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CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

A. Review of Related Theories

1. Idioms

a. Definition of Idioms

Idioms, like hidden gems in language, convey deeper and richer meaning than just a simple combination of words. These phrases, like verbal paintings, paint unexpected images and meanings, enriching expression and nuance in communication.

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 line with Sofyani, Davies (1994) in Hansdóttir (2025:9), stated that an idiom can be described as a phrase or sentence that is customarily employed with a meaning that differs from the literal meaning and become a reflection of culture and local wisdom embedded in language. Its unique and meaning reflects the worldview and values held by society.

The richness of idioms is not only interesting for linguists, but also cultural observers and social observers. According to Kridalaksana (2008:90), idioms are a container of local wisdom that is full of meaning and noble values. Idioms, for him, are not just expressions, but also contain moral messages, philosophies and life

instructions that have been passed down from generation to generation.

Furthermore, Nursan et al (2024:4), stated that idioms can be a tool for understanding the identity and social cohesion of a society. The use of idioms in social interactions shows a sense of togetherness and closeness between individuals, and strengthens group identity.

From the foregoing discussion, it can be concluded that idioms are more than just ordinary expressions, they are a reflection of culture and local wisdom embedded in the language. Its unique and meaning reflects the worldview and values held by society. Therefore, idioms are not only important for linguistics, but also for preserving society's culture and values.

b. Types of Idioms

In this section the units deal with specific individual types of idioms based on Christopher (2021) in Hoar and Siahaan (2023:171) divides the idioms form into seven parts, namely:

1) Pure Idioms

Pure idioms are expressions whose meanings have become entirely detached from the literal definitions of their individual components, such as:

- a) *Kick the bucket*: To die
- b) *Spill the beans*: To reveal a secret
- c) *Let the cat out of the bag*: To accidentally disclose a secret





2) Binomial Idioms

Binomial idioms are a type of idiomatic expression composed of two coordinated elements, which may function in tandem or opposition to convey a specific meaning within the phrase, such as:

- a) *Black and white*: There are clear differences
- b) *More or less*: Something is close enough to correct
- c) *Give or take*: There is some room for error

3) Partial Idioms

A partial idiom is an expression composed of two elements: one component retains its literal meaning, while the other conveys a figurative or non-literal sense. In summary, a partial idiom is a phrase that merges both literal and metaphorical meanings within a single expression, such as:

- a) *Storm brewing in his eyes*: This means that his eyes appear extremely angry or intense, rather than literally containing a storm.
- b) *Break the ice*: This refers to initiating a conversation or interaction in a social context, not the literal breaking of ice.
- c) *Spill the beans*: This idiom signifies revealing a secret, rather than actually spilling physical beans.



4) Prepositional Idioms

Prepositional idioms are linguistic constructions that combine verbs with prepositions or adverbs to express meanings that are not literal. These idiomatic phrases require contextual embedding within sentences and cannot function independently as fixed collocations, for examples:

- a) *Run into*: Meet unexpectedly
- b) *Break down*: Stop functioning
- c) *Come across*: Find by chance

5) Proverbs

Proverbs are idiomatic expressions that encapsulate universal truths or offer wise counsel. Typically originating from sages or rooted in religious and philosophical traditions, they serve as moral lessons transmitted across generations, for examples:

- a) *Better late than never*
- b) *Practice makes perfect*
- c) *Don't count your chickens before they hatch*

6) Euphemisms

Euphemisms are expressions employed to soften the delivery of messages that might otherwise be perceived as harsh, blunt, or socially sensitive. They are frequently used to address delicate or taboo subjects in a more acceptable or polite manner, for examples:

- a) *Powder my nose*: Use the restroom

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b) *Economical with the truth*: Lying

c) *Expecting*: Pregnant

7) Clichés

Clichés are expressions that have been overused to the extent that they lose originality and intellectual value. They are often considered uncreative and are generally avoided by skilled writers due to their lack of novelty and potential to stereotype, for examples:

a) *Only time will tell*

b) *Think outside the box*

c) *The calm before the storm*

c. Characteristics of Idioms

Every language possesses unique features that distinguish it from other languages. Similarly, idioms exist in every language, each exhibiting distinct characteristics that serve to differentiate one idiom from another.

