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an Analysis of Idioms Found in Avatar: The Way of Water Movie

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the idiomatic expressions found in the movie "Avatar: the Way of Water," aiming to identify the various types of idioms found and to highlight the most dominant idiomatic expressions found by the characters. The study underscores the importance of idioms in enriching dialogue with emotional depth and authenticity, thereby enhancing the overall narrative experience. The paper outlines its objectives to shed light on how these idiomatic expressions influence character development and audience engagement. Employing a qualitative descriptive approach, the research primarily draws on the moviescript as its data source. In total, 58 idiomatic expressions were identified. 1 simile, 17 clichés, 36 fixed statements, and 4 other languages. Among these, fixed statement found as the most dominant types, comprising 62% of the total instances observed. The findings indicate that idiomatic expressions not only enhance dialogue but also foster an emotional connection between the characters and the audience. Moreover, the study brings to light the difficulties that non-native English speakers face in understanding these expressions, emphasizing the necessity for idiomatic knowledge among language learners. Ultimately, this research enhances our understanding of idiomatic expressions in movie and highlights their crucial role in enhancing narrative and character engagement throughout the story.

Idiomatic Expressions, Dialogue, Non-Native.

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INTRODUCTION

Language acts as a tool for communication used by people around the world to convey and understand information. Proficiency in language, especially English not only improves academic achievement but also affords chances for individual development and global citizenship (Sinambela et al., 2023).

Linguistics is the study of language. It unravels the complexities in communication. According to Abrams (1999), states that linguistics is the systematic study of language's constituent parts and the rules regulating their arrangement and combination. Various subfields exist within linguistics, such

as phonetics, which examines speech sounds; syntax, which analyzes how sentences are structured; and semantics, which explores the meaning behind words. Each component is crucial in understanding how linguistics functions as a means of expression and a tool for social interaction.

Semantics is the study of human reasoning, cognitive processes, and conceptualization. It is strongly tied to how we categorize and communicate our experiences via language (Geoffrey Leech, 1981). Semantics are essential in communication. They shape how messages are conveyed and understood. A good understanding of semantics leads to effective information exchanges. The sender and receiver can clearly understand each other's intentions.

The rapid evolution of communication technologies has dramatically improved individuals and groups' abilities to exchange interpersonal and collective information. The motion movie business is a classic example of how technical advancement has transformed artistic media. The movie was a medium that heavily influenced technology and shaped how stories were produced and told.

According to Hornby in Nasir et al., (2019), a movie is a series of short stories telling a narration shown on television or at the movies. The movie is a type of entertainment meant to give audiences a distinctive experience and spark their creativity. Movies used idioms in dialogue. These idioms added depth and nuance to characters and plots. They helped create an emotional connection and made the language feel more authentic and livelier.

Richards & Schmidt (2010, p. 270) define idiom as a sentence that makes sense when taken as a whole and cannot be deduced from its constituent parts. Idioms are English expressions composed of words with a particular meaning. All viewpoints and situations must be considered when analyzing the idioms. They are such an essential part of language, wrapped in the culture and history of a people, that they often express ideas and emotions in quick hits filled with color.

According to Winarto & Tanjung (2015), English contains many idiomatic expressions. Therefore, O'Dell and McCarthy (2017) describe idioms as sentences that cannot be understood one at a time. They categorize idioms into several types, including simile, binomial, trinomial, proverb, cliché, fixed statement, and other languages.

A simile is an expression that compares two things. Binomials are two-word combinations linked via conjunction and have a set order. Trinomials are idioms comprising three words combined, much like binomials. Proverbs are idioms that use brief sentences to provide advice or cautions. Clichés and fixed statements are commonly utilized in all situations and conversations. Clichés,

frequently used in newspaper and commercial slogans, are not unique because most people have heard them. In addition, English contains many words borrowed from other languages, such as French or Latin. It could be argued that English contains elements of various languages.

