

# THE CULTURAL ANALYSIS OF IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN *THE HANGOVER* 2013 MOVIE BY TOD PHILIPS

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## Abstract

This research is designed to explain the cultural expressions shown in the movie (*The Hangover*). The goals of this research are (1) to find the idiomatic expressions used in the movie (*Hangover*) and (2) the types of idiomatic expressions described in the movie. This research is descriptive qualitative research. The researchers completed several steps: All *The Hangover* films with English and Indonesian subtitles were retrieved from [www.Subscene.com](http://www.Subscene.com). The researchers put idiomatic expressions in films based entirely on Indonesian subtitles. Idiomatic expressions can be the focus of this step after the researcher analyzes the method of developing idiomatic expressions in *The Hangover* movie. Based on research the researchers identified 35 idiomatic expressions from the *Hangover* movie. There are three types of idiomatic expressions. There are 3 Trinomial, 7 Euphemisms, and 25 Fixed statements that can be consistent statements.

**Keywords:** Idiomatic expressions, *Hangover*, Movie, Cultural

## Introduction

Learning language is very important. Language is used by people to communicate with others. The identity of any human society is a well-developed language. In daily life, people absolutely need a communication in fulfilling their requirements. Without language people cannot interact and communicate with other thus they cannot fulfill their requirements. Language plays a role in our daily lives, because language is a way to communicate our ideas to others. One's language can express feelings, desires, opinions and needs of each individual (Yang and Dai 2014: 15).

According to Mart (2012:11), language cannot separate from human life. People cannot do something very well without language because there are many aspects in this live which need language. For example, while people buy something, they need language to communicate with the seller, if there are no communication between buyer and seller that means there are no transaction. If there are no transaction that means people cannot fulfill their requirements. While people cannot fulfill their requirements, they cannot live well. Based on the example above language has big role in this live so learning language is very important. Moreover, people can express their feeling and ideas to other by language. They can express what they want to other by language.

While people were born in this world, the first thing that educated to them is language. There are so many languages in this world. Most of countries in this world have their own languages. The languages have different characteristic. The differences caused by the society and the culture that form the languages. The differences is society and culture formed many languages in this world. One of the languages in this world is English language. English is one of language that should be learnt by people. According to Richards as cited from Nur Indah (2014) "Latin was the most widely studied foreign language five hundred years ago. However, English has become the most widely studied foreign language today."

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English is the most widely studied because English has become international language in this era. As international language, English has been mostly used by people and English has become popular language in this world. English is used in many aspects of life. One of the aspects use English language is technology. English language is used in many devices of technology for example Smartphone, personal computer, television, etc. Now, most of the device use English language. For example, Smartphone, most of Smartphone use English language as default language. Although the Smartphones has not been made in English, the Smartphones still use English language as default language. The example shows that English language has big role in this life. One of important aspects in English language that is very important to learn is vocabulary. Vocabulary has big role when people speak with other. When people have conversation, they must have a lot of vocabularies thus they can get the point of the conversation. Rohmatillah (2017) asserts that without learning the vocabulary communication in the second language becomes harder. Further, vocabulary knowledge is an integral part of the language; it is central to communicative competence.

When learning English language, there are so many challenges. One of challenges in learning English language is when learning about vocabulary. However, learning vocabulary is very important in order to understand the meaning of expression in English language. When learning vocabulary there are phrases or sentences which cannot be explained by grammars theories. In English language phrases or sentences which cannot be explained by grammar theories are called idiom. (Atiqah & Straksiene, 2014) says that idioms are often unpredictable in meaning, that is, their meanings cannot always be derived from literal meanings of the constituent parts. The meaning of idiom is unpredictable. The meaning of idiom is different with original meaning; in other word idiom contains figurative meaning. Figurative meaning in idiom is one of challenges for learners.

Idiom is a combination of words that has a meaning that is different from the meanings of the individual words themselves (Womark 2012: 15). When used in everyday language, they have a meaning other than the basic one you would find in the dictionary. Every language has its own idiom which is developed according to the culture of the source language. When we are learning a language, we must learn the idioms too because they are part of communication. Idioms are expressions of at least two words which cannot be understood literally and which function as a unit semantically” (O’Dell and McCarthy, 2012: 30).