The features of idioms are follows, according to Nunberg et al in Hoar and Siahaan (2023:173):

1) Conventionality

Idioms are characterized by their conventionalized nature; their meanings or uses are not readily inferable at least not entirely from an understanding of the individual rules that govern their constituent elements when these elements are interpreted in isolation.



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2) Inflexibility

In contrast to sentences that are freely constructed, idioms typically occur within a limited set of syntactic patterns or structures.

3) Figuration

Idioms frequently incorporate various forms of figurative language, such as metaphors ("grab the bull by the horns"), metonymies ("lend a hand"), hyperboles ("not worth the paper it's written on"), among others.

4) Proverbiality

Idioms are often employed to articulate and, by implication, to interpret recurrent social phenomena or situations of interest.

5) Informality

Similar to other proverbial expressions, idioms are commonly associated with informal or colloquial registers and are prevalent in popular speech and oral traditions.

6) Affect

Affect idioms are typically employed to express particular emotional responses or evaluations, rather than to describe neutral or routine actions. Thus, affect idioms play a significant role in adding emotional depth and social meaning to communication.



2. Meaning

a. Types of Meaning

Semantics is the branch of linguistics that examines the various facets of meaning within language. According to Chaer (2007) in Nofriyandi (2024:15) stated that the concept of meaning in linguistics encompasses several categories, including lexical, grammatical, and contextual meanings, as well as referential and non-referential meanings, denotative and connotative meanings, conceptual and associative meanings, and the notion of lexeme. Each type is elaborated upon in the following sections:

1) Lexical Meaning

Lexical meaning refers to the inherent, literal meaning of a word as recognized through sensory observation or as defined in a dictionary. It represents the standard or conventional meaning associated with a lexical item.

2) Grammatical Meaning

Grammatical meaning arises from grammatical processes such as affixation, reduplication, compounding, or the formation of sentences. It is the meaning conveyed by the structural arrangement of morphemes within a word or phrase.

3) Contextual Meaning

Contextual meaning pertains to the interpretation of a lexeme or word within a specific context. It is the meaning that a word

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acquires when used in particular situational or linguistic environments.

4) Referential Meaning

A word is said to possess referential meaning when it denotes or refers to a specific entity, object, or concept in the real world.

5) Denotative Meaning

Denotative meaning is the primary, literal, or original meaning of a word. It is the objective meaning that a term holds, independent of any additional associations or emotional undertones.

6) Connotative Meaning

Connotative meaning encompasses the secondary or additional meanings that a word acquires, often reflecting the attitudes, emotions, or cultural associations of the speakers or groups using the term.

7) Conceptual Meaning

Conceptual meaning refers to the core meaning inherent in a lexeme, which is independent of context or external associations. It is the essential meaning that remains constant regardless of usage.

8) Associative Meaning

Associative meaning is derived from the connections or relationships that a word has with external concepts, experiences, or entities outside of language itself. It reflects the broader associations that a word may evoke.





9) Lexeme

A lexeme is an abstract linguistic unit used in morphological analysis, representing the set of all possible forms that a single word can take.

3. Novel

a. Definition of Novel

Novel is a literary work that stretches for a long time, taking the reader on an imaginative adventure that is full of meaning. 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 contrast to short stories which are short and focus on one aspect of the story, novels are able to present the complexity of life with various storylines and interconnected characters.

Tarigan (2015:167), explained that novels have their own characteristics that differentiate them from other literary works. These characteristics include length, fiction, prose, having a complex storyline, and having a deep theme.

