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An Analysis of Idiomatic Expressions Found In The Story Entitled *The Car* by Andrew Rossiter

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Abstrak

Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis ungkapan idiomatik dan menganalisis maknanya yang ditemukan dalam cerita pendek *The Car*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif karena data dianalisis dalam bentuk kata, frasa, dan kalimat, bukan angka. Sumber data penelitian ini adalah cerita pendek *The Car* karya Andrew Rossiter. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 25 ungkapan idiomatik yang ditemukan dalam cerita tersebut. Ungkapan tersebut terdiri dari 11 *pure idioms*, 8 *semi idioms*, dan 6 *literal idioms*. *Pure idioms* menjadi jenis yang paling dominan karena banyak ungkapan dalam cerita memiliki makna kiasan yang tidak dapat dipahami secara harfiah. Ungkapan seperti “*goes like a dream*,” “*well up*,” dan “*write-off*” mencerminkan situasi emosional dan memperkuat suasana dramatik dalam cerita. Sementara itu, *semi idioms* dan *literal idioms* membantu membuat percakapan terdengar lebih alami dan realistis.

Abstract

This study are to identify the types of idiomatic expressions and to analyze their meanings found in the short story The Car. This research used a descriptive qualitative method because the data were analyzed in the form of words, phrases, and sentences rather than numbers. The findings showed that there were 25 idiomatic expressions found in the story. They consisted of 11 pure idioms, 8 semi idioms, and 6 literal idioms. Pure idioms became the most dominant type because many expressions in the story had figurative meanings that could not be understood literally. Expressions such as “goes like a dream,” “well up,” and “write-off” reflected emotional situations and strengthened the dramatic atmosphere of the story. Meanwhile, semi idioms and literal idioms helped make the conversations sound more natural and realistic.

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INTRODUCTION

In the modern era, English has become one of the most important international languages used in communication, education, technology, and global interaction. However, learning English is still considered challenging for many students, especially for non-native speakers. One of the major problems in current English learning is that students tend to focus more on grammar rules and vocabulary memorization rather than understanding how English is naturally used in real communication. According to David Nunan, language learners often experience difficulties in comprehending authentic language because classroom learning frequently emphasizes formal structures instead of communicative competence. In addition, students commonly struggle to understand contextual meanings, figurative language, and informal expressions found in authentic materials such as stories, films, and conversations. A study conducted by Jack C. Richards explains that successful language learning requires exposure to authentic communication and natural language use rather than isolated grammar instruction. Therefore, learners need materials that can help them understand English as it is naturally used by native speakers in everyday life.

Nowadays, online stories have become one of the most accessible and effective learning resources for English learners. Through digital platforms and websites, students can easily access various kinds of short stories, novels, and literary texts without financial limitations. Online stories provide authentic language input that can improve learners' vocabulary, reading comprehension, and understanding of language use in context. According to a study by Stephen Krashen, extensive reading through enjoyable materials can significantly improve language

acquisition because learners unconsciously absorb vocabulary and language patterns from meaningful contexts. In addition, literary works contain dialogues, emotions, and social interactions that reflect real communication. One interesting short story that contains many authentic expressions is *The Car*. The story presents realistic conversations and emotional situations that make it suitable for language analysis, especially in studying informal and idiomatic expressions. Therefore, online stories can be considered valuable media for developing students' language skills in a more enjoyable and meaningful way.

Understanding idiomatic expressions is also an important aspect of learning natural English. Idiomatic expressions are phrases whose meanings cannot be interpreted literally from the individual meanings of the words. According to Fernando Chitra and Richard Flavell, idioms are expressions that have figurative meanings and are commonly used in everyday communication by native speakers. Expressions such as "take it easy," "well up," and "saving up" are examples of idiomatic expressions frequently found in conversations and literary texts. Learners who do not understand idioms may face difficulties in understanding the intended meaning of a text or conversation. Furthermore, idiomatic expressions make communication sound more natural, expressive, and culturally appropriate. As stated by Norbert Schmitt, mastery of idiomatic expressions contributes significantly to communicative competence and fluency in English. Therefore, learning idiomatic expressions is essential for students who want to improve their understanding of authentic English usage.

Based on the explanations above, the writer is interested in conducting a study entitled "*An Analysis of Idiomatic Expressions Found in the Story Entitled The Car.*" This study aims to identify the

idiomatic expressions used in the story and analyze their contextual meanings. The writer chooses this topic because idiomatic expressions are commonly used in everyday communication but are often difficult for English learners to understand. Through this research, the writer expects that the findings can help students understand natural English expressions more effectively and improve their comprehension of authentic literary texts. In addition, this study is expected to provide useful references for students, teachers, and future researchers who are interested in semantics, idiomatic expressions, and literary analysis. By understanding idiomatic expressions contextually, learners can develop better communicative competence and use English more naturally in both spoken and written communication.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Concept of Language

Language is one of the most important tools in human communication. Through language, people express ideas, emotions, thoughts, and experiences. According to George Yule, language is “a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication” (Yule, 2010, p. 11). Language does not only function literally but also figuratively. In communication, people frequently use figurative language to create expressive and natural interaction.

One form of figurative language commonly used in English is idiomatic expression. Idiomatic expressions are often found in literary works such as novels, songs, movies, and short stories. Therefore, understanding idioms is important for English learners because idioms help readers understand implied meanings and cultural contexts.

Definition of Idiomatic Expressions

Idiomatic expressions are combinations of words whose meanings cannot be interpreted literally. According to Chitra Fernando, idioms are “conventionalized multi-word expressions” whose meanings are not predictable from their individual words (Fernando, 1996, p. 30).

Similarly, Michael McCarthy and Felicity O'Dell explain that idioms are expressions whose meanings differ from the literal meanings of the separate words (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2002, p. 6). For example, the idiom “give over” found in *The Car* does not literally mean “give something,” but it means “stop doing something.” Another idiom in the story is “goes like a dream,” which means functioning very smoothly. These examples show that idioms require contextual understanding.

Idiomatic expressions have several characteristics that distinguish them from ordinary expressions. According to Mona Baker, idioms are “frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form” (Baker, 1992, p. 63). The characteristics of idiomatic expressions include: 1. Fixed structure, 2. Non-literal meaning 3. Cultural influence. They are frequent use in daily communication. For instance, in *The Car*, expressions such as “take it easy,” “well up,” and “give over” cannot be translated word by word because they carry figurative meanings based on context.

Types of Idiomatic Expressions

According to Chitra Fernando, idiomatic expressions are divided into three types (Fernando, 1996, pp. 35–36): a. Pure Idiom: A pure idiom has a meaning completely different from its literal meaning. Example: “kick the bucket.” b. Semi-Idiom: A semi-idiom contains one literal element and one figurative element. Example: “foot the

bill.” c. Literal Idiom A literal idiom is easier to understand because the words still retain literal meanings. Example: “on foot.” In *The Car*, expressions such as “take it easy” and “well up in his eyes” can be categorized as idiomatic expressions because their meanings are figurative rather than literal.

Idiomatic Expressions in Short Stories

Short stories often use idiomatic expressions to create realistic dialogue and emotional atmosphere. According to Laurence Perrine, figurative language helps readers understand emotions and situations vividly (Perrine, 1992, p. 61).

The short story *The Car* by Andrew Rossiter contains many idiomatic expressions used in everyday communication. Expressions such as “take it easy,” “gone and nicked it,” and “well up in his eyes” make the story sound natural and realistic.

The story itself tells about Shafi, a young man who buys his dream car, but later experiences problems after the car is stolen and involved in a fatal accident. The use of idiomatic expressions strengthens the emotional and dramatic elements of the story.

Previous Studies

Beck and Weber (2020)

Sara D. Beck and Andrea Weber conducted a study entitled *Context and Literality in Idiom Processing: Evidence from Self-Paced Reading*. The study found that contextual information strongly affects idiom comprehension (Beck & Weber, 2020, pp. 837–863). Difference from the Present Study: The previous study focused on psycholinguistic processing of idioms, while the present research focuses on identifying and analyzing idiomatic expressions in the short story *The Car*.

Hubers, Cucchiari, and Strik (2020)

Ferdy Hubers and colleagues studied second-language learners’ understanding of

idioms. The study concluded that learners rely heavily on contextual clues to interpret idioms (Hubers et al., 2020, p. 102940). Difference from the Present Study: The previous study focused on second-language acquisition, while the present study focuses on idiomatic expressions used in literary texts.

Geeraert, Newman, and Baayen (2020)

The researchers analyzed variation in idiomatic expressions among speakers and found that idioms can change creatively while maintaining meaning (Geeraert et al., 2020, pp. 9–27). Difference from the Present Study: Their study discussed idiomatic variation in spoken language, whereas this research analyzes idioms in a short story.

Samburskiy (2020)

Denis Samburskiy studied the effect of visual learning techniques on idiom interpretation among ESL learners. The research showed that visual aids improve idiom comprehension (Samburskiy, 2020, pp. 187–206). Difference from the Present Study: The previous study focused on teaching strategies, while this research focuses on literary analysis.

Malyuga (2020)

Elena Malyuga analyzed idiomatic expressions in business discourse and found that idioms strengthen persuasive communication. Difference from the Present Study: Malyuga focused on business communication, while the present study examines idioms in fiction.

Rabinovich, Gonen, and Stevenson (2020)

The researchers investigated gender differences in idiomatic language usage. They found differences in emotional idiom usage between male and female speakers. Difference from the Present Study: The previous research discussed sociolinguistic aspects, while the present study focuses on literary idiom analysis.

Škvorc, Gantar, and Robnik-Šikonja (2020)

The researchers developed a computational system for identifying idiomatic expressions automatically. Difference from the Present Study: Their study belongs to computational linguistics, while the current research uses qualitative literary analysis.

Wilmot and Keller (2020)

David Wilmot and Frank Keller studied suspense in short stories using neural representation models. Difference from the Present Study: Their study analyzed suspense structure in stories, while the present research focuses specifically on idiomatic expressions.

Zeng et al. (2023)

Ziheng Zeng and colleagues developed a commonsense knowledge graph for idiomatic expressions in AI systems. Difference from the Present Study: The previous study focused on artificial intelligence, while the present study focuses on idioms in literature.

He et al. (2024)

Wei He and colleagues investigated idiomaticity in word representation models and found that AI models still struggle to fully understand idiomatic meanings. Difference from the Present Study: The previous study focused on AI language models, while the present study examines idiomatic expressions in the short story *The Car*.

Theoretical Framework

This study uses the theory proposed by Chitra Fernando to classify idiomatic expressions into pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms. In addition, theories from Michael McCarthy and Felicity O'Dell are used to interpret the meanings of idiomatic expressions contextually. The researcher identifies idiomatic expressions found in *The Car*, classifies their types, and explains their meanings based on the context of the story.

RESEARCH METHOD

Type and Research Approach

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative research is appropriate because the study focuses on analyzing idiomatic expressions found in the short story *The Car* by Andrew Rossiter. The researcher aims to identify, classify, and interpret the meanings of idiomatic expressions based on their contextual usage in the story.

According to John W. Creswell, qualitative research is “an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem” (Creswell, 2014, p. 4). This approach allows researchers to interpret language phenomena deeply and systematically.

Furthermore, descriptive research is used because the researcher describes the forms and meanings of idiomatic expressions without manipulating the data. Sugiyono states that descriptive qualitative research aims to describe and analyze phenomena naturally occurring in society (Sugiyono, 2019, p. 18).

In this study, the researcher analyzes idiomatic expressions by using the theory proposed by Fernando Chitra regarding the classification of idioms into pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms. The qualitative descriptive approach is suitable because the data are in the form of words, phrases, and sentences rather than numerical data.

Research Object and Subject

The object of this research is the idiomatic expressions found in the short story *The Car* written by Andrew Rossiter. The researcher focuses on identifying the types and meanings of idiomatic expressions used throughout the story.

According to Arikunto Suharsimi, the object of research is the variable or

phenomenon being investigated by the researcher (Arikunto, 2013, p. 161). Therefore, the object of this study is the idiomatic expressions appearing in the dialogues and narration of the story.

Meanwhile, the subject of the research is the short story entitled *The Car* itself. The story serves as the primary source of data because it contains various idiomatic expressions relevant to the research topic.

The researcher selects this story because it presents natural English expressions commonly used in daily communication. In addition, the story is accessible and suitable for analyzing idiomatic language in literary works.

Data Sources

The data sources in this study are divided into primary and secondary sources.

Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the short story *The Car* written by Andrew Rossiter. The primary data consist of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences containing idiomatic expressions found in the story.

According to Moleong Lexy J., primary data are data collected directly from the original source by the researcher (Moleong, 2017, p. 157). Therefore, all idiomatic expressions identified in the story become the main data analyzed in this research.

Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources include books, journals, articles, dictionaries, and previous studies related to idiomatic expressions and qualitative research methodology. These sources are used to support the analysis and strengthen the theoretical framework of the study.

According to Creswell John W., secondary sources help researchers interpret and validate findings obtained from primary data (Creswell, 2014, p. 75).

Some references used in this study include books about idioms, semantics, and qualitative research methods.

Data Collection Techniques

In collecting the data, the researcher uses documentation and note-taking techniques.

Documentation Technique

Documentation is used because the data are obtained from written materials, namely the short story *The Car*. Sugiyono explains that documentation refers to collecting data from written records, books, archives, or related documents (Sugiyono, 2019, p. 240). The researcher reads the story carefully to identify idiomatic expressions appearing in the text.

Note-Taking Technique

The note-taking technique is conducted by underlining and recording idiomatic expressions found in the story. The researcher then classifies the expressions based on the idiom types proposed by Fernando.

The procedures of collecting the data are as follows:

1. Reading the short story *The Car* repeatedly and carefully.
2. Identifying sentences containing idiomatic expressions.
3. Underlining and noting the idiomatic expressions.
4. Classifying the idioms based on their types.
5. Interpreting the meanings of the idiomatic expressions contextually.

Data Analysis Techniques

The researcher analyzes the data using descriptive qualitative analysis. The collected idiomatic expressions are classified and interpreted based on Fernando's theory of idioms. According to Miles Matthew B. and Huberman A. Michael, qualitative data

analysis consists of three activities: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing (Miles & Huberman, 1994, p. 10).

The steps of data analysis in this research are:

1. Data Reduction : The researcher selects and focuses on idiomatic expressions relevant to the research objectives.
2. Data Display : The identified idiomatic expressions are organized into tables according to their types and meanings.
3. Conclusion Drawing : The researcher interprets the meanings and draws conclusions about the types of idiomatic expressions found in the story.

To analyze the meaning of idioms, the researcher also considers the context in which the expressions are used. According to Palmer F. R., meaning in language cannot be separated from context because context helps determine interpretation (Palmer, 1981, p. 43). Thus, the researcher analyzes each idiomatic expression contextually to understand its intended meaning in the story.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research analyzed the idiomatic expressions found in the short story *The Car* written by Andrew Rossiter. The researcher used Fernando's theory (1996), which classifies idiomatic expressions into three categories: pure idiom, semi idiom, and literal idiom. After conducting the analysis, the researcher found 25 idiomatic expressions used throughout the story.

The findings are presented in the following table.

N o	Idiomatic Expression	Type of Idiom	Meaning
1	A really good bargain	Semi Idiom	something sold at a very good

			price
2	a better buy	Semi Idiom	a purchase with better value
3	In cash	Literal Idiom	paid directly using money
4	saving up	Pure Idiom	collecting money little by little
5	made do with	Pure Idiom	accepted something less satisfactory
6	cheap wreck	Semi idiom	cheap wreck
7	handed over	Pure Idiom	gave something to someone
8	good buy	Semi Idiom	a worthwhile purchase
9	headed for	Semi Idiom	going toward a place
10	badgering him	Pure Idiom	repeatedly bothering or urging someone
11	goes like a dream	Pure Idiom	runs very smoothly
12	on the door	Literal Idiom	working at the entrance of a club
13	take it easy	Literal Idiom	slow down or be careful
14	get done for speeding	Pure Idiom	be punished for speeding
15	as luck would have it	Pure Idiom	by

			chance or fortunatel y
16	looked round	Literal Idiom	turned to look around
17	smart job	Literal Idiom	something stylish or impressive
18	give over	Pure Idiom	stop doing something annoying
19	moved away	Literal Idiom	left the place
20	nicked it	Pure Idiom	stole something
21	well up	Pure Idiom	tears beginning to appear
22	put them down	Semi Idiom	placed something somewhere
23	yelling after 'em	Literal Idiom	shouting after someone
24	run you home	Semi Idiom	drive someone home
25	"Write-off"	Pure Idiom	a vehicle too badly damaged to repair

Based on the table above, the researcher found that pure idioms were the most dominant type appearing in the story. This happened because many expressions in the story have meanings that cannot be understood literally. Semi idioms were also frequently used, especially in conversations related to buying and driving the car. Meanwhile, literal idioms appeared less frequently because their meanings were still closely related to the literal interpretation of the words.

The researcher found 25 idiomatic expressions in the short story *The Car* written

by Andrew Rossiter. The idioms were classified into three types based on Fernando's theory. **There were 11 pure idioms, 8 semi idioms, and 6 literal idioms.** Pure idioms became the most dominant type because many expressions in the story have figurative meanings that cannot be understood literally, such as "made do with," "goes like a dream," and "write-off." These idioms function to create emotional depth, build tension, and make the story more expressive and natural. Semi idioms, such as "a good bargain" and "run you home," function to strengthen the realism of daily conversation while still carrying figurative meaning. Meanwhile, literal idioms, such as "take it easy" and "smart job," help make the dialogue sound more natural and communicative because their meanings are still closely related to the literal words. Overall, the use of idiomatic expressions in the story makes the conversations more lively, realistic, and emotionally engaging for the readers.

Discussion

1. "A really good bargain"

The expression "a really good bargain" is categorized as a semi idiom because one part of the expression still keeps its literal meaning. The word "bargain" literally refers to something sold cheaply, but contextually it means a very valuable offer. In the story, the salesman uses this expression to persuade Shafi to buy the car immediately. This idiom reflects Shafi's emotional attraction toward the car and shows how persuasive language can influence someone's decision. Contextually, the expression also symbolizes Shafi's dream of improving his social status through owning an expensive car.

2. "A better buy"

The phrase "a better buy" belongs to semi idiom because the word "buy" still

relates to purchasing something, while the overall meaning refers to better value. The salesman convinces Shafi that he will not find a more valuable car anywhere else. In the context of the story, this expression strengthens the salesman's persuasive strategy. It also reveals Shafi's excitement and desire to own something luxurious even though he cannot fully afford it.

3. "In cash"

The expression "in cash" is classified as a literal idiom because its meaning remains close to the literal interpretation. It means paying directly using money instead of installments or credit. In the story, the salesman offers Shafi the opportunity to pay part of the money immediately. Contextually, this expression highlights Shafi's financial struggle because he does not have enough money to fully purchase the car. It also reflects his determination to own the vehicle despite his economic limitations.

4. "Saving up"

The phrase "saving up" is categorized as a pure idiom because the meaning cannot be interpreted literally from the individual words. It means collecting money gradually over time. In the story, Shafi has been saving money since he was seventeen years old to buy a good car. Contextually, this idiom emphasizes Shafi's hard work and ambition. The car becomes a symbol of achievement and personal success after years of effort.

5. "Made do with"

The expression "made do with" belongs to pure idiom because the meaning is figurative. It means accepting something less satisfactory because there is no better choice. In the story, Shafi could have bought a cheap old car years before, but he refused because he wanted something better. Contextually, the idiom shows Shafi's pride and high expectations. He believes that owning a better car will improve his image and social position.

6. "Cheap wreck"

The phrase "cheap wreck" is categorized as a semi idiom because the words still partly retain their literal meaning. It refers to an old damaged car with little value. In the context of the story, this expression contrasts with the bright red car that Shafi finally buys. It reflects Shafi's unwillingness to accept an ordinary life. He wants a car that can make him feel successful and respected.

7. "Handed over"

The idiom "handed over" is classified as a pure idiom because it figuratively means giving something to another person. In the story, Shafi hands over the money to the salesman. Contextually, this expression represents an important turning point because Shafi finally achieves his dream. However, it also marks the beginning of the problems and tragedy connected with the car.

8. "Good buy"

The expression "good buy" belongs to semi idiom because the word "buy" still relates to purchasing something. The phrase means a worthwhile purchase. Shafi believes the car is worth the price because the insurance is included. Contextually, the idiom shows Shafi trying to convince himself that his decision is correct despite spending almost all his savings.

9. "Headed for"

The phrase "headed for" is categorized as a semi idiom because it means traveling toward a destination. After buying the car, Shafi drives toward Gemma's house. Contextually, the idiom symbolizes excitement and freedom. Shafi feels proud because he can finally drive his own car and impress Gemma.

10. "Badgering him"

The expression "badgering him" is classified as a pure idiom because the meaning is figurative. It means repeatedly urging or annoying someone. Gemma has

been encouraging Shafi to buy a car for a long time. Contextually, this idiom reveals Gemma's influence on Shafi's decision. It also shows that Shafi wants to satisfy Gemma and gain her admiration.

11. "Goes like a dream"

The idiom "goes like a dream" belongs to pure idiom because its meaning cannot be understood literally. It means the car runs very smoothly. Shafi proudly says this to Gemma after buying the vehicle. Contextually, the expression reflects his happiness and pride. Ironically, the perfect car later becomes the source of tragedy.

12. "On the door"

The phrase "on the door" is categorized as a literal idiom because it refers to working at the entrance of a club. Gemma says Jess is working there and may let them enter for free. In the story, this expression helps create the atmosphere of nightlife and youth culture. It also shows the social environment of the characters.

13. "Take it easy"

The expression "take it easy" belongs to literal idiom because the meaning is still close to the literal words. It means to slow down or be careful. Gemma says this when Shafi drives too fast. Contextually, the idiom acts as a warning and foreshadows the danger that will later happen in the story.

14. "Get done for speeding"

The phrase "get done for speeding" is classified as a pure idiom because it means being punished by the police for driving too fast. Gemma warns Shafi about speeding on the motorway. Contextually, this idiom reflects the reckless excitement of youth and hints at future disaster related to dangerous driving.

15. "As luck would have it"

The idiom "as luck would have it" belongs to pure idiom because the meaning is figurative. It means something happened by chance or fortunately. In the story, Shafi

finds a parking space near the club. Contextually, the expression creates temporary happiness before the tragic events happen later.

16. "Looked round"

The phrase "looked round" is categorized as a literal idiom because the meaning remains literal. It means turning around to look at something. Shafi does this when he hears Rooksby's voice in the club. Contextually, the expression introduces tension because Shafi immediately feels uncomfortable seeing Gemma's former boyfriend.

17. "Smart job"

The expression "smart job" belongs to literal idiom because it directly refers to something stylish or attractive. Rooksby sarcastically comments on Shafi's car. Contextually, the idiom reflects jealousy and mockery. Rooksby dislikes seeing Shafi appear more successful than him.

18. "Give over"

The phrase "give over" is classified as a pure idiom because it means to stop behaving annoyingly. Gemma says this when Rooksby insults Shafi. Contextually, the idiom reveals Gemma's irritation and highlights the conflict between the two men.

19. "Moved away"

The expression "moved away" belongs to literal idiom because it literally means leaving a place. After mocking Shafi, Rooksby leaves the conversation. Contextually, this expression shows the cold atmosphere between the characters and strengthens the tension in the story.

20. "Nicked it"

The idiom "nicked it" is categorized as a pure idiom because "nicked" figuratively means "stolen." Shafi realizes that someone has stolen his car. Contextually, this expression marks the beginning of the main conflict and tragedy.

The loss of the car destroys Shafi's happiness and dreams.

21. "Well up"

The phrase "well up" belongs to pure idiom because it refers to tears forming in someone's eyes. Shafi nearly cries after discovering that the car is missing. Contextually, this idiom shows Shafi's deep emotional pain because the car represents years of sacrifice and hope.

22. "Put them down"

The expression "put them down" is classified as a semi idiom because it means placing something somewhere temporarily. Shafi thinks he may have placed the keys somewhere in the club. Contextually, this expression reflects confusion and panic. It also increases the suspense of the story.

23. "Yelling after 'em"

The phrase "yelling after 'em" belongs to literal idiom because it literally means shouting after people. Rooksby tells Shafi that shouting will not bring the thieves back. Contextually, the expression emphasizes Shafi's helplessness and Rooksby's sarcastic attitude.

24. "Run you home"

The expression "run you home" is categorized as a semi idiom because "run" does not literally mean running physically. It means driving someone home. Rooksby offers Gemma a ride after the car is stolen. Contextually, this idiom shows Rooksby taking advantage of Shafi's bad situation and trying to reconnect with Gemma.

25. "Write-off"

The idiom "write-off" belongs to pure idiom because the meaning cannot be understood literally. It refers to a car that is damaged beyond repair. The police inform Shafi that the stolen car has been involved in a fatal accident. Contextually, the idiom symbolizes the destruction of Shafi's dreams and hopes. The car that once represented

success eventually becomes the source of tragedy and regret.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of idiomatic expressions found in the short story *The Car* written by Andrew Rossiter, the researcher concludes that idiomatic expressions play an important role in building the meaning and emotional atmosphere of the story. Using Fernando's theory, the researcher identified 25 idiomatic expressions consisting of 11 pure idioms, 8 semi idioms, and 6 literal idioms. Pure idioms were the most dominant type because many expressions in the story contain figurative meanings that cannot be interpreted literally. Expressions such as "goes like a dream," "well up," and "write-off" help readers understand the emotional condition of the characters and the tragic development of the story. The use of idiomatic expressions also makes the dialogue sound more natural, realistic, and similar to everyday communication used by native speakers.

Furthermore, the meanings of the idiomatic expressions were strongly connected to the context of the story. Most idioms reflected themes of ambition, social status, jealousy, disappointment, and tragedy experienced by the main character, Shafi. The idioms not only functioned as language styles, but also helped readers understand the characters' feelings and relationships more deeply. Through this research, the researcher found that understanding idiomatic expressions is very important in studying English literature because idioms often carry cultural and emotional meanings that cannot be translated literally. Therefore, this study proves that idiomatic expressions enrich literary works and improve readers' comprehension of the story as a whole.

SUGGESTION

Based on the results of this research, the researcher would like to give several suggestions for students, teachers, and future researchers. For students, especially English Department students, it is suggested to improve their understanding of idiomatic expressions because idioms are frequently used in daily conversations, movies, songs, and literary works. By understanding idioms, students can develop better comprehension skills and communicate more naturally in English. Students should also practice identifying contextual meanings because the meaning of idioms often depends on the situation in which they are used. Reading short stories, novels, and other literary texts can be an effective way to enrich vocabulary and increase knowledge about idiomatic language.

For teachers and future researchers, this study can be used as a reference for teaching idiomatic expressions in English learning. Teachers are encouraged to use literary works such as short stories because they provide authentic examples of idiomatic usage in context. Meanwhile, future researchers are suggested to conduct deeper studies about idiomatic expressions using different theories or different literary works such as novels, movies, songs, or dramas. Future studies may also analyze the cultural meaning, translation strategies, or semantic aspects of idioms. The researcher hopes that this research can contribute to the development of linguistics and literary studies, especially in understanding the use of idiomatic expressions in English literary texts

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