Idiomatic expressions are often used by the people when they are communicating. Idiomatic expressions have existed since the beginning of language. An idiom is an expression that is a term or a group of words whose meaning cannot be deduced from the literal definitions. It can be a phrase or sentence whose meaning is not obvious through knowledge of the individual meanings of the constituent words but must be learned as a whole (Peregin 2011: 177). In linguistic, an idiom is widely assumed to be figures of speech that contradict the principle of compositionality (Deweale, 2015).

Informal idiomatic expressions can be found in literature, music and movies. Besides having metaphor in it, idioms also can be different from one country to another. It happens because the differences of culture between the SL area and the TL area. Culture plays an important role in the course of the idiom interpretation. Only by having, a solid foundation of the culture of the target language, the translator can catch the implied meaning. Therefore, sometimes there are idioms from the SL which do not have any equal idioms in the TL.

Based on the complexity of idiom expressions, especially related to the translation of it, it will be reasonable to conduct a research about it. In this research, film becomes an object of the study. Film as one of the literary works where the function is to entertain and to gain information, providing new knowledge to society. Whatever the genre or the theme, film always leaves a moral message to people that can be absorbed easily. Also, understanding a film can be easier than reading a written text like a book. So, film is strategically used for communication tools for many people. Film is also a conductor of information to the society. So, based the explanation about this research is conducted

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under the title, “*The Cultural Analysis of Idiomatic Expressions in The Hangover 2013 Movie by Tod Philips*”.

The research topic was chosen for the following reasons:

1. The idiom is very efficient to develop their skill in finding some experience about movie based on cultural idiom.

2. People can learn English easily by watching a movie.

Statements of the problem:

1. What are the idiomatic expressions found in The Hangover Movie?

2. What are the classifications of idiomatic expressions in The Hangover Movie?

3. What are the realizations of cultural aspect in The Hangover Movie?

Objectives of the study:

1. To find out the idiomatic expressions found in *The Hangover Movie*.

2. To describe about the classification of idiomatic expressions that applied in *The Hangover Movie*.

3. To find out the realizations of cultural aspect in *The Hangover Movie*.

## Literature Review

### 1. Idiomatic Expression

Idiomatic expressions are part of every language's vocabulary and are based on the history, heritage, and culture of that language. Non-native speakers of a language can improve their fluency and sound more native by learning idiomatic expressions. Idiomatic expressions, often known as idioms, are plentiful in the English language and appear frequently. At least 25,000 idiomatic expressions are thought to exist in the English language (American English Idiom, 2014). Idiomatic expressions in English are used in formal and informal communication (Laflin, 1996). Idiomatic expressions are those whose meanings cannot be deduced from the meanings of the words that comprise them (American English Idiom, 2014).

On the other hand, it is also described as a statement, term, or phrase with a metaphorical meaning that is conventionally understood by native speakers. This meaning is different from the literal meaning of the idiom's individual elements. In other words, idioms do not mean exactly what the words say. They have, however, hidden meanings (American English Idiom, 2015). For example, the idiomatic term "to kick the bucket" has nothing to do with the actual activity of kicking a bucket with your legs, which is a part of the body. The idiom "to kick the bucket" means "to die". So, an idiomatic expression carries a figurative meaning, not a literal one. That is, it has a meaning that cannot be deduced just from the literal meanings of the words that comprise it. Thus, idiomatic expressions in linguistics contradict the compositionality principle, which stipulates that the meaning of a whole should be built from the meanings of the components that make up the whole.

### 2. Movie

A film, also called a movie or motion picture, is a series of still or moving images. It is produced by recording photographic images with cameras, or by creating images using animation techniques or visual effects. The process of filmmaking has developed into an art form and industry. Films are made up of a series of individual images called frames. When these images are shown rapidly in succession, a viewer has the illusion that motion is occurring. The viewer cannot see the flickering between frames due to an effect known as persistence of vision, whereby the eye retains a visual image for a fraction of a second after the source has been removed. Viewers perceive motion due to a psychological effect called beta movement.

The origin of the name "film" comes from the fact that photographic film (also called film stock) has historically been the primary medium for recording and displaying motion pictures. Many other

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terms exist for an individual motion picture, including picture, picture show, moving picture, photo-play and flick. A common name for film in the United States is movie, while in Europe the term film is preferred. Additional terms for the field in general include the big screen, the silver screen, the cinema and the movies. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Film>).