The idiom has been studied previously. The first study by Herman & Nirmana Hasibuan (2020) highlights the significant role that idiomatic expressions play in enhancing the meaning within movies. The diverse array of idiomatic expressions discovered reflects the intricate language present in the film's dialogue, which can influence the audience's comprehension of the story's context. Another study, by Elfath, Rozelin, & Azlan's (2021) study, the employment of idiomatic expressions in films not only enhances the narrative but also adds depth to the characters, as supported by the theories of Makkai (1972) and Leech (1976). This study explores 175 different idioms found in the film "Megamind", examining their meanings and highlighting the most prevalent types utilized by the characters.

Another study, conducted by (Fadillah & Sari, 2022) examines the idiomatic expressions present in the script of "Beauty and the Beast," aiming to identify the various types and patterns utilized throughout the film. Other study related by (Isworo & Nurjati, 2023), aim to explore the meanings, characteristics, and contributions of idioms to English teaching.

There are discrepancies and gaps between the research done in this study and the list of earlier studies. Despite the various theory employed, the study's objectives and usage of the movie as an object are the same. The different theory used in their analysis, also methodologically, the study examines numerous meanings.

The writer is eager to apply O'Dell and McCarthy theory to investigate the meanings of the idiomatic expressions found in Avatar: The Way of Water because, as was previously stated, it provides a comprehensive framework with theme classifications focusing on problems and solutions, feelings, emotions, and interpersonal interactions. The semantics technique enables the writer to uncover and delve into the true meanings of the idiomatic expressions found in the movie script. This approach enables the writer to comprehend each idiom's real meaning. The context provided by the Avatar: The Way of Water movie facilitates the writer's ability to identify and examine the significance of the idioms present in the characters' dialogue.

Idioms are a type of expression used to convey ideas that are difficult to articulate effectively or creatively with other words. Sinambela and Hutagaol (2023) state that idiomatic translation provides advantage of the receptor language's natural forms in both the selection of lexical items (semantic) and

grammatical constructs (syntactic order). Non-native speakers and others who are not fluent in English will gain insight from this study because idiomatic expressions are one of the most challenging ways to determine the real meaning of a piece. As explained, the writer aim to conduct a study titled "An Analysis of Idioms Found in Avatar: The Way of Water."

This research was conducted to identify how many types of idioms are found in Avatar: The Way of Water movie, also to determine the most dominant idiomatic expression in the Avatar: The Way of Water movie. This study aimed to provide idioms and their meanings. It also touched on linguistic semantics. Idioms enhance understanding of daily life experiences. Non-native speakers and others who are not fluent in English will gain insight from this study because idiomatic expressions are one of the most challenging ways to determine the real meaning of a piece.

RESEARCH METHODE

This study used a qualitative descriptive approach because the writer will characterize a specific item, such as the conversational idioms to be discovered in the Avatar: The Way of Water movie. According to Sugiyono (2019), Qualitative research methods are referred to as new methods due to their recent prominence and post-positivistic methods because they are founded on the postpositivist ideology.

The significance of the data and its source will be crucial in this study. The writer will collect all of the data for this study. The data will be gathered from the movie "Avatar: The Way of Water," directed by James Cameron, produced by Cameron and Jon Landau, Lightstorm Entertainment, and distributed by 20th Century Studios.

Megel and Heermann (1994) define primary data as information gathered from first-hand experience. For this study, the primary source of study material will be conversations or utterances from the film Avatar: The Way of Water, deemed to contain idiomatic expressions. The writer will use the English-subtitled movie to collect all of the data for this study.

Data analysis is crucial for concluding study findings. When analyzing the data, the writer will follow the following procedures. Watching and downloading the original script for the movie "Avatar: The Way of Water" from foreverdreaming.org. Reviewing the movie's script. Identifying the idioms in the Avatar: The Way of Water movie. Assembling the idiomatic expressions. Forming conclusions.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section will provides an answer to the previously stated problem formulation. In this study, the writer categorized the data according to various types of idiomatic expressions. Through this analysis, distinct categories of idiomatic expressions were identified, with the most dominant type being highlighted, all framed within the theory established by O'Dell and McCarthy (2017). There are several types of figurative language which has different characteristic, they are: simile, binomial, trinomial, proverb, cliché, fixed statement, and other language.

Based on the analysis, several types of figurative language found in the moviescript of all Avatar: The Way of Water movie actors, there are a total of 58 idiomatic expressions in the Avatar: The Way of Water movie. The dominant type of idiomatic expressions in Avatar: The Way of Wate movie is fixed statement (62%). In Avatar: The Way of Water, fixed statements are often used to convey emotions, ideas, or instructions in a concise and effective way.

Table 1.

Types of Idiomatic Expressions found in Avatar: The Way of Water movie

No.	Types of Idiomatic Expressions	Amount	Percentage
1.	Similes	1	1,7%
2.	Binomials	-	-
3.	Trinomials	-	-
4.	Proverbs	-	-
5.	Clichés	17	29,3%
6.	Fixed Statements	36	62%
7.	Other Languages	4	7%
Total		58	100%

The data presented reveals the percentages of various types of idiomatic expressions used. Similes account for 1,7% of the total, clichés make up 29,3%, fixed statements are 62%, and other languages represent 7%. Thus, it is clear that fixed statements emerge as the most dominant type of idiomatic expression in the movie "Avatar: The Way of Water."

Discussion

The writer conducted discussion to answer the research problem in this study, which aimed to identify the types of idiomatic expressions as well as to determine the most dominant types found in the movie "Avatar: The Way of Water." Through this study, the writer identified a total of 58 data of idiomatic expressions, consisting of 1 simile, 17 clichés, 36 fixed statements, and 4 other

languages. Notably, fixed statements were found to be the the most dominant type, accounting for 36 data. Below are some samples illustrating each type of idiomatic expression.

1. Fixed Statements

Fixed statements are commonly employed in everyday situations and conversations. It indicates that rather than being used appropriately, the fixed statements are only employed when speaking.

Data: "**Take it easy**"

Explanation: This phrase is stated by Jake to his children to stay calm while being interrogated by the sea clans.

2. Clichés

Clichés are statements commonly used in a few commonplaces and everyday situations. Clichés are frequently used in everyday speech, newspaper headlines, and advertising slogans.

Data: "Learn fast. **Pull your weight**"

Explanation: This sentence is a cliché uttered by Jake telling his children to adapt quickly in a new environment and work hard.

3. Other Languages

There are many words from many languages in English. All of the idiomatic expressions in this unit have Latin or French roots.

Data: "We'll just regroup in hell. *Semper fi.*"

Explanation: This sentence is another language because it has Latin in it. the Latin phrase is used to express the motto of the United States Marine Corps, which means always faithful or always loyal.

4. Similes

Similes are used to strengthen and vividly compare ideas in writing and conversations. Similes consist of two parts: a literal component and a more or less non-literal part, and always used terms "as" and "like" when comparing two things.

Data: "He was **like a stray cat**"

Explanation: This sentence is a simile because it compares a person to a cat.

Fixed statements were determined to be the most dominant type of idiomatic expression found in this movie. Film writers often use fixed statements to describe emotions, ideas, or commands by actors. The second is the cliché. Sentences containing this type of idiom are usually used in almost all of the movie's action activities. Other types of idiomatic expressions found are other language, and simile. The binomial, trinomial, and proverb idiomatic

expression types are not found in the movie dialog. This is because the movie Avatar: The Way of Water is a genre fiction movie with a family theme.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis, this chapter provides research conclusions. Based on the theory of O'Dell and McCarthy (2017), there are 4 types of idiomatic expressions used by actors in the dialog of Avatar: The Way of Water, namely fixed statement, cliché, other language, simile.

From the data analysis that has been done which has been taken from the script of the movie Avatar: The Way of Water, 58 data were found; fixed statement 36 data (62%), cliché 17 data (29.3%), other language 4 data (7%), simile 1 data (1.7%). From the analysis, it is found that fixed statement is the most widely used type of idiomatic expressions in the movie Avatar: The Way of Water. Film writers often use fixed statements to describe emotions, ideas, or commands by actors. The binomial and trinomial idiomatic expression types are not found in the movie dialog. This is because the movie Avatar: The Way of Water is a genre fiction movie with a family theme.

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