

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Languages or expressions that are typical of a specific language, area, or population are referred to as idiomatic. Idiomatic expressions can be difficult for someone who is not familiar with the language or culture to understand since they frequently have connotations. Phrases or sayings that carry a meaning distinct from the literal interpretation of their constituent words are known as idiomatic expressions. They are utilized to communicate concepts in a more vivid or metaphorical fashion and frequently reflect the linguistic quirks of the local or cultural context that go beyond the literal understanding of each word.

Idioms are often used by language speakers when communicating. Idioms are used to express something. Idioms are often found in spoken and written languages. The oral form of idiom use can be seen in people's speech, and the written form is often found in literary works such as novels and newspapers, both online and in print. One of the print media that uses this idiom is Tempo magazine. A particular kind of magazine called Tempo was initially released in April 1971. Eric Samola was one of the journalists and artists who founded Tempo. Nowadays, individuals can obtain up-to-date information not just from print media but also via the internet and various social media platforms like Instagram and Twitter. By creating social media profiles on their smartphones, people may access the most recent news. With the rise of social media accounts, consumers can now easily consume information without first needing to purchase periodicals.

In daily conversations, Indonesian terms are frequently utilized. But as of yet, no scholars from Indonesia have specifically studied these Indonesian idioms. It appears that different specialists have different perspectives on this phrase. What criteria the idioms still stand up for debate among specialists is something this research aims to clarify. Both the Wood-proposed structural definition of idiom and the Nunberg et al. conceptual model, that is, the concept of semantic characteristics of idiom, are applied in this analysis. In the meantime, the phases of data selection, data grouping, and data analysis are followed in turn by the analysis method, which is enhanced by the identification technique. The frameworks allow us to categorize the Indonesian idioms into three groups. Even in spoken communication, Indonesians occasionally struggle to clarify their meaning through the use of idioms. In addition, people may utilize idioms to avoid hurting the sentiments of others.

According to De Saussure (1988), fixed expressions result in unique meanings and are unaffected by linguistic conventions. In the meantime, idioms, according to Makkai (1972), are forms that (1) comprise many forms, minimally free, (2) is literal, and (3) is also meant to refer to something else that is exclusive to the form taken as a whole. Nunberg et al. (1994: 493), however, assert that not all idioms, such as *come true*, *second thought*, and *at sixes and sevens*, have a literal meaning. Specialists frequently characterize idiomatic expressions as collections of words or phrases with a unique meaning that defies literal interpretation from the meaning of the constituent components. These expressions are common in spoken language and are crucial for conveying richness and subtlety in communication. In order to comprehend the linguistic and cultural facets of a language, linguists and specialists in linguistics frequently investigate and examine colloquial idioms. In

Peaty's findings, as cited in Mite's research (2023), an idiom is defined as an expression of a word or phrase whose figurative meaning can be grasped in terms of its common usage, distinct from its literal interpretation.

Linguistics is to characterize language in all its forms; it is not to demonstrate or establish norms for communicating the truth. Semantics is a necessary understanding for comprehending language meaning. Richard (2002: 283) defines linguistics as the examination of language as a means of human communication. Meanwhile, Ogden (2009: 1) characterizes linguistics as the systematic exploration of language. Its fundamental subfields encompass phonology, the analysis of sound patterns; phonetics, the study of speech sounds; semantics, the investigation of meaning; pragmatics, the exploration of language use in context; sociolinguistics, the study of language within its societal framework; and syntax, the analysis of sentence structure.

*The Things You Can See Only When You Slow Down* is a self-improvement genre book written by Haemin Sunim, a monk teacher and writer from South Korea. His books have sold more than 3 million copies and have been translated into various languages. Some time ago, this book was also published and translated into Indonesian. Haemin Sunim's book is very relevant to everyday life. The world is so busy that time seems to pass quickly. Our minds seem to be so busy thinking about many things about life. The time that should be used for rest is sometimes used to think about what tomorrow will be like, even though today is not over yet. Through this book, the author provides many tips for implementing a mindfulness attitude in everyday life.