Based on the explanations provided, it can be concluded that the novel is a form of fictional prose distinguished by its considerable length, complexity of plot, and depth of theme. Unlike short stories, which are brief and focus on a single aspect, novels offer a comprehensive and detailed exploration of characters and events,

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often presenting multiple, interconnected storylines. These characteristics set the novel apart from other literary genres, highlighting its unique ability to capture the intricacies of human life and experience.

b. Characteristics of Novel

According to Ariska and Amelysa (2020:22), the general characteristics of a novel are as follows:

- 1) A novel typically contains more than 35,000 words.
- 2) It consists of at least 100 pages.
- 3) The estimated reading time for a novel is a minimum of two hours, or 120 minutes.
- 4) The narrative presents more than a single impression, effect, or emotion.
- 5) The plot structure of a novel is relatively complex.
- 6) The scope of story selection in novels is broader.
- 7) Novels tend to be lengthy, often featuring repeated sentences or phrases.
- 8) Novels are primarily written in narrative form, supported by descriptive passages to illustrate the situations and conditions within the story.

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c. *Good Omens*

Good Omens, co-authored by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman, is a satirical fantasy novel that explores the ineffable balance between destiny and free will through humor, irony, and richly drawn characters. The story follows the unlikely alliance of Aziraphale, an angel, and Crowley, a demon both of whom have grown surprisingly fond of Earth as they collaborate to prevent Armageddon after a mix-up causes the Antichrist to be raised in a quaint English village rather than being sent to initiate the apocalypse. Through Adam Young's journey and his decision to reject his ordained role in favor of human companionship and moral choice, the novel deftly interrogates grand theological concepts using accessible, human-scale narratives. Additionally, Pratchett and Gaiman deconstruct conventional binaries of good and evil casting them instead as complex social constructs by showing that even celestial beings can transcend their programming and act on empathy, friendship, and personal conviction. Its playful prose, narrative footnotes, and biblical allusions contribute to a tone that is simultaneously witty, irreverent, and philosophically reflective, making *Good Omens* a rich text for exploring themes of free will, moral ambiguity, and humanism.



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B. Review of Related Findings

The first research that used idioms as the subject of study was Nofriyandi's research, entitled "*An Analysis of Idioms Found in Green Book Movie Directed by Peter Farrelly*" (2024). This research focuses on the use of idiomatic expressions and their contextual meaning found in *Green Book* movie. Identified 232 idioms, which could be classified into three types, Semi Idioms (79 idioms, or 34,1%), Literal Idioms (47 idioms or 20,2%), and Pure Idioms constituting the dominant category (106 idioms, or 45.7%).

The second research that analyzes the use of idioms was Yuvencia Pricilia Ferlina da Cunha's research, with the title "*Idiom Dalam Film Inferno Karya Ron Howard*" (2018). This research focuses on the use of idiomatic expressions. The results of this research shows that idioms can be found in various of idiom's form. It is proved by the number of idioms form which was identified in the movie: There are 76 idioms that classified in 3 forms, 56 lexemic idioms, which are divided in 4 classes, 42 verbal idioms, 7 noun idioms, 1 adjective idiom, 6 adverb idioms, 19 phrases idioms, 2 proverbs.

The third research that uses idioms as the subject of the study was Jeni Yulfrida Hoar and Desta Gloria Siahaan's research, with the title "*An Analysis of Idiom on the Bridge to Terabithia Movie*" (2023). This research focuses on identifying the types and analyzing the meanings of idioms in the *Bridge to Terabithia* movie. There are 34 cases of idioms found in *Bridge to Terabithia* Movie. There are 17 (56, 7 %) case of Prepositional Idiom, 12 (40



%) case of Pure Idiom and one case of Partial Idiom (3,3 %). The most dominant type of idiom in Bridge to Terabithia movie is Prepositional Idiom, which represent 17 cases with percentage 56, 7 %.

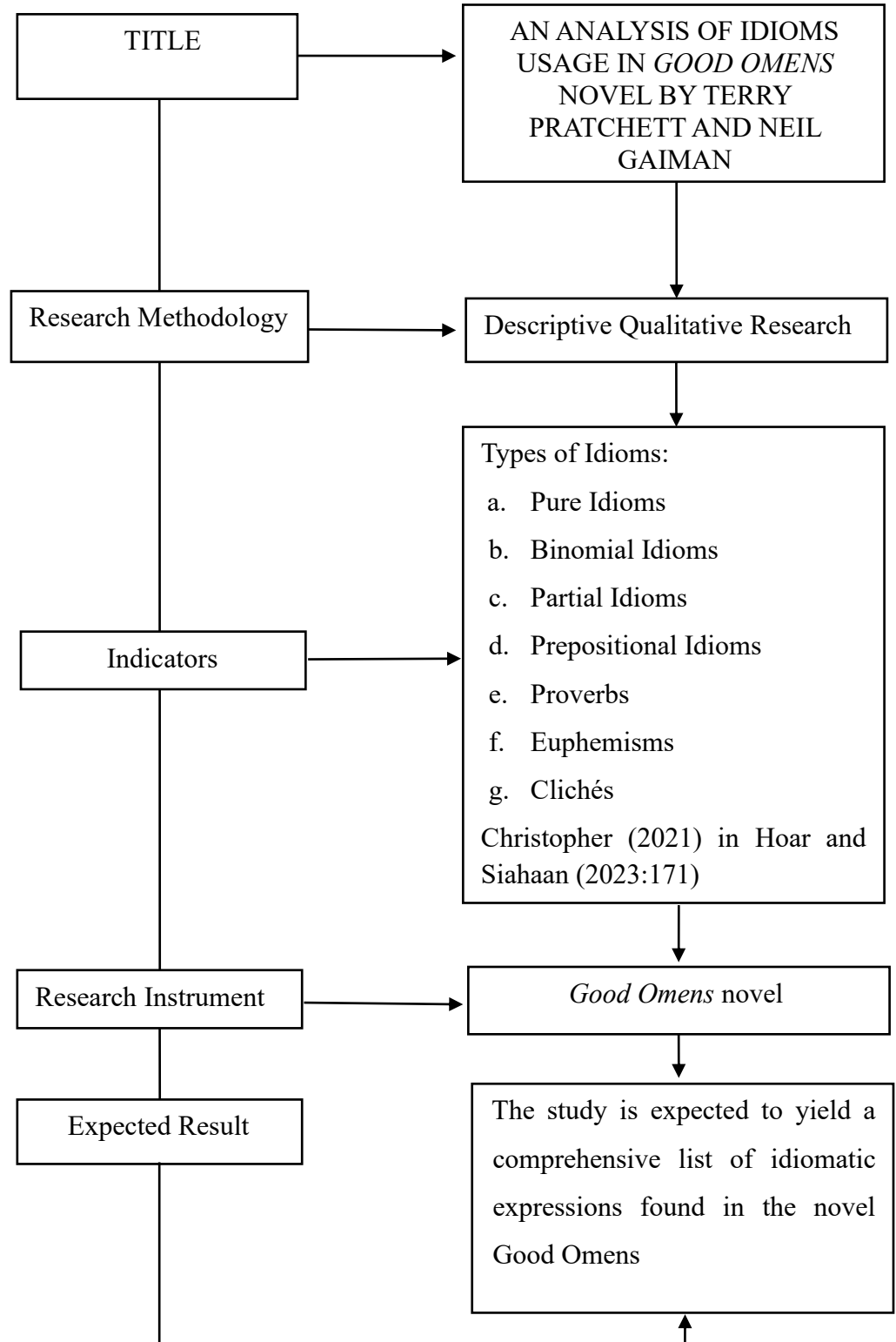
The similarity between this research and the research above is in terms of analysis of idioms use. Analyzed in terms of the use of idioms, types of idioms and meanings of idioms in popular literary works which are assumed to be frequently used as reading material for students and the general public, so this research is expected to be able to produce idiom analysis that can increase the insight and understanding of novel readers regarding the use and form of idioms in a work. This research is entitled An Analysis of Idioms Usage in *Good Omens* novel by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman.

However, there are also differences between these studies. The differences between this study and the aforementioned research lies in the subject of study. Previous studies utilized literary works in the form of movies as their research subjects, whereas the present study focuses on a literary work in the form of a novel, namely *Good Omens* by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman.

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C. Conceptual Framework



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