A STUDY OF IDIOMS FOUND IN FREEDOM WRITERS MOVIE

a Lely Oktaviani, b Misnadin, S.S., M.A., Ph.D.

a,b Department of Social and Cultural Sciences, Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences, University of Trunojoyo Madura

e-mail: akoctavianilely21@gmail.com, bMisnadin@trunojoyo.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This study focuses on idioms found in Freedom Writers movie. This study aims to find and explain the types of idioms found in the movie using the theory of types of idioms proposed by Fernando (1996) and the properties of idioms using the theory of properties of idioms proposed by Nunberg, Sag and Wasow (1994). This study employs qualitative design as the research design. In addition, content analysis is applied to obtain the data in which the writer becomes the key instrument of the study. Interactive data analysis, then, is conducted to analyze and explain the data. The data of the study are taken from the characters’ dialogues in Freedom Writers movie. This study shows the findings of the types of idioms and the properties of idioms. In terms of types of idioms, 45 data of idioms were found. The data are classified into three types of idioms: pure idioms (7 data), semi-idioms (10 data), and literal idioms (28 data). Moreover, in terms of properties of idioms, the data are classified into six properties: conventionality (the total 45 data), inflexibility (36 data of the total 45 data), figuration (2 data of the total 45 data), proverbiality (1 datum of the total 45 data), informality (6 data of the total 45 data), and affect (5 data of the total 45 data).

Keywords: Idioms, types of idioms, properties of idioms, Freedom Writers movie.

INTRODUCTION

Idioms are plentifully used in everyday language, especially in English. The idioms become special interest to many linguists to do research because the idioms generally consist of words with unpredictable meanings. Hurford (2007) states that idioms are multi-word phrases whose overall meanings are idiosyncratic and largely unpredictable, reflecting speaker meanings which are not derivable by combining the literal senses of the individual words in each phrase according to the regular semantic rules of the language. In other words, the meaning of idioms which is intended usually depends on the context in which the expression is used.

Idioms are included as figurative language or non-literal meaning. Figurative language uses figures of speech to be more effective, persuasive and impactful (Grice, 1975). Therefore, people have different purposes in using idioms in either conversation or literary works. Recently, many forms of literary works such as drama, poetry, novel, song lyric, short story and movie script become sources of data in doing research using the theory of idioms. The research focuses on the words found in the literary works indicating idioms. Therefore, the writer uses Freedom Writers movie as the source of data to analyze idioms.

Freedom Writers is a movie based on a true story which was taken from the Freedom Writers Diary by Erin Gruwell and her students. This movie took place in California, the United States of America. This movie was released
on January 5th, 2007. The running time or the duration of this movie is about 122 minutes or one hour and twenty-two minutes. The language used in this movie is English. Freedom Writers was directed by Richard LaGravenese and produced by Danny De Vito, Michael Shamberg, and Stacey Shen. The movie tells about racism problems happening in Long Beach, California.

So far, studies about idioms are not as many as studies about other subjects in semantics. The writer found several studies related to this issue. They were an analysis of idioms found in 366 Fair Tales by Colin Clark conducted by Siti Sri Wahyuningsih (2012) and a study conducted by Ja’far (2017) to analyze idioms found in A Boy and a Bear in a Boat short story. Neither analyzed idioms in Freedom Writers movie.

This study aims to find out and to explain the types of idioms and the properties of idioms found in Freedom Writers movie. In analyzing the types of idioms, the writer used the theory of types of idioms proposed by Fernando (1996). The types of idioms are divided into three types: pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms. While in analyzing the properties of idioms, the writer used the theory of properties of idioms proposed by Nunberg, Sag and Wasow (1994). The properties of idioms are divided into six properties: conventionality, inflexibility, figuration, proverbiality, informality, and affect.

METHODOLOGY

The writer employed a qualitative research in this study. The source of data chosen in this study is a movie entitled Freedom Writers released on January 5th, 2007. The data of this study are words, phrases and sentences which contain idiomatic expressions found in the movie. In collecting the data, the writer applied content analysis. The writer then analyzed the data based on Miles and Huberman’s interactive data analysis which consists of data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion. In data collection, the writer collected the data based on the statement of the research problems. The data were taken from Freedom Writers movie. Then in data reduction, the data were selected and reduced by classifying them into types and properties of idioms. Therefore, the data which were not appropriate or did not belong to idioms are omitted. The next process is data display where the writer explained more the data in discussion based on the types of idioms and the properties of idioms. And the last process is drawing conclusion/verification. The conclusion was explained based on the result of the data analysis. In addition, the writer provided some suggestions.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In findings, the writer collected words indicating idioms found in Freedom Writers movie. The writer found forty five data and classified them based on the types of idioms and the properties of idioms. To make easier, the writer used table in displaying the data. Therefore, the data classified into types of idioms; pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms proposed by Fernando (1996) are shown in Table 4.1.
Table 4.1 Types of Idioms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Types of Idioms</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Pure Idioms</td>
<td>Wagging your tongue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lay odds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>God</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>With all due respect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Can’t make heads or tails of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Made up her mind</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pull yourself together</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Semi-Idioms</td>
<td>Breaks my heart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In the light of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Put you all to shame</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Making fun of me</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pay respect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Take care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>got (Cohn) in her back pocket</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A great deal of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Remain in touch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Look me straight in the eye</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Literal Idioms</td>
<td>All right</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Excuse me</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Leave it alone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>On sight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Of course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>How dare you</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Make sense</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One by one</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Let nobody know</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Who cares</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sort of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In some ways</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nowhere in sight.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ain’t supposed to</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>All the way</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For real</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No more</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>For sure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Been blessed with</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Believe it or not</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Have no idea</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wait a minute</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Up against</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Even if</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>First of all</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Kind of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>In reality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The writer also classified the data into the properties of idioms by using a table. Based on the theory proposed by Nunberg, Sag and Wasow (1994), there are six properties of idioms: *conventionality, inflexibility, figuration, proverbiality, informality, and affect*. These are shown in the following table.

### Table 4.2 Properties of Idioms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Conventionality</th>
<th>Inflexibility</th>
<th>Figuration</th>
<th>Proverbiality</th>
<th>Informality</th>
<th>Affect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Wagging your tongue</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Lay odds</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>God</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>With all due respect</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Can’t make heads or tails of</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Made up her mind</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Pull yourself together</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Breaks my heart</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>In the light of</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Put you all to shame</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Making fun of me</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Pay respect</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Take care</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Got (Cohn) in (her) back pocket</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>A great deal of</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Remain in touch</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Look me straight in the eye</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>All right</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>Excuse me</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>Leave it alone</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21.</td>
<td>On sight</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.</td>
<td>Of course</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23.</td>
<td>How dare you</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>Make sense</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>One by one</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>let nobody know</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>Who cares</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>Sort of</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>In some ways</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>One day</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>Nowhere in sight</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>Ain't supposed to</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>All the way</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>For real</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>No more</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36.</td>
<td>For sure</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>Been blessed with</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.</td>
<td>Believe it or not</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39.</td>
<td>Have no idea</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40.</td>
<td>Wait a minute</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.</td>
<td>Up against</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.</td>
<td>Even if</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43.</td>
<td>First of all</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44.</td>
<td>Kind of</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45.</td>
<td>In reality</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table above shows that all properties are available for the data found in the *Freedom Writers* movie. Based on the frequency of each property, it can be seen that all properties of idioms are found in the source of data. Based on the data, conventionality becomes the most frequent property of idioms including all data found, that is forty five data. The next position provides that *inflexibility* is in the second position having thirty six data of the total forty five data found. Then, *informality* has six data of the total forty five data found, followed by *affect* having five data of the total forty five data found. The next property is figuration having two data of the total forty five data found and the lowest frequent property of idioms is *proverbiality* having one datum of the total forty five data found.
1. Types of Idioms

As Fernando (1996) stated, there are three types of idioms. The first type is pure idioms, the second type is semi-idioms, and the last is literal idioms. Based on the data found, literal idioms become the most frequent type of idioms, followed by semi-idioms and pure idioms. In this discussion, the writer analyzed each of the data classified into those types of idioms. Because the discussion deals with the meanings of the words constructing the idioms, the writer used *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Fifth edition)* and *Oxford Dictionary of Idioms (Second edition)* to know either basis meanings of the parts of the idioms or the whole meanings of the idioms. Therefore, both meanings can be compared each other.

a. Pure Idioms

Idioms are categorized as pure idioms when the meanings of the words cannot contribute to the whole meanings of the idioms. In this type of idioms, there are the total seven data explained. The writer analyzed two data as the representatives of the total seven data which are explained further in the discussion below.

That’s why you’re over there **wagging your tongue**.

(00: 11: 19)

The idiom *wagging your tongue* is formed by words whose literal meanings do not contribute to the whole meaning of the idiom. The idiom consists of the basis words *wag*, *your*, and *tongue*, whose literal meanings are different with the meaning of the idiom. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Fifth edition)* page 1335, the literal meaning of the word *wag* (verb) is *move or make a part of one’s body move quickly from side to side or up and down*, and the literal meaning of the word *your* (possessive pronoun) which is provided by the dictionary on page 138 means *belonging to you*, while the dictionary shows the literal meaning of the word *tongue* on page 1259 as *the soft organ in the mouth, used in tasting, swallowing, etc.* These literal meanings of the words do not correspond to the meaning of the idiom *wagging your tongue* whose meaning is *talk gossip* (*Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Fifth edition)* page 1259).

When the idiom is interpreted literally by adding up the literal meanings of those words, the meaning of the idiom will not be in accordance with the right meaning. When this case happens, the real message of the idiom that someone wants to deliver cannot be conveyed well. So, the idiom must be interpreted non-literally. Therefore, the idiom is categorized as pure idioms.

I’ll **lay odds** your kids don’t even know who Rap Brown or Eldridge Cleaver were. (00: 17: 53)

*Lay odds* is the idiom categorized as pure idioms because the idiom cannot be interpreted literally. The idiom has the basis word *lay* and the word *odds*. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Fifth edition)* page 667, the word *lay* (verb) literally means *placing something in a certain position*, while on page 801, the word *odds* (noun) literally means *the chance*. Whereas, the meaning of the idiom *lay odds* based on *Oxford Dictionary of Idioms (Second edition)* page 218 means *being very sure about something*. This case shows that the literal meanings of the words constructing the idiom do not correspond to the meaning of the idiom. When the
meaning of the idiom is replaced by the literal meanings of each word constructing the idiom, the intended message of the idiom will change. Therefore, the idiom *lay odds* is categorized as pure idioms.

b. Semi-Idioms

*Semi-idioms* can be categorized as the type of idioms whose meanings can be interpreted by combining the literal meanings and the non-literal meanings of words constructing the idioms. In addition, the use of the word itself to convey the meaning of the idiom is also allowed. There are ten data found that can be classified into this type of idioms. Two data are explained in detail below.

You’re gonna waste your talents on people who don’t give a damn about education. *It breaks my heart.*

(00: 18: 03)

The idiom *breaks my heart* is categorized as *semi-idioms*. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Fifth edition)*, the word *break* (verb) literally means *damage and separate something into two or more parts as result of force or strain* (page 134), the literal meaning of the word *my* (possessive pronoun) is *belonging to me* (page 770), and the word *heart* (noun) literally means *the center of one’s thought and emotion* (page 552). Whereas, the idiom *breaks my heart* expresses *feeling great sadness or distress of me* (*Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Fifth edition)* page 552) or can be meant to be *hurt my heart*.

When the literal meanings of the words are applied to convey the meaning of the idiom, the intended message of the idiom will change partially. Therefore, the idiom consists of two components: literal component and non-literal component. The literal component comes from the words *my heart* whose literal meaning is used to help in conveying the meaning of the idiom partially. In this case, the word *heart* contributes to understand the meaning of the idiom because sadness and distress are kind of emotion which are centered from someone’s heart, so that the meaning of the idiom has relation with the word *heart*. While, the word *break* is interpreted non-literally because the word does not contribute to convey the meaning of the idiom. Therefore, the idiom is categorized as semi-idioms.