### 3. Cultural

All languages have phrases or sentences that cannot be understood literally; even if you know the meaning of all the words in a phrase and understand the grammar completely, the meaning of such phrases may be still confusing or misleading (Liontas, 2006). These idiomatic expressions deal with landmark events and important historical figures. They are therefore particular to certain cultures. For example, in the United States, "John Hancock" means to provide a signature. This expression references one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, John Hancock, whose signature is one of the largest and most distinct on the document. Another example is "Honest Abe." This idiom alludes to the fabled honesty of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States.

McCarthy and O'Dell argue that idioms are divided into seven types. There are:

a. Simile

Simile is a type of idiom that always involve the words as or like.

b. Binomials

Binomials are types of idiom in which two words are connected by a and. The formula adj + and + adj.

c. Euphemism

This idiom that used to avoid harsh or offensive words.

d. Proverbs

This idiom usually used to give and advice or warnings.

e. Cliché

Cliché is idiom expressions that are used in every situation to comment.

f. Fix Statement

This idiom that always you heard and used in everyday situation.

g. Other

This idiom that from other language like France or Italian.

### Method

In this research, the researcher employs descriptive qualitative research. According to Creswell (2009), the object of this research is the script from *The Hangover* Movie. The purpose of this study is to examine the Cultural idioms from the film. While the data of this study was taken from dialogue transcript *The Hangover* Movie. Data collection in this study the writer found the script of *The Hangover* Movie, then selected the idioms based on dialogue transcript of *The Hangover*, and then identifies the idioms realized on the dialogue transcript of *The Hangover* movie. Finally describes the idioms from dialogue transcript of *The Hangover* movie.

### Findings and Discussion

The examination of the idioms employed in *The Hangover* film is explained by these findings. The data analysis is concentrated on *The Hangover* movie's dialogue transcript. The following section is a presentation of the study's findings:

#### 1. The idioms are used in dialogue transcript of The Hangover movie.

The researcher uses McCharty & O'Dell's theory to analyze dialogue transcript of *The Hangover* movie. The writer found several classes of types idioms in dialogue transcript of *The Hangover* movie. The researcher serves the data in the table.

Table.1 Total the types of idioms in *The Hangover* movie

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No	Types of Idioms	Found	%
1	Fixed Statement	25	75%
2	Euphemism	7	20%
3	Trinomial	3	5%

The conversation transcript from *The Hangover* movie contains a variety of idioms, as can be seen in the table above. 35 different types of idioms were detected in the dialogue transcript. Twenty five Fixed Statement, seven Euphemisms, and three Trinomial. The examination of the various idioms in the *Hangover* movie yielded the following results:

Table 2 The example types of idioms in *The Hangover* movie

No	Types of Idiomatic	Idiomatic Expression
1	Fixed Statement	Stepped Off
		Hold Up
		Picking On
		Let him out
		Get Out
		Look for
		Wash Out
		Look Up
		Pull you out
		Take your ring off
		Keep your head down
		Coming up
		Work up
		Top brass
		Hang on
		Hold on
		Look down
		Carve up
		Get up
		Come on
		Come down to
		Ease off
		Picking us off
		Stand down
		Fade away
Pissed you off		
Shutting us down		
2	Euphemism	Knocked me up
		Flushing them out
		Eye for eye, tooth for tooth
		Light us up
3	Trinomial	Get him off
		Look out for
		Come Away With
		Faint of heart

## 2. Meanings of Idioms in the *Hangover* Movie.

Idioms are terms that cannot be comprehended literally; hence, it is impossible to convey an idiom's meaning word for word. The researcher looked up the definitions of the idioms used in the *Hangover* movie. The following is how the researcher interprets various idioms from the *Hangover* movie:

1. Fixed Statement is an expression that you can often hear and also we can use in everyday conversation. Here some parts of fixed statement that found in the movie.

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a. Stepped off

Sentence number 8, “He stepped off.”

The original form of *stepped off* is *step off*. According to Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw Hill, the meaning of *Step off* is “to come off something by taking a step.” In this case *Step off* has denotative meaning, so according to Leech theory *step off* has “conceptual meaning”

b. Hold up

Sentence number 9, “Hold up. I got a woman and a kid,…”

The expression consists of two words, *hold* and *up*. Based on Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw Hill, the meaning of *hold up* is “to delay or postpone further action.” Based on Leech theory, *hold up* has “connotative meaning” because the meaning of *hold up* refers to other meaning which the meaning is above its conceptual meaning.

c. Picking on

Sentence number 34, “The guy was picking on Jeff.”

*Picking on* has original form. The original form of *picking on* is *pick ...on*. According to Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw Hill, the meaning of *pick on* is “to harass or bother someone or something, usually unfairly.” Based on Leech theory *Pick ...on* has “connotative meaning” because the meaning of *pick ...on* refer to other meaning which the meaning is above its conceptual meaning.

d. Let him out

Sentence number 52, “Just let him out. He didn’t know.”

Idiom of the expression is *let...out*. Based on Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw Hill, the meaning of *Let...out* is “to permit someone to exit from something or some place.” In this case *Let...out* has denotative meaning, so according to Leech theory, *Let...out* has “conceptual meaning”

e. Get out

Sentence number 55, “get out”

According to Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw Hill the meaning of *get out* is “to depart to the outside or to escape.” Based on Leech theory *get out* has “conceptual meaning” because the meaning is appropriate with the real meaning.

f. Look for

Sentence number 74, “Don’t turn away. Look for and take it.”

*Look for* composed by two words *look* and *for*. According to Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw Hill the meaning of *look for* is “to search.” In this case, the meaning of *look for* is appropriate with the real meaning. According to Leech theory *look for* has “conceptual meaning”

2. Euphemism is a type of idiom used to avoid saying words which may offend or be considered unpleasant. They are useful to learn, as they will help you communicate using language which is appropriate for the situation you are in. Euphemisms that found in this movie are :

a. Pissed you off

Sentence number 64, “And you’re from Texas and you’re a patriot so it pissed you off.”

Pissed you off is a sentence than contain an idiom. The idiom is *pissed...off*, *pissed...off* consists of two words. According to Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw Hill the meaning of *pissed...off* is “make angry.” Based on Leech theory *pissed...off* has “connotative meaning” because the meaning of *pissed...off* refer to other meaning which the meaning is above its conceptual meaning.

b. Shutting us down

Sentence number 398, “They’re shutting us down.”

The expression contains an idiom. The idiom is *shut...down*. According to Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw Hill the meaning of *shut...down* is “close something down.” Based on Leech theory *shut...down* has “connotative meaning” because the meaning of *shut...down* refer to other meaning which the meaning is above its conceptual meaning.

c. Knocked me up

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Sentence number 283, “You knocked me up...”

The expression contains an idiom. The idiom is *knocked...up*. Based on Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw Hill the meaning of *knocked...up* is “make a woman pregnant.” Based on Leech theory *knocked...up* has “connotative meaning” because the meaning of *knocked...up* refer to other meaning which the meaning is above its conceptual meaning.

d. Flushing them out

Sentence number 555, “...Flushing them out the back.”

Flushing *them out* is an expression that contains an idiom. The idiom of the expression is *flushing...out*. The meaning of *flushing...out* based on American Idioms by McGraw Hill is “to cause someone or something to leave a hiding place.” Based on Leech theory *flushing...out* has “connotative meaning” because the meaning of *flushing...out* refer to other meaning which the meaning is above its conceptual meaning.

3. Trinomial are a similar type of idiom, in which three words are joined. Example: I've looked here, there and everywhere for my glasses but cannot find them. (everywhere). Here some Trinomial that found in this movie are:

a. Faint of heart

Sentence number 70, “This isn't for the faint of heart...”

*Faint of heart* is an expression that has figurative meaning. Based on Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw Hill the meaning of *Faint of heart* is “someone who is sickened or disturbed by unpleasantness or challenge.” In Based on Leech theory *Faint of heart* has “affective meaning” because the meaning of *Faint of heart* reflects the personal feeling of the character in this movie.

b. Look out for

Sentence number 214, “...You stay here and be on the look out for farm animals.”

According to Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw Hill the meaning of *look out for* is “Go to watch out for.” Based on Leech theory *look out for* has “conceptual meaning” because the meaning of *look out for* is appropriate with the real meaning.

c. Come away with

Sentence number 40, “Wasn't nobody there and you come away with a belt buckle...”

According to Dictionary of American Idioms by McGraw Hill, the meaning of *come away with* is “to go away or travel away with.” In this case, the meaning *come away* conveys social circumstance of the character on the movie. So, according to Leech theory *come away* has “social meaning.”

As can be seen from the study's findings, there are certain studies that differ and others that are similar when compared to earlier research. The research is from Syapa'ah (2013) entitled: A Translation Analysis of Idiom in the Subtitle “The Devil Wears Prada” Movie, a thesis in English Education Department of Tarbiyah Faculty of Syekh Nurjati State Institute for Islamic Studies Cirebon, 2013. The aims of this research were identified what types of idioms frequently found in the subtitle “The Devil Wears Prada” movie and identified dominant idiom frequently found in The Devil Wears Prada movie. The methods of this research are qualitative research and descriptive method. Based on this research the type of idiom that found on “The Devil Wears Prada” movie are simile, clichés, fixed statement, and other language. The research above has similarity to my own research. The similarity is this research investigated the types of idiom that exists on a movie. On the other hand, my own research has difference to this research that is my research doesn't investigate about the dominant idiom frequently found in the movie.

### 3. The Contribution of Hangover Movie to Teaching English.

The idiom in the *Hangover* movie will be examined in this study. In addition, this study contributes to the idiom-based vocabulary enrichment of movies, particularly *Hangover Movie*. Idioms can be taught simply and effectively by watching movies, which attempt to expand vocabulary. Because teachers and students can easily access and understand movie media. Thomas C. Cooper states in his

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book "Teaching Idioms" that there are teaching options for idiom selection that can be comprehended by some groups, including selecting terms with clear meaning, often heard idioms, and related idioms. This may also have an impact on how well students and teachers are able to absorb idioms and expand their vocabulary.

This research has some influences on pedagogy. The influences are: (1) This research explained the way to get idiomatic expression from a movie, English teacher or English lecturer can use this research as reference to explain about the way to get idiomatic expression from a movie to their learner in order to their learner can understand well about the way to get idiomatic expression from a movie. (2) This research can give additional material to English teacher or English lecturer while they teach idiomatic expression. This research got some idiomatic expressions from *The Hangover* movie. This research also classified the idiomatic expressions that found in the movie based on the type. Moreover, this research also explained the meaning of the idiomatic expressions. Thus, this research can give additional material about idiomatic expression to English lecturer or English teacher. (3) Through this research, English teacher or English lecturer can deliver to their learner that learning idiomatic expression is not only using book. Learning idiomatic expression can use other media like movie. This research can be used as an example to the learner that idiomatic expressions not only found in books but also in movies. (4) This research can stimulate learners to learn about idiomatic expression, especially learn idiomatic expression using a movie because this research explained idiomatic expression through a movie. The writer of this research also explained that learning idiomatic expression is more interesting when using a movie as the media, so this research can stimulate the learners to learn idiomatic expression through a movie.

Additionally, it improves their motivation and advances their education in the arts. Studying idioms involves more than just memorization; it also entails gaining insight into the right and efficient usage of idioms in everyday conversation. These ideas can be used in educational activities, particularly when teaching English.

## Conclusion

The writer found 35 idiomatic expressions in *The Hangover* Movie. *The Hangover* Movie has a lot of idiomatic expressions with the different types. Moreover, the idiomatic expressions also have different type of meaning. There are 4 types of idiomatic expression's meaning. Thus, watching movie is one way to learning about idiomatic expression. The learner can watch movie without ignored aspect of idiomatic expression that exist in the movie. The learners can use movie as entertainment moreover they can use movie to add their knowledge, especially about idiomatic expression for this case.

In pedagogy, the teacher can provide their learner with practices in order to add knowledge their learner about idiomatic expression. In this case, the teacher can ask their learner to find idiomatic expression with the type and the meaning from a movie. Practice like that, can make the learners more interested to learn about idiomatic expression.

The author also concludes that this study can benefit English language instruction because idioms play a significant part in foreign language acquisition and can help students become more linguistically proficient.

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