This book is divided into 8 chapters. The author discusses different problems in each chapter. Starting from the world of work, relationships with God, human relationships, and romantic relationships, learn how to apply a mindfulness attitude in facing a world that is moving so fast. The author also writes about his life experiences at the beginning of each chapter before giving advice to readers. Haemin Sunim's writing is so close to our daily lives that, when reading this book, readers will nod in agreement because we have also experienced or are currently experiencing what the author wrote. The advice is realistic and does not seem patronizing. The language used is simple and easy to understand, but it has a big effect on the reader. The illustrations in this book are also very beautiful, reflect the contents of the book, and are calming to look at. Haemin Sunim also wrote at the beginning that this book should be read slowly while practicing self-reflection. There is no need to read this book in one sitting because the author wants readers to enjoy and get deep meaning from each chapter. I also read this book when work feels tiring and busy or when I feel at my lowest point and need advice and enlightenment. Haemin Sunim also wrote at the beginning that this book should be read slowly while practicing self-reflection. There is no need to read this book in one sitting because the author wants readers to enjoy and get deep meaning from each chapter.

*The Things You Can See Only When You Slow Down* has its own charm compared to other self-improvement books. The topics discussed also cover all life issues, such as human relationships with God, relationships between humans, romantic relationships, work, and how we see and accept our imperfect selves. The advice in this book can also be used as a reminder when we need it.

“Do not lament that the world has changed.

Do not resent that people have changed.  
Evaluating the present through the memories of the  
Past can cause sadness.  
Whether you like it or not, change is inevitable.  
Embrace and welcome it.” (Page 52)

*Things You Can See Only When You Slow Down* was published first in South Korea, where it spent 41 weeks at number one. I wonder if its success surprised him; after all, the mindfulness message has been heard before. “I think it’s because I’m writing to help my readers,” says Sunim. “I’m not doing it as an artist or to give myself expression. People can see that, and, traditionally in Korea, people turn to Buddhist monks for advice. I’m part of that.”

Haemin Sunim, born in Daejeon on December 12, 1973, whose real name is Ryan Joo, is an American writer and Buddhist teacher of Korean descent. Haemin studied at several campuses in the United States, namely the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley), Harvard University, and Princeton University. He received his religious education in Korea and taught at Hampshire College in Massachusetts for seven years. After living in America for a long time, he returned to Korea to become a monk and became a spiritual writer whose works sold well on the market. His first book, *The Things You Can See Only When You Slow Down*, was published in 2012. This book has sold more than four million copies and has been translated into more than 35 languages. His second book, *Love for Imperfect Things*, which is about self-love, was published in 2016.

In 2020, Haemin received quite harsh criticism from the South Korean public. He was considered to lead a secular and luxurious life, and he abandoned the Buddhist values he wrote about in his books. The controversy first arose when Sunim

appeared on the tvN entertainment program "On & Off" which highlighted the lives of public figures at home and at work. In the episode that aired on November 7, 2020, Haemin was seen waking up in a spacious two-story house located in Samcheong-dong, located in downtown Seoul. From his house, you can see Mount Namsan. He was pictured activating a meditation application he had been developing since 2019. This application offers its users relaxing music, natural sounds, and meditation instructions. After that, he appeared to work as the chief content officer at the application developer's office. It was also rumored that he owned a Ferrari car. Many people ended up disappointed because they thought that Haemin lived simply. After receiving this harsh criticism, Haemin decided to disappear from public view and return to the monastery.

The writer is interested in particularizing this idiom in the narrative because, in writing or speaking, using idiomatic expressions can give the language more character and depth. These remarks frequently have metaphorical or symbolic meanings that improve communication even more. Additionally, essays and conversations might look more lively and genuine by utilizing colloquial language.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

As the writer wants to show how often the author uses idiomatic expressions in the novel, the writer of this thesis formulates the problem of the study as follows:

1. What are the kinds of idiomatic expressions found in the book?
2. How are the idiomatic expressions used in the book?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The objective of this study derives from the statement of the problem. Therefore, there are also two objectives that will uncover the problem. They are as follows:

1. To find out the kinds of idiomatic expressions found in the book.
2. Analyze the idiomatic expressions used in the book.

### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

This research was conducted to identify and analyze the forms and structures of idiomatic expressions that are found in Haemin Sunim's book *The Things You Can See Only When You Slow Down*. The book that will be used as the object of this study is *The Things You Can See Only When You Slow Down*, published in the South of Korea in 2017, which consists of 145 pages about a book that shares timeless wisdom and practical advice on living a mindful and fulfilled life. It encourages readers to slow down, appreciate the present moment, and connect with their inner selves. The writer of this thesis would like to analyze the whole novel in order to obtain the maximum results from the usage of idiomatic expressions throughout this book.

