

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Language is a communication tool that can connect people around the world. Another understanding of language is structured and conventional words conveyed through written speech or body movement. The function of language is other than communication, is to express identity, play, imaginative expression, and emotional release.

Today, English is spoken by a large number of people all over the world. The background why English is so popular in this century, because one of the factors is the need for cross-country communication, this requires encouragement and an effort to create a language that can be understood and utilized by everyone in this world.. English is also considered a language that is relatively easy to learn.

When individuals wish to master or speak English well, since vocabulary can transmit the meaning of the words used, they must first learn and grasp the vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. There are four skills that are taught during the English language learning process: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. These are necessary in every

language spoken around the world. However, there is one quality that is more important than the others, and that is vocabulary, which is the basis of all languages. Vocabulary is an important skill that all people must have before they can learn a language. It is required in the idea that words are the essential building blocks of language, the elements of meaning upon which wider structures such as sentences, paragraphs, and complete texts are constructed.¹ Additionally, while communicating with other individuals, we do not always utilize the same string of words for the same people, situations, and places. Nowadays, people communicate primarily through informal language rather than through formal language. Idioms are one of them.

The idiom is a fascinating aspect of language. Idioms may give language students a headache. Even idiom causes us a headache now and again, but it is necessary to master in specific situations. Idioms are used globally; therefore, understanding their expressions is critical for successful communication.² Even if idiom is more difficult to learn, it can be understood through any medium. Using a song as a medium for learning idiom is one of the most engaging ways to do so. In his book, Jeremy Harmer explains why English has developed so fast throughout

¹ John Read, *Assessing Vocabulary, Assessing Vocabulary* (Cambridge University, 2000).

² BA phythian, *Correct English: Pedoman Belajar Bahasa Inggris* (Jakarta: PT. Indeks, 2012).

the world. At least five factors contribute to this: colonial history, economics, information interchange, travel, and popular culture, such as films and music.³

Not only is song used to learn idioms, but it is also used to memorize and develop vocabularies. Vocabulary is critical in facilitating the acquisition of language skills. To communicate effectively in a foreign language, students must acquire a sufficient number of words and the ability to use them correctly. Essentially, the song is one of several alternative methods for improving one's English, particularly vocabulary. Additionally, anyone who listens the song will remember it for a long time. As Wrenshall stated that there is also plenty of evidence that songs may help with memorizing, and the rhythmic and rhymes of the lyrics can definitely help with vocabulary acquisition.⁴ Creating a happy learning environment can also assist students in developing the spirit required to grasp the content in a shorter time period.

While English songs are popular in Indonesia, few Indonesians are familiar with or understand the meaning of the songs they enjoy. This is because the authors wrote the song using creative expression. This is why it is difficult for English learners to comprehend the song's meaning

³ Jeremy Harmer, "Book Review : The Practice of English Language Teaching," *RELC Journal* 32, no. 1 (June 17, 2001): 135–136.

⁴ John Wrenshall, *Using Song to Improve Communication Competence* (Bangkok, 2002).

simply by translating the lyric word for word. Apart from carefully examining the definition of an idiom, English learners are expected to comprehend the classification of idioms. Because classification enables us to distinguish between different types of idiom. Sam Smith's songs are an example of idiomatic expression. Sam Smith's songs, in my opinion, are unique and popular. Numerous people have listened to his songs.

Sam Smith was born in London on May 19, 1992. Despite the fact that he began performing as a youngster, he gained his first substantial news attention in 2009, at the time that his mother, a prominent banker, was fired for allegedly pushing her 15-year-old son's career as a singer during work hours. He had only recorded two songs at the time before establishing his formal presence in the musical industry. Sam Smith did not truly leave the musical world when he vacuumed it because he possessed talent and a passion for music. As a result, during his adolescent years, Sam Smith studied music alongside his studies at St. Catholic School, Mary in Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire. He was inspired by dedicated artists such as Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder while also keeping an eye on the music industry's future.⁵

⁵ "Sam Smith Biography," n.d., <https://www.biography.com/person/sam-smith>.

Sam was named Best New Artist, Record of the Year, and Best Pop Vocal Album at the 2015 Grammy Awards. His chart-topping single “Stay With Me” earned him the 2015 Grammy Award for Song of the Year. Sam’s prolific output did not come to a halt in 2019. In February 2020, Sam’s single To Die For was released. Originally scheduled for release in May as the album’s title track, this was postponed due to the global Coronavirus pandemic. The title and content have been revised. On 18 September 2020, Sam released the second single Diamonds from his third album, renamed Love Goes. The complete album will be released on 30th October 2020.⁶

According to the statement above, the researcher wants to analyze the album song from Sam Smith’s “love goes” which aims to understand English without feeling overwhelmed because through the song it is hoped that students can understand the idiom itself and usually the song is very impressed with the hearts of listener today.

B. Focus of the Study

Memorizing idioms in English is one of the biggest scourges for students. Indeed, idioms are different from other words or expressions that can be translated word for word. Because of that,

⁶ “Sam Smith.,” n.d., <https://genius.com/artists/Sam-Smith>.

there seemed to be no other way to learn it than by rote. therefore there is an easier way to learn idioms more easily and with fun by listening to the song and exploring the lyrics of the song.