Principal Banning would like to say something in the light of last night’s events. (00: 26: 51)

The idiom *in the light of* consists of the words *in, the, light, and of*. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Fifth edition)* page 681, the word *light* (noun) literally means *natural force making things visible*, while the dictionary provides the meaning of the idiom *in the light of* on page 682 which means *in the view of*. In this case, the words *in, the, and of* become the literal element of the idiom because semi-idioms allows the use of the word itself to convey the meaning of the idiom. Here, the words *in, the, and of* are added up to the expression *in the view of* which is the meaning of the idiom, and the word *light* becomes the non-literal element of the idiom which cannot be interpreted literally. When the literal meaning of the word *light* is used to interpret the meaning of the idiom, the intended message of the idiom cannot be delivered well because the meaning of the idiom will change partially. Therefore, the idiom is categorized as semi-idioms.
c. Literal Idioms

*Literal idioms* are the type of idioms whose meanings can be interpreted on the basis of their parts. This means that the words conveying the idioms are literally interpreted. In addition, the use of the word itself to convey the meaning of the idiom is also allowed. The writer analyzed two data as the representatives of the total twenty eight data. The analysis of each data is explained in detail below.

**Excuse me**, may I please get some help in here?  
(*00: 11: 31*)

The idiom *excuse me* is categorized as *literal idioms* whose each word constructing the idiom can be interpreted literally. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Fifth edition)* page 401, the word *excuse* (verb) literally means *pardon* which is used to forgive somebody for something, while the word *me* (personal pronoun) is used directly to convey the meaning of the idiom. When both the literal meaning of the word *excuse* and the word *me* are combined, that combination has same interpretation with the meaning of the idiom *excuse me* which means *pardon me* used to get the attention of somebody whom one does not know or to apologize when one interrupts, disagree, and has to behave in a way that impolite (*Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Fifth edition)* page 401). In this case, all the words constructing the idiom contribute to convey the meaning of the idiom. Therefore, the idiom is categorized as *literal idioms*.

**How dare you** compare them to Anne Frank?  
(*00: 39: 40*)

The idiom how dare you consists of the words how, dare and you. Those words have meanings contributing to convey the meaning of the idiom. According to Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Fifth edition) page 580, the word how (interrogative adverb) expresses shock for somebody or something, the word dare (verb) literally means being brave enough to do something dangerous or difficult (page 293), while the word you (personal pronoun) is applied directly to convey the meaning of the idiom. The idiom how dare you means how brave you which is used to express indignation at the actions of others (*Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Fifth edition)* page 293). This case shows each word constructing the idiom help in conveying the meaning of the idiom. Therefore, the idiom is categorized as *literal idioms*.

2. Properties of Idioms

According to Nunberg, Sag and Wasow (1994), there are six properties of idioms, those are: conventionality, inflexibility, figuration, proverbiality, informality, and affect. From the analysis, it is shown that the most frequent property found in the data is conventionality, followed by inflexibility, informality, affect, figuration, and proverbiality. Therefore, a detail explanation of each property is explained in the following discussion.

a. Conventionality

For this property, the writer explained two data from the total forty five data. Even though, not all data were explained in the following discussion, those two data represent all data found for conventionality property of idioms because only
conventionality as the property which must exist in the idioms. As Nunberg, Sag and Wasow (1994) have stated, idioms are conventionalized. Conventionality deals with the basic knowledge of the independent convention which is proved by the existence of the idiomatic expressions in the dictionary. In this case, to know that idioms have conventionality property, the writer checked the words indicating idioms in Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Fifth edition) and Oxford Dictionary of Idioms (Second edition).

**With all due respect**, all that program is doing is warehousing these kids until they’re old enough to disappear. *(00: 57: 16)*

The words *with all due respect* in the sentence above are included as idiom. It is provided by the Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary (Fifth edition) page 360. The idiom is used when *one is about to disagree, usually quite strongly, with somebody*. In this case, this idiom was said by Ms. Gruwell to show her disagreement about any school policy leaded by Ms. Campbell.

So, take a minute. **Pull yourself together** and come inside. *(01: 50: 29)*

The Oxford Dictionary of Idioms (Second edition) has proven that the words *pull yourself together* are included as idiom. The dictionary provides this idiom on page 242. The idiom is used to *ask someone to recover control of her/his emotion in order to be calmer*. In this case, Ms. Gruwell used this idiom to ask Andre, one of her students, to be calm after he got a problem.

b. Inflexibility

There are thirty six data from the total forty five data having inflexibility property. This property deals with syntactic frames which cannot be changed freely in order to structure new idioms syntactically from the basic syntactic idioms because not all idioms are freely composed expressions. The writer analyzed the data of this property by discussing two data as the representatives of the total data which can be categorized as having the inflexibility property. The data are explained in the following discussion.

I’ll **lay odds** your kids don’t even know who Rap Brown or Eldridge Cleaver were. *(00: 17: 53)*

The idiom *lay odds* is one of the idioms having inflexibility property because this idiom cannot be changed freely for its syntactic frame. For instance, it cannot be changed to be passive voice, *odds are laid* or *odds are easy to lay*. The words have fixed syntactic frame when they are included as the idiom. Although the words can be changed to be negative sentence, for example, *do not lay odds*, the syntactic frame of the words are still categorized as simple sentence consisting of verb *lay* and noun/object *odds*.

Are you **making fun of me**? *(00: 39: 36)*
The last representative of the idioms having inflexibility is *make fun of somebody/something*. This idiom syntactically consists of verb *make*, noun *fun*, preposition *of*, and noun *somebody/something*. In the sentence above, the words have same syntactic frame with the basic idiom. It can be analyzed that the word *making is* a verb, *fun* is a noun, *of* is preposition, and *me*, as the reference of *somebody/something*, is a noun. The idiom cannot be arranged syntactically freely, for instance, to be *I make of fun* or *make me fun*, etc.

c. Figuration

*Figuration* means figurative language. As Nunberg, Sag and Wasow (1994) have stated, some idioms involve several kinds of figurative languages, such as metaphors, metonymies, hyperboles or other kinds of figuration. In the data, the writer found two data of idioms involving figurative language. The analysis of each data is explained in the following discussion.

You're gonna waste your talents on people who don’t give a damn about education. It *breaks my heart*.

(00: 18: 03)

The idiom *breaks my heart* in the sentences above has *figuration* property because the idiom involves a kind of figurative language that is metonymy. Metonymy is a figure of speech replacing the name or concept of a thing with the name or concept of something else which is closely associated. In this case, the word *heart* replaces *feeling* which is related each other. When someone talks something relating to her/his heart, it has related to how her/his feeling is. Therefore, this idiom is included as the idiom involving metonymy.

When Ms. G *made up her mind* about something, there was no stopping her man, for real. (01: 25: 18)

*Made up her mind* is the idiom involving *figuration* property. The idiom involves figurative language, called as metaphor. Metaphor is a kind of figurative languages used to make a comparison between two things that are not alike but do have something in common. Here, the word *mind* which stands alone does not function as a metaphor. However, the collocating verb *make up* makes the word *mind* function as a metaphor.

In this case, the collocating verb *make up* is generally used to *do something with someone’s face, such as to put powder, lipstick, etc, in order to change it or to make it more attractive*, while in the sentences above, the verb is used for *mind* which is a matter that cannot be viewed by someone. Those two things are not alike but do have something in common that is both face and mind can be changed. The difference is that *face* is made up for its appearance while *mind* is made up for its decision. Therefore, this idiom involves metaphor.

d. Proverbiality

*Proverbiality* means that idioms become well known sentences or phrases that state a general truth about life or give advices. Only one datum of the total data found in the movie has this kind of property. The analysis of this datum is explained in detail in the following discussion.
This gang would put you all to shame. (00: 30: 39)

The idiom in the sentence above involves proverbiality property. When someone heard the idiom, the meaning of the idiom can directly appear in their mind and they are able to interpret it because the idiom becomes well-known phrases, especially for Christians. The idiom is mentioned in the Contemporary English Version of Bible that is too much pride can put you to shame. It’s wiser to be humble (Proverbs 11:2). In this case, the idiom is used to advice Christians in order to always be humble and not be arrogant to others. Therefore, this idiom involves proverbiality property.

e. Informality

This property deals with the common use of idioms in spoken rather than in written language. The idioms having this property are associated with relatively informal English registers that can be analyzed not only by checking whether the idioms are categorized in informal language in the dictionary but also by looking at the users and the receivers of the idioms, the situation when using the idioms, or the language features of the idioms. For this property, the writer found six idioms having this informality property. The writer analyzed two data in detail in the following discussion.

Could I get some sort of a discount? (00: 55: 58)

The next idiom involving informality property found by the writer is sort of. The idiom is used to express uncertainty of something which is purposefully vague language because the idiom has made the sentence above less assertive. In this case, the idiom sort of was used by Ms. Gruwell to ask to clerk of bookstore for getting a discount when she wanted to order any books. She asked uncertainly to the clerk because she actually knew that the books which she wanted to order were brand new books which could not have a discount.

When Ms. G made up her mind about something, there was no stopping her, man. for real. (01: 25: 21)

The idiom for real in the sentence above expresses a serious opinion used by Marcus, one of Ms. Gruwell’s students to explain Ms. Gruwell’s personality and capability in teaching him and his friends. The idiom is followed by a form of address, man, used for informally expressing an argument in a lively, angry or impatient way to anyone who hears. In this case, the word man was used in lively way by Marcus to emphasize that his teacher, Ms. Gruwell, could not be influenced by anyone in deciding something. Therefore, the idiom involves informality property.

f. Affect

Affect is the property of idioms differing the phrases which uses the idioms and not. The use of idioms makes the sentences or the phrases become smoother when it is heard. Then, it can affect someone’s behavior or action either to be better or worse. The writer had found five data of the idioms involving the affect property. The analysis of two representatives of the idioms are explained in the following discussion.
**God**, listen to what you’re saying. (00: 39: 38)

_God_ is one of the idioms found in _Freedom Writers_ movie involving property of _affect_. The idiom was used by Mr. Gelford to express his annoyance to Ms. Gruwell because she compared some universal stories, like _Anne Frank_ and _Rodney King_, to her students whose stories of life in view of him were not as same as the universal stories. Mr. Gelford had made Ms. Gruwell feel ashamed of his saying to other teachers around them after he expressed the idiom. The idiom expressed had lost Ms. Gruwell’s confidence in saying something till she left the office.

**With all due respect**, all that program is doing is warehousing these kids until they’re old enough to disappear. (00: 57: 16)

Another idiom involving _affect_ property is _with all due respect_. The idiom can affect someone who hears it to change their decision because the idiom is quite strongly used to express someone’s disagreement relating to something by adding some strong reasons. Here, the idiom was used by Ms. Gruwell to influence Dr. Cohn’s decision in giving her a permission to let her do school trips. And finally, she got it.

**CONCLUSION**

The aims of this study are to find out and to explain the types of idioms and the properties of idioms found in _Freedom Writers_ movie. The writer found 45 data which are included as the entries of the idioms. In analyzing the types of idioms, the writer used the theory of types of idioms proposed by Fernando (1996). The types of idioms are divided into three types: _pure idioms_, _semi-idioms_, and _literal idioms_. Based on the theory, the writer found 7 data belonging to _pure idioms_, 10 data belonging to _semi-idioms_, and 28 data belonging to _literal idioms_.

While in analyzing the properties of idioms, the writer used the theory of properties of idioms proposed by Nunberg, Sag and Wasow (1994). The properties of idioms are divided into six properties: _conventionality_, _inflexibility_, _figuration_, _proverbiality_, _informality_, and _affect_. Relating to this theory, the writer found all data that is 45 data having property of _conventionality_, 36 data having _inflexibility_ property, 2 data having _figuration_ property, 1 datum having property of _proverbiality_, 6 data having _informality_ property, and 5 data having property of _affect_. From those findings, the writer concluded that _literal idioms_ becomes the most frequent type of the idioms, and _conventionality_ property is the most frequent property of the idioms found in _Freedom Writers_ movie.

**REFERENCES**