### **1.5 Significances of the Study**

#### **1. Theoretical Significance**

The researchers will be able to identify the idiomatic expression constructions in a novel with the help of this investigation. The results of this investigation will provide readers with a comprehensive grasp of the idiomatic expressions used in

Haemin Sunim's *The Things You Can See Only When You Slow Down*, and they may also prove helpful in the analysis of other topics.

## 2. Practical Significance

This thesis can improve the reader's ability to construct strong sentences and phrases, particularly those that use idiomatic expressions. Although indirectly, it will assist the reader in learning how to correctly employ noun phrases by mastering idiom usage in books and articles. Furthermore, in order to effectively obtain a better research result, this study is crucial to other studies on a comparable subject.



## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Related Theory**

Theories or definitions pertinent to the topic are required when conducting research in order to provide context for some of the concepts used in the study. To prevent readers or researchers from being misled in future research or studies, the terminology needs to be made clear. Below are some definitions and basic notions of idioms.

#### **2.2 Definition of Idiomatic Expression**

The natural way that native speakers write or communicate in their own tongue is idiomatic. A word or collection of words with a specific meaning is called an expression. An idiom, also known as an idiomatic expression, is a term or set of words used in expression that have a figurative meaning that most native speakers can understand.

Idiomatic expressions, as delineated by Cacciari (1993: 23), comprise a subset of a broad range of established phrases, proverbs, clichés, indirect speech acts, speech formulas, and analogous expressions, which exhibit varying syntactic and semantic characteristics but exhibit a degree of conventionalized meaning. Fillmore, as cited by Cacciari (1993), suggests that idiomatic expressions are commonly used in casual conversations unless there's a specific reason to avoid them, such as in formal meetings. This is because, as many authors have noted in Cacciari (1993: 23), a large part of our everyday linguistic repertoire is formed by these

"conventionalized ways of saying things." In the US, these English idioms are used often. Even though you might not hear them much, any native English speaker will be well familiar with them. When the situation calls for it, you can use any of them with confidence.

**Table 2.1 Common English Idioms and Expressions**

<b>Idiom</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Usage</b>
A penny saved is a penny earned.	Money you save today, you can spend later	by itself
A perfect storm	The worst possible situation	as part of a sentence
Do something at the drop of a hat.	Do something without having planned it beforehand.	as part of a sentence
The elephant is in the room.	The big issue is the problem people are avoiding.	as part of a sentence
The devil is in the details.	It looks good from a distance, but when you look closer, there are problems.	by itself
Add insult to injury.	To make a bad situation worse	as part of a sentence

On thin ice	On probation. If you make another mistake, there will be trouble.	as part of a sentence
Actions speak louder than words.	Believe what people do and not what they say.	by itself
Ignorance is bliss.	You're better off not knowing.	by itself
Every cloud has a silver lining.	Good things come after bad things.	by itself

### 2.3 The Use of Idioms

As previously said, the well-being of interpersonal functions depends on the use of colloquial language. Idioms, however, also provide energy and vitality to a language in everyday speech. McCarthy and O'Dell (2010: 6) also list additional uses of idioms or idiomatic terms, which include:

#### 1. The use of an idiom to emphasize a condition.

Example: The singer's album sank like a stone. The idiom sank like a stone in the sentence and emphasizes on 'the singer's album' sentence that it totally or completely failed.

## **2. The use of idioms to comment on people.**

Example: He is invited by the prime minister; he's totally gone up in the world. That idiom in the sentence means that he or the man has gained a better position or money than before.

## **3. The use of an idiom to comment on a condition.**

Example: To put someone or something into a fitter, more efficient, or better-organized state, the new finance minister wants to "kick the economy into shape." This expression refers to the "good condition" that "the finance minister" purchases.

## **4. The use of idioms to state agreement with the previous speaker.**

Example: A: Do you see that? She finishes her job as quick as lightning.

B: Yeah, she finished it in two shakes (very quickly).<sup>13</sup> In the dialogue above, the idiom is used to agree with the previous speaker.

## **5. The use of idioms to make anecdotes more interesting.**

Example: Today was merely a cascade of misfortunes, akin to the domino effect (a situation in which a single, usually negative event sets off a chain reaction of negative events).

## **6. The use of idioms to catch the reader's eye.**

Strong connotations of the term can be seen in titles, advertising slogans, and small business names. A writer may occasionally use puns or idioms to achieve a unique effect.

Example: Debt of dishonor instead of the usual idiom debt of honor, a debt that you owe to someone for moral reasons.

