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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Problems

English has emerged as one of the most prevalent languages globally, serving as a primary medium of communication among people from diverse backgrounds. English functions as a tool for conveying ideas, information, and emotions between individuals across cultures and nations. According to Crystal (2003:5-6), English has become a global lingua franca, with no other dominant language exhibiting the pace of globalization that English does. English also encompasses four fundamental skills, namely listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The language is quite extensive and complex, one branch that can explain it is linguistics.

Linguistics is the scientific study of language (Oviogun and Veerdee, 2020:4). Because of that, linguistics is very important in researching the structure of language, including grammar, syntax, phonetics, and semantics. To understand the meaning of language, we must have knowledge of semantics. According to Emike and Ocheme (2024:12), semantics is the field of linguistics that studies meaning in language. These are all closely related to the way we classify and convey our experiences through language. As these meanings evolve, they become expressions used in the course of our social lives, and one of the common uses of these expressions is called an idiom.

According to Chaer (2007:188), idioms are unit of expression whose meaning cannot be explained from the meaning of each constituent word



separately, but must be understood as a whole. Idioms are groups of words whose meaning is different from the meaning of the words that form them, and their forms can be words, phrases, clauses, or sentences (Wahyuni, 2023:4). Idioms, expressions that have their own meaning and are different from the literal meaning of the words, are an important element in enriching the language in the literary works especially in the novel.

Previous research has demonstrated that the analysis of idioms in literary works can reveal the characteristics of the author, the social context, and the cultural values reflected in the text. A study conducted by Wahyudi Nofriyandi (2024), entitled "An Analysis of Idioms Found in *Green Book* Movie Directed by Peter Farrelly," identified 232 idioms, which could be classified into three types, with pure idioms constituting the dominant category (106 idioms, or 45.7%). These findings indicate that an analysis of idioms usage in literary works can provide a deeper understanding of the author's linguistic style and the communicative functions of idioms within the text. Idioms pervade daily speech and media, so grasping them is essential for successful communication. Cooper (2019:105) asserts that idioms form a core element of language proficiency, as they enhance the communicative capabilities of both native and non-native speakers.

The choice of the title *An Analysis of Idioms Usage in Good Omens* Novel by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman is motivated by several specific factors. First, based on a preliminary review of existing research at English study program in Islamic University of Indragiri Tembilahan, studies focusing

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on idiomatic expressions especially their semantic analysis in contemporary literary works are still limited. A previous study by Nofriyandi (2024) on the use of idioms in the movie *Green Book* recommends further research to explore the use of idioms in different media as a comparative study across subjects of interesting idiom usage patterns.

Second, during the reading novel process, the researcher encountered numerous idiomatic expressions whose meanings were not directly translatable, leading to misunderstandings and misinterpretations, especially for readers whose first language is not English. These idioms often reflect unique cultural and contextual backgrounds, which are rarely discussed in depth in previous studies, particularly within the context of the *Good Omens* novel.

By analyzing the types, and meanings of idioms in *Good Omens* novel, this research aims to provide a clearer understanding of how idioms contribute to the narrative, character development, and humor in the novel. Additionally, this study is expected to help readers and students of English literature to better comprehend and appreciate the cultural nuances embedded in idiomatic language, thus enhancing their overall reading experience.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of problem above here are some of the problems found:

1. Difficulties in understanding the idiomatic expressions used.
2. Difficulties in translating the meaning of idioms directly that are found.

3. Lack of understanding of cultural background.

C. Limitations of the Problem

In this research, the researcher limits this research on analyzing idioms in *Good Omens* novel by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman.

D. Research Question

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the research question of this research can be identified as follow:

What kinds of idioms use in *Good Omens* novel by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman.

E. Objective of the Research

Based on the research question of the problem above, the objective of this research can be identified as follow:

To identify various idiomatic expressions found in *Good Omens* novel by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman.

F. The Significances of the Research

By analyzing idioms in *Good Omens* novel, this research can offer insights into:

This research can be useful for:

- a. Literature teachers, who want to teach idioms to their students.
- b. Literature students, helping them to understand idioms and understanding novel.
- c. Novel readers, to expand the knowledge of idioms in novel.
- d. Researchers, as a reference in developing theories about idioms.





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G. Definition of the Key Terms

There are so many terms involved in this research, in order to avoid misunderstanding the terms used, the following terms need to be defined:

1. Analysis

According to Creswell (2018:4), analysis is a systematic process of organizing and interpreting data to identify patterns or themes in order to understand the research problem. In this research, analysis serves as an important tool to solve and describe the object studied in detail, in this case idioms as the object to be studied.

2. Idioms

According to Sofyani (2021:19) idioms are expressions, phrases, or sentences whose meaning cannot be explained logically or literally, but contain certain meaning that have become part of people's culture. In this study, idiom's function as research objects that will be analyzed in the novel.

3. Novel

According to Hudhana and Mulasih (2019:43), a novel is a work of fiction that tells the story of the life of a person or group of people in full and in detail. In this study, the novel became a medium in obtaining data with the title of *Good Omens* by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman.