

THE ANALYSIS OF IDIOM MEANINGS ON “SOUL” (2020) MOVIE SCRIPT

Alfi Fathatir Rizqi ¹
Sri Rejeki Pramudyawardhani ²

¹ the Graduate of English Education Study Program
Universitas Peradaban Bumiayu – Brebes
Email: alfifathatirr@gmail.com
Phone: +62 85866138245

² the Lecturer of English Education Study Program
Universitas Peradaban Bumiayu – Brebes
Email: pramudyawardhani81@gmail.com
Phone: +62 815 663 5360

Abstract

This study analyses idiomatic expressions in the SOUL (2020) movie script using Fernando’s Theory in Sugiarto, which classifies idioms into Pure, Half-Pure, and Literal types. Employing a descriptive qualitative method, the researcher identified thirty-eight idioms: twenty-one Half-Pure Idioms, nine Literal Idioms, and eight Pure Idioms. The findings show that Half-Pure Idioms are the most frequently used. Each idiom was analysed based on its contextual meaning. The results indicate that idioms in the

film help express emotions, build character, and deliver cultural values. Understanding idioms in context is essential to avoid misinterpretation and improve communication skills. Idioms are an important part of language that often carry meanings beyond the literal words, making them both challenging and significant in learning English and appreciating cultural nuances. This study highlights how idiomatic expressions contribute not only to the richness of the dialogue but also to the deeper narrative of the film. In conclusion, comprehending idioms in such contexts supports pragmatic competence and a better grasp of cultural messages conveyed through cinematic storytelling.

Keywords: *Idiom, Types of Idiom, Meaning of Idiom, SOUL Movie (2020)*

A. Introduction

Linguistics, according to Kaharuddin (2021: 43), is a field of study that focuses on language as its primary subject and uses a methodical approach to comprehend language as its primary subject and uses a methodical approach to comprehend language phenomena in their whole. The field of linguistics studies how language works, both structurally and in many social and cultural situations. In Linguistics, language can be analysis through various branches, ranging from phonetics to discourse analysis.

According to Tasheva (2023: 51-52), Linguistics is from the tiniest to the largest units, linguistics analyses the fundamental building blocks of language. It is branches include phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, and pragmatics. We must comprehend semantics in order to comprehend meaning of language.

Semantics is a science that studies the relevance of language (Maulud et al, 2021: 21). Then, James in

Suhendar Arsiandi (2020:46) states that Semantics is an aspect of Linguistics that focuses on studying the meaning of language. The study of Semantics involves analyze how meaning is produced, understood, and interpreted by speakers and listeners. Semantics encompasses elements like lexical meaning, meaning relationships, and contextual meaning by emphasizing the connection between language form and meaning.

In addition, Semantics plays an important role in understanding human communication, especially in revealing implied meanings, such as in the use of idioms. Idioms, as expressions with figurative meaning, provide unique insights into each of their meanings. Idiomatic expressions are word combinations that have a non-literal meaning, making them difficult to understand literally (Shanti and Winzami, 2021:113).

Idioms offer an opportunity to investigate how they can convey ideas and feelings in ways that are not always precisely translatable. Furthermore, an idiom is a collection of words that have a metaphorical meaning distinct from their literal meaning, as in the term “kick the bucket,” which signifies to die rather than literally kick the bucket, according to Dankers et al (2022:1).

In this study, film or movie especially movie script is the object of this analysis. Movies as narrative media often use idioms to add depth to dialogue, build character, and strengthen narratives. Film dialogues that are rich in idioms can reflect a particular culture or identity. Movies have primary function, namely in building emotional relationships with the audience to convey a story, meaning, or moral values. The use of idioms is an effective tool for conveying philosophical

messages to a global audience. SOUL (2020) film is known for its deep and emotional themes.

SOUL (2020) has a background with a theme that is closely related to education, because the main character, Joe Gardner, is a music teacher. His role as a teacher reflects how education is not only about imparting knowledge, but also about guiding students to discover their potential. This film shows how a teacher can be an inspiration, even when Joe himself is trying to pursue his dream of becoming a professional jazz musician. The strong message about the importance of mentoring and lifelong learning makes SOUL (2020) relevant to the world of education, showing that learning is a process that is not only limited to classroom, but also on the journey of knowing what life is all about.

The movie SOUL (2020) is usage of idioms provides character development and enriches the dialogue linguistically and have close relevance to the culture and values that are intended to be conveyed. The use of idioms is not only an aesthetic element in the dialogue but also a tool to reflect social relationships, character emotions, and cultural dynamics.

The animated film SOUL (2020) written by Pete Docter and direct by Mike Jones and Kemp Powers, it produced by Pixar Animation Studios for Walt Disney Pictures. SOUL (2020) movie have won many awards, one of which was at the 78th Golden Globe Award in 2021 in the categories of “Best Animated Feature Film/Movies” and “Best Original Score”. This movie contains many moral messages, such as the search for the meaning of life, struggle, and self-reflection.

Idioms are employed in the 2020 film SOUL to depict the protagonist is quest for meaning in life,

reflecting social and emotional elements while offering pertinent and contextualized educational resources for currently used film-based English instruction by making universal connections between human experiences. Therefore, examining the meaning of idioms in the SOUL (2020) movies script is of great interest to the writer. This is because the movie has many difficulties to understand dialogue and idiomatic expressing.

B. Literature Review

The study of meaning is normally referred as Semantics. Kaharrudin (2021: 44), defines semantics as the study of a language meaning and how to interpret it is words and phrases. The area of linguistics that studies the relationship between signs and the objects they represent, or in other words, the discipline in linguistics that discusses meaning in language.

Theory of Fernando in Sugiarto et al (2023: 66) divides idiom into three forms, namely:

1. Pure Idioms

The meaning of a Pure Idioms cannot be understood by simply analysis its constituent words separately, as in a literal translation. For example, the idiomatic expression “spill the beans” have nothing to do with beans in the literal sense, but rather means “accidentally spilling a secret.”

This demonstrates the special quality of pure idioms, which is that their meaning is created holistically and is often unrelated to the actual meaning of the words that comprise it. The application of such idioms usually requires an understanding of culture and context because their meaning cannot be explained only by language

logic. Understanding Pure Idioms aids language learners in comprehending the subtleties of idioms that native speakers frequently use in daily conversation.

2. Half-Pure Idiom

Half-Pure Idioms have a minimum of one literal and one symbolic component. For instance, “foot the bill” implies “to pay the bill,” where “foot” is a figurative element and “bill” has a literal meaning. This combination of figurative and literal elements creates a Half-Pure Idiom.

Idioms of this kind demonstrate how language may combine metaphorical and literal aspects to express more nuanced meanings. Recognizing the link between literal and figurative part in context is necessary to comprehend Half-Pure Idioms. They are frequently employed in common speech to give the expression more individuality or interest.

3. Literal Idioms

Literal Idioms are easier to understand than the other two categories of idioms. For instance, even for those who are unfamiliar with idioms, the term “bottom of my heart” is easier to grasp because it literally means “bottom of my heart.”

The simplicity results from the application of direct language without involving complicated figurative meanings. Literal idioms often give a strong impression but still maintain clarity of meaning, making them more accessible in various communication contexts. Therefore, these idioms are often considered more universal and suitable for language learners who are new to idioms.

SOUL is an animated movie from Pixar Animation Studios that was released on December 25th, 2020. Directed by Pete Docter, who also co-

wrote part of the story, the film has Kemp Powers as co-director, supervised by Dana Murray. Joe Gardener, a high school music teacher with aspirations of becoming a professional jazz musician, is the subject of the animated movie SOUL (2020). When Joe eventually gets his ideal chance to play at a well-known jazz club, an unanticipated accident causes his soul to be separated from his body.

The movie is an emotional journey that explores themes of life purpose, passion, and how to enjoy the little moments that often go unnoticed in our busy lives. With stunning visuals and captivating music, SOUL (2020) invites viewers to reflect on what really makes life so valuable.

C. Method of Investigation

The descriptive qualitative research method is employed by the writers. The SOUL (2020) movies script served as the researches primary source of data. To collect the data, the writers apply observation by watching film. Then, the writers download the film script by which the writers apply documentation as a technique of data collection. Therefore, the writers implement two methods: observation and documentation to gather data for this study.

D. Findings and Discussion

The types and meanings of idiomatic expressions that were disclosed in dialogue by the characters in the SOUL (2020) movie are include in the findings.

This research utilizes the Fernando in Sugiarto (2023: 66) classification to investigate idiomatic

expressions in a film script, leveraging *A Dictionary of American Idioms* (1975) as a tool to contextualize their meanings.

The idioms are categorized into three types, namely Pure Idioms, which are difficult to understand because they cannot be understood literally; Half-Pure Idioms, which are mixed because they have a mixture of two different elements, namely literal and figurative elements; and Literal Idioms, which are easy to understand because of their clear literal meaning. The difference between these types depends on the meaning and context of their use.

In the first finding, the writer finds thirty-eight idioms expression in SOUL movie (2020). Containing Pure Idiom eight, Half-Pure Idiom twenty-one, and Literal Idiom nine. From the result of this study the dominant type used in SOUL movie (2020) is Half-Pure idiom with a total of twenty-one idioms. This is influenced by the use of active language always spoken by the characters.

The next type of idiom that often appears in SOUL (2020) movie is the literal idiom. In this movie, the writer manages to identify nine data of this type. Literal idioms are idioms whose meanings are clear and can be directly understood based on the words that compose them, without requiring complex interpretation.

Part of the last type of idiom is pure idiom. In SOUL (2020) movie, this type was not commonly found. The writer only finds eight data. Pure idioms carry meaning that cannot be understood literally and usually appears as figurative and contextual phrases with idiomatic meanings.

In the second findings, the writer explained the meaning of idioms found in SOUL movie (2020). It aims to emphasizes the importance of understanding

context in interpreting idioms. The writer aims to initiate interpretation about the findings.

Thus, idioms become an important element in conveying emotions, satire, or emphasis indirectly but remain effective in communication between characters.

E. Conclusion

The writers conclude by drawing a number of conclusions on how the challenge formulated and the goals of this investigation. The purpose of this study is to examine the many kinds of idiomatic terms and their contextual meanings that are used in the dialogue of the characters in the SOUL (2020) movie.

Based on the first finding, the writers manage to identify thirty-eight idiomatic expressions in the SOUL movie (2020). Of these, the most dominant type of idiom is the half-pure idiom, with a total of twenty-one idioms.

In addition, the writers also find nine idioms that are included in the literal idioms, and eight other idioms are included in the pure idioms. All of these idiomatic expressions are found in various dialogues throughout SOUL movie (2020).

The writers explain each idiom meaning in the second finding and offers an explanation of the reason idioms are included in a particular type. This explanation aims to highlight how idioms are used to express certain conditions and describe the characters' expression towards situations or other characters in the dialogues.

Acknowledgement

The writers would like to thank deeply to Dr. Muh. Kadarisman, S.H., M.Si. as the Rector of Universitas Peradaban. Mrs. Eka Farida Fasha, S.S., M.Pd. as the Dean of Educational Sciences and Teachers' Training Faculty and Mr. Akhmad Nurkholis, M.Pd. as the Head of English Education Study program of Universitas Peradaban.

Bibliography

- Alwasilah, A., C. 2011. *Linguistik Suatu Pengantar* (Vol. 2011). Bandung. Penerbit Angkasa
- Aqidho, Y. A., & Hidayah, A. 2021. *The Stress Reflected in Pete Docter's Soul (2020) Movie*. CLLiENT (Culture, Literature, Linguistics, and English Teaching), 3(2), 27–44
- Ariska, D., Aprianto, M., Nugroho, B., & Asikin, N. A. 2022. *Idioms Translation Analysis in The Dubbing of Mulan Movie*. Indonesian EFL Journal, 8(2), 215–222.
- As'adi, P., & Effendi, T. 2022. *Analysis of Illocutionary Act in the Main Character Utterances in SOUL Movie*. LADU: Journal of Languages and Education, 2(2), 53–58.
- Austen Book. JL3T (Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Language Teaching), 6(1), 55–65.
- Bosavi, F. T., Nur'Aini, S., & Hidayat, N. 2023. *Moral Value in Soul Movie and Its Contribution to Teaching Literature*. Wawasan Pendidikan, 3(1), 160–166.
- Cornelia, E. V., Adi, A. B. P. K., & Lestari, M. Y. W. 2023. *An Analysis of Idiomatic Expressions Used in "The Call of the Wild" Movie*. Jurnal CULTURE

(Culture, Language, and Literature Review),
10(2), 57–68.

Corpas, P., G. 2021. *Constructional idioms of ‘insanity’ in English and Spanish: A corpus-based study*. *Lingua*, 254, 103013.

Dankers, V., Lucas, C. G., & Titov, I. 2022. *Can Transformer be Too Compositional? Analysing Idiom Processing in Neural Machine Translation*. Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, 1, 3608–3626.

Djajasudarma, T., F. 2016. *Semantik 1 Makna Leksikal dan Gramatikal* (Vol. 2016). Bandung. PT Refika Aditama.

Djajasudarma, T., F. 2013. *Semantik 2 Relasi Makna Paradigmatik – Sintagmatik – Derivasional* (Vol. 2013). Bandung. PT Refika Aditama.

Dwi, F. A., & Mubarok, Y. 2020. *Indonesia–English Translation of Idiomatic Expressions in The Novel This Earth of Mankind*. *Buletin Al-Turas*, 26(2), 207–220.

Fadillah, I., & Sari, P. 2022. *Idiomatic Expression Found in Movie Script of The Beauty and The Beast: A Semantics Study Corresponding Email Article’s History Idiomatic Expression Found in Movie Script of The Beauty and The Beast: A Semantics Study*. 9(2), 2022.

Fadwati, A. 2021. *Baker’s Strategy in Translating Idiomatic Expressions in Fast & Furious: Hobbs*

and Shaw's Movie Subtitles. 574(Iset 2020), 198–204.

Fina, A. M., Randi, & Ela, M. 2022. *Idiomatic Expression in the "Maleficent (Mistress of Evil)" Movie*. Jurnal Multidisiplin Madani, 2(9), 3618–3627.

Furidha, B. W. 2023. *Comprehension of the Descriptive Qualitative Research Method: A Critical Assessment of the Literature*. ACITYA WISESA: Journal of Multidisciplinary Research, 2(4), 1–8.

Hanum, A. M., Simanjuntak, M. B., Mayuni, I., & Zuriyati, Z. 2022. *The Meaning of Family Love in Family Film*. Prosiding Seminar Nasional Inovasi Pendidikan, 360–366.

Hsu, L. 2021. *Emotional Perception of Death in Animated Films Sentiment Analysis of Coco and Soul's Scripts and Reviews*. 4.

Hurford, J., K., Heasley, B., & Smith, M., B. 2013. *Semantics a coursebook. United States* (Vol. 2013). Cambridge University Press.

Islam, A., & Incirkus, B. 2022. *Semiotic Analysis of the Animation Film Soul*. ARTS: Artuklu Sanat ve Beşeri Bilimler Dergisi, 7, 85–104.

Kaharuddin 2021. *Linguistics Basic Theory and Roles in English Language Teaching* (Vol. 2021). Jakarta. Kencana.

Kinasih, P. R. 2021. *The Analysis of Sartre's 'Esense' and 'Subjectivity' in Disney Pixar's Soul Animation*.

Journal of English Language and Culture, 12(1), 25–35.

Komilovna, X., K., & Dilbar, A. 2023. *The Usage of Idioms in Speaking*. Modern Science And Research, 2(9), 362–364.

Krisandini, M. T. K., & Sutrisno, A. 2022. *The Translation of Idioms from English into Indonesian: The Case of J.K. Rowling’s “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince”*. Lexicon, 8(1), 24.

Kurniasy, D., & Sonia, E. 2020. *An Idiomatic Expression Analysis on an Authentic Material “Pride and Prejudice Movie” a Movie from Jane*

Laila, S. I. W. 2022. *Idiomatic Expression in Dangerous Album by Michael Josep Jackson*. Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa Keguruan, 1(2).

Lastriyani, N. 2024. *Idiom in “The Lion King” Movie (2019)*. A Thesis. English Education Study Program of Universitas Peradaban: Not Published.

Maulud, D. H., Zeebaree, S. R., Jacksi, K., Sadeeq, M. A. M., & Sharif, K. H. 2021. *State of Art for Semantic Analysis of Natural Language Processing*. Qubahan academic journal, 1(2), 21–28.

Mezmir, E. A. 2020. *Qualitative Data Analysis: An Overview of Data Reduction, Data Display and Interpretation*. Research on Humanities and Social Sciences, 10(21), 15–27.

Mustafiroh, I., Ambarini, R., & Suwarti, T. S. 2023. *The Analysis Contextual Meaning of Idiomatic Expression in Elemental: Forces of Nature Movie*.

Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature (ALLURE), 3(1), 189–198.

- Nurawaliyah, F., Kone, A. M. M., & Halijah, S. 2023. *Alfred Adler'S Individual Psychology in Protagonist of "Soul" Movie*. Karya Ilmiah Mahasiswa (KIMA), 2(2), 242–251.
- Oeban, R. 2011. *Focus on English Idioms Elementary Intermediate Advanced* (Vol. 2011). Tangerang. Karisma Publishing Group.
- Panji, I. G. N., Santika, I. D. A. D. M., & Ariyaningsih, N. N. D. 2022. *The Types of Idiom in the Addams Family Movie*. Journal of Language and Applied Linguistics, 3(2), 306–314.
- Patmawati, S., & I Gusti Agung Sri Rwa Jayantini. 2024. *Idiomatic Expressions Found in Taylor Swift's Song 'All Too Well (10 Minute Version)'*. *Sintaksis : Publikasi Para Ahli Bahasa Dan Sastra Inggris*, 2(5), 227–236.
- Puspitasari, D., Yuliawati, D. D., & Hanayanti, C. S. 2024. *Deciphering Idioms: A Deep Dive into Elemental Force of Nature Movie Script*. INSPIRING, 324–339.
- Hidayat) Putri, D. I., Widisanti S, N. M., & Rejeki, S. 2021. *Types of Idioms and Strategies in Translating Idioms in the Novel the Girl on the Train By Paula Hawkins*. Journal Albion : Journal of English Literature, Language, and Culture, 3(2), 39–45.

- Ristanti, P., Nugrahani, D., & Sukmaningrum, R. 2023. *Idiomatic Expression in Song Lyrics from Arianna Grande Album Positions*. International Journal of Research in Education, 3(1), 25–32.
- Riyanto, S. 2012. *The 1st Student's Choice Idiomatic Expressions in English* (Vol. 2012). Yogyakarta. Andi
- Rizka Nuraini, & Dr. Frans Sayogie, M.Pd. 2024. *Translation Accuracy of English Idiomatic Expression into Indonesian in Soul Film Subtitle by Disney+ Retail*. Linguistik Terjemahan Sastra (LINGTERSA), 5(1), 30–37.
- Rokhman, F. & Surahmat, M., H. 2020. *Linguistik Disruptif: Pendekatan Kekinian Memahami Perkembangan Bahasa* (Vol. 2020). Jakarta. PT Bumi Aksara.
- Roswana, R., & Nurdiawati, D. 2020. *Idiom Translation Strategies in The Album of "Purpose-Justin Bieber."* Dialektika: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, 8(2), 177–201.
- Seken, I., K. 2017. *Introduction to Linguistics a Reference for Language Teachers* (Vol. 2017). Depok. PT RajaGrafindo Persada.
- Shanti Manipuspika, Y., & Reska Julia Winzami, D. 2021. *Translation of Idioms: How They are Reflected in Movie Subtitling*. Arab World English Journal for Translation and Literary Studies, 5(1), 113–125.
- Sugiarto, A., Situngkir, F., & Manullang, N. G. 2023. *Exploring Idioms in the Movie Script of "Moana" by Ron Clements and John Musker*. 2(2), 64–73.

- Sugiono 2024. *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif Untuk penelitian yang bersifat: Eksploratif, enterpretif, interaktif dan konstruktif (Vol. 2024)*. Bandung. Alfabeta.
- Suhendar, S., & Arsiandi, R. 2020. *The Study of Semantic on Idiomatic Expressions*. Journal of English Language and Literature (JELL), 5(01), 43–52.
- Sukrawan, I. K. A., Verayanti Utami, N. M., & Sri Rwa Jayantini, I. G. A. 2021. *Types of Idiom and Their Meaning in Michael Jackson “Thriller” Album*. Indonesian Journal of English Language Studies (IJELS), 7(1), 7–16.
- Sumampouw, R. J. 2022. *The Analysis of the Main Character’s Quarter-Life Crisis from the Movie “Soul” By Pete Docter*. SoCul: International Journal of Research in Social Cultural Issues, 1(4), 10.
- Tasheva, N. 2023. *Exploring The Rich Tapestry Of Linguistics: A Comprehensive Overview*. Science and Innovation in the Education System, 51–57.