## **2.4 Types of Idioms**

Furthermore, the following idiom categories are also used by McCarthy and O'Dell (2010: 6) to categorize the idiom:

### **1. Simile**

Similes are comparison expressions that always have the words "like" and "as" in the sentence. A simile, according to Pierini (2007), is a statement of a nonsimilarity relation or a similarity relation between two entities that are essentially distinct but are believed to be alike in one or more areas. example: dead as a doornail (completely died).

### **2. Binomials**

A binomial is a series of two words that belong to the same form class, are positioned on the same syntactic hierarchy level, and are connected by a lexical link (Malkiel, 1959).

Alternatively, a binomial is an expression that consists of two words united by the conjunction "and," as in "airs and graces," where the meaning is "an affected way of behaving, intended to attract or impress" (Press, 2019).

### **3. Trinomials**

A trinomial phrase is one that combines three words together with the conjunction "and," such as "cool, calm, and collected" (calm, composed, not agitated).

### **4. Euphemism**

Euphemisms are a kind of phrase used to avoid saying anything that could offend or be seen negatively. Additionally, this term or phrase avoids talking about uncomfortable or scary topics or replaces a taboo word (Fromkin, 1993).

For example, we should use sign language to chat with deaf people (deaf, 'can't hear').

## **5. Proverbs**

Proverbs are succinct statements that offer guidance and caution while referencing experiences that are common to most individuals. Stated differently, proverbs are brief, enduring sayings that convey an experiential truth by drawing generalizations from human experience. Galan (2014), For example, better late than never (these proverbs teach us that it is never too late to start something good).

## **6. Clichés**

Clichés are expressions that have been used so frequently that their once-vibrant wordplay has grown bland and predictable. (Spivey, 2010).

Clairvoyants are also remarks that are frequently made in certain standard, ordinary contexts. For example, life is a journey (used to describe life as an ongoing process).

## **7. Fixed statements and other languages**

Expressions known as fixed statements are ones that you frequently hear and employ in casual discourse. as in "good riddance"! (I'm relieved that something or someone is no longer here.).

### **2.5 Classifications of Idiomatic Expression**

According to Fernando (1996), idiomatic expression is divided into three kinds: pure idiom, semi idiom, and literal idiom.

### 2.5.1 Pure Idiom as a Translation Unit

As Baker (1992) correctly points out, in order for an idiom to be considered an idiom, it must first be identified as such. This is because word combinations can have both literal and customary meanings in a language. This is the case whenever an expression is understood literally and fits within a potential natural context. Baker gives several examples, one of which is the English phrase "take somebody for a ride." Here are some examples of pure idioms:

Pure (source domain)	Meaning (target domain)
Kick the bucket.	Euphemism for dying.
Throw in the towel.	Give up on something; surrender.
Burn the midnight oil.	Work late into the night or early morning hours.
Hit the nail on the head.	To describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem.
Cost an arm and a leg.	Very expensive or costly.

### 2.5.2 Semi Idiom

In linguistics and language studies, a semi-idiom is not a term that is widely used. It may be used to characterize expressions that are less widely known than traditional idioms but still contain certain figurative components.

Semi-idioms have an overall, partially compositional meaning since they have at least one literal and one figurative component. Of the three types, they are the least idiomatic and the easiest to grasp because they have a literal element.

### 2.5.3 Literal Idiom

A literal idiom is a sentence or expression that, rather than taking on a metaphorical or figurative interpretation, maintains the words' precise, daily meanings. It doesn't employ language in the metaphorical or symbolic ways that idioms usually do.

According to Lakoff (1986), the notion of literal language has been defined in terms of an idealized and oversimplified model of language and thought with at least four different and rather unspecified senses attributed to the word literal:

**Literal 1.** Conventional literality, that is, ordinary conventional language contrasting with poetic language.

**Literal 2.** Subject matter literality, that is, the language normally used to talk about some domain.

**Literal 3.** Nonmetaphorical literality, that is, directly meaningful language whose understanding does not require any borrowing from other domains of thought and experience, nor any indirect intervention of metaphor or metonymy.

**Literal 4.** Truth-conditional literature, that is, language capable of "fitting the world."

Literal idiom	Meaning
Hit the books and burn the midnight oil.	Expressing the idea of studying hard and working late.
Break a leg and don't count your chickens before they hatch.	Combining two idioms, meaning good luck but also advising caution.
Cut to the chase and spill the beans.	a blend of idioms urging someone to get



	to the point and reveal a secret.
Bite off more than you can chew, have your cake, and eat it too.	Merging two idioms, cautioning against taking on too much while expressing a desire for everything.