that will be gathered is discussed to answer the research question and the final result of the research will be discussed in this section. The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion. This section will draw the conclusion and the suggestion as the general answer of the research question