Idioms can be found in various songs. In this research, the researcher uses Sam Smith's song as an effective learning medium and finds out the types of idioms and lexical meanings contained in the song. The researcher uses Adam Makkai's theory to analyze the types of idioms in the song.⁷

C. Research Questions

This study project was guided by the following key questions:

1. What types of idioms are found in Sam Smith's song lyrics in the album "love goes"?
2. What meaning of idioms are found in Sam Smith's song lyrics in the album "love goes"?

D. Objective of the Research

The following goals are expected to be met by this research proposal:

1. To find out types of idioms found in Sam Smith's song lyrics.

⁷ Makkai Adam, *Idiom Structure in English* (Paris: The Hague, 1972).

2. To find out the meaning of idiomatic expression found in Sam smith's song lyrics.
3. To find out the possibility of teaching idiom by media Sam Smith's lyrics.

E. Significance of The Research

The result of this study is expected to be able to give the following benefits:

1. For readers, hopefully this study will serve as a reference for idiomatic expressions and its meanings.
2. For English teachers, hopefully this study may be used as a reference for teaching idioms in the teaching learning process.
3. For the writer, hopefully this study can provide further information about learning idioms.

F. Previous Research

Considering the issue mentioned in this research, some studies that have been conducted on this subject are as follows:

1. Study conducted by Subkhan (2018) that showed 35 data were available in idiomatic expressions. In the American Sniper Film, only 3 of the eight forms of language expression were discovered. The

previous study and this present study is different on the object of study. He studied about idiomatic expressions only while this writer's research will study about idiomatic expressions and possibility in teaching English.⁸

2. Study conducted by Ni'mah (2019) which found that there are 25 idiomatic phrases in Purpose, his album lyrics. Prepositional verb (V+Prep) is a type of idiomatic term that is commonly utilized in his album lyrics. The objectives of idiomatic phrases used in Justin Bieber's album lyrics varies slightly from the literal definition of idiomatic. The study only discovered one idiomatic expression that differs in both meaning and intent, and that is run out of time. The implications of idiomatic expressions in the album lyrics of Justin Biebers' purpose in teaching idiom include establishing new methods of learning, producing diverse content, and creating a happy learning environment. The difference between previous research and this research is in the classification of idiom types, the previous study used sources from Palmer theory, while this study used Adam Makkai theory as its idiom classification.⁹

⁸ M. Ilham Subkhan, "An Analysis of Idiomatic Expression Found on American Sniper Movie Thesis," *Walisongo Repository* (2018), <http://eprints.walisongo.ac.id/id/eprint/9285>.

⁹ Afifatun Ni'mah, "Idiomatic Expressions in the Album Lyrics of Justin Bieber Purpose and Its Contribution To Teaching Idiom" (2019).

3. Study conducted by Rana Abid Thyab (2016) Idiomatic expressions must be taught in EFL/ESL environments and classrooms. However, the most important thing for non-native speakers to do is to practice using idiomatic expressions. The more idiomatic expressions a non-native English speaker can use, the closer he or she is to English Language competence. When non-native speakers use idiomatic expressions in a sufficient amount in comparison to native speakers, they get closer to English language proficiency. Non-native speakers' lack of idiomatic use and knowledge equates to a lack of English language competence. The difference between previous research and this reaserch is in the background of the study, the previous research discuss about the necessiaty of idiomatic expression to English language learner, while this research discuss about the analysis of idiomatic lexicon in Sam Smith's album.¹⁰
4. Study conducted by Vega Tannya Marz (2016) From the data analysis, the writer found 8 forms of idioms that is in a Taylor Swift song and translate it into a meaningful meaning others, namely: verb and preposition, verbal expression, idiomatic in comparison, adjective phrase, two words verb, adjective and noun, idiomatic expression with prepositions, and idiomatic expressions with verbs

¹⁰ Abid Thyab Rana, "The Necessity of Idiomatic Expressions to English Language Learners," *International Journal of English and Literature* 7, no. 7 (2016): 106–111.

and nouns in combination. The difference between previous research and this reaserch is in the classification of type idiomatic, the previous research used Lou's theory for classification while this research used adam makkai's theory for classification type of idiomatic.¹¹

5. Study conducted by Made Alit Wahyudi (2016) The findings of this study indicate that there are three types of idioms such as phrasal verbs, prepositional verb sequences, one-sided idioms. Idiom also analyzed with a semantic theory called the semantic triangle by Odgen and Richards in Palmer's book which has three components such as symbols, thoughts or references, and goals. In addition, the meanings of idioms can be seen in the contexts in which it occurs in order to understand the meaning of idioms more fully. The difference between previous research and this research is theories used in research.¹²

¹¹ Vega Tannya Marz, *IDIOMATIC EXPRESSION FOUND IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S 1989 ALBUM*, 2016.

¹² Made Alit Wahyudi, "Idioms in the Song Lyrics of the Albums Roll on and State of Emergency By the Living End," *Humanis* 15, no. 2 (2016): 119–125.