

## **Chapter One**

### **Introduction**

In this chapter, the researcher explains several points. The point is background of the research, including the reason as to why the topic was chosen'. There are also identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, research questions, the aims of the research. At last, it followed by the significance of the study.

### **Background of the Study**

In English language, native speakers daily spontaneously use idiomatic expressions. It is an essential part of the English language lexicon and vocabulary. Native speakers tend to use idiomatic expressions spontaneously without thinking of the figurative meaning. It is natural that non-native speakers find idioms difficult to understand because they do not know what the image of the idiomatic expressions is based on. Thyab (2016) explained that non-native speakers of English, from various backgrounds, are incapable of using idiomatic expressions when communicating in English Language and are incompetent to understand their meanings. It might not easy for non-natives speakers of English to use idioms but it is considered as a vital part of the English Language. They are part of the standard business, media, and everyday life, talking about written or spoken English. Thus, non-native speakers of English should learn idiomatic expressions in order to be able sound more natural and native-like.

Many aspects in our life use idiomatic expressions as part of communication like movies, books, music, especially books. Many of them have translated into various languages. Many English novels that contain idiomatic expressions, fiction novel are the one of them. Idiomatic expressions that contained on the novel is various.

Every language in the world has its own expressions. For those who like to read fiction novel they should consider their ability in understanding idiomatic expressions. We can look from the English novel such as, Harry Potter and Narnia. Both of the novels contain idiomatic expressions. The idiom is probably different between United Kingdom and United State. That is why the reader should know the source and the target language of idiomatic expressions. The understanding of idiom will help them understand the story and the plot from the novel.

One of the problematic factors involved in translation is idiomatic. It needs special knowledge to understand the meaning. Special language means that the students have knowledge about the source and target language of the idioms. There are so many idioms coming from every language around the world. Those idioms have own unique characteristic, and the students need to learn what that means. For example, when someone says 'it's raining cats and dogs'; she/he does not mean that cats and dogs are falling down from the sky but rather-it is raining heavily. Another example is 'action speaks louder than word'. This means that had better do anything than just stand still doing nothing.

Idiomatic expressions are interesting, because the meaning of expression sometimes is different from the literal word. The meaning of idioms is different from the form. In order to know the true meaning of the idiomatic expressions, the readers need to understand the way to translate it. The reader should find some clues or similar words that match with the idiom. The basic dominant principle is an idiomatic translation reproduces the meaning of the source language in the natural form of the target language. Idiomatic expressions can understand based on the context or meaning. Therefore, it will minimize misunderstanding from the meaning of idiomatic expressions.

There are some subjects in English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (EED of UMY) learn about idiomatic expressions, but the subject just explains the basic. The name of the subject is Translating. Students in the class learn about the kinds of idiom and how to translate idiom. The activity of this subject is that the students translate idiomatic expressions in word and sentence. At the end of the subject, students should translate some English stories into Indonesian language.

Based on the researcher's experience as the observer, some students in EED of UMY felt difficult in understanding idiomatic expressions, including the researcher. In the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> semesters, one subject obliged students to read a novel. The teacher used novel as a teaching media. The subject is Curriculum Design. The students should make a curriculum based on the story in the novel. The students

should answer the questions that are asked by the lecturer based on the chapter in the novel that was called Closed-Book Journal. Some of the students in EED of UMY worked together before the subject began. In the novel, many sentences contained idiomatic expressions.

One important point that needs to put in mind is that idiomatic expressions depend on their context. Like common words, idiomatic expressions sometimes have more than one meaning. Therefore, the context in which an idiom is used will determine the intended meaning of that idiomatic. From those reasons that have written above, the researcher is interested in doing research on “EED of UMY Students’ Difficulties and Strategies in Understanding Idiomatic expressions toward English Novel”.

### **Identification of the problem**

The researcher has done the preliminary observation at EED of UMY student’s batch 2014 in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> semester. From that observation, the researcher gets the some from students that felt difficult in understanding idiomatic expressions. The difficulties were the meaning of the idiom that is different from the word, the students’ needs to know the content of the word or sentence, and critical and creative thinking needed in understanding the idiomatic expressions.

### **Limitation of the problem**

Idiomatic expressions can find in many aspects in our life. One of them was novel. Many novels that contain idioms especially English novel. EED of UMY

lecturer used novel as the teaching media. Nevertheless, the students felt some problems when dealing with idioms in the novel. To make this research focused, the researcher limited the research on difficulties and strategies of EED of UMY students in understanding idiomatic expressions in novel. The novel was used in Curriculum Design class.

### **Research Question**

Based on the research background, this research has two research questions that were going to answered:

1. What are the difficulties that EED of UMY students faced in understanding idiomatic expressions in English novel?
2. What are the strategies that EED of UMY students use in understanding idiomatic expressions in English novel?

### **Purposes of the research**

Based on research question, the purposes of this research are:

1. To explore the difficulties which EED of UMY students faced in understanding idiomatic expressions in English novel.
2. To identify the strategies which EED of UMY students use in understanding idiomatic expressions in English novel.

**Significance of the research**

The aims of this study were to explore the student's difficulties in understanding idiomatic expressions and to identify student's strategies in understanding idiomatic expressions. The results of this research give benefits to following:

**Students.** This research gives information about the difficulties and the strategies in understanding idiomatic expressions. This information is useful for the students to deal with idiomatic expressions. This research also can make students know what they can do if they find idiomatic expressions in their life.

**Teachers.** This research provides some information about EED of UMY students' knowledge about idiomatic expressions. This information can be the evaluation to the EED of UMY teacher about idiomatic expressions. This research also helps to find suitable method when teaching idioms.

**Other Researchers.** This research hoped to provide inspiration for other researchers who will conduct research, which related to idiomatic expressions. This research also can be media evaluation for other researcher so they know the strength and weakness of their research. This research can be the reference for other researcher.