

# UNVEILING IDIOM USAGE: ANALYZING FREQUENCY AND CONTEXT IN STUDENTS' DIARIES OF FAVORITE SONG OF THE 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS IN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Dian Ayu Ratnasari<sup>1\*</sup>, Theresia Cicik Sophia<sup>2</sup>, Sukma Nur Ardini<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Universitas PGRI Semarang

<sup>2</sup>Universitas PGRI Semarang

<sup>3</sup>Universitas PGRI Semarang

\*[ratnasaridian64@gmail.com](mailto:ratnasaridian64@gmail.com), [ciciksophia@upgris.ac.id](mailto:ciciksophia@upgris.ac.id), [sukmanurardini@upgris.ac.id](mailto:sukmanurardini@upgris.ac.id)

## ABSTRACT

The research aimed at identifying the frequency and context of the different idiomatic used diaries of favorite song in the diary writing. It employed the theory of McCarty and O'Dell and an idiom dictionary to address the set research topics. This research employed qualitative descriptive research techniques. The data were gathered from students grade 12<sup>th</sup>. Then, they were analyzed by reducing and displaying information to draw conclusions. The result revealed that; 1) the six kinds of McCarty and O'Dell idiomatic idioms were discovered in the diaries: My Favorite Song. 2) the six categories of terms are Similes idioms (1%), Phrasal verb idioms (30%), Metaphorical idioms (32%), Aphorism idioms (30%), and Cultural and Historical idioms (7%). The most common form of idiomatic expression is a Fixed Statement idiom, which is the dominating idiom. On the other hand, simile idioms are the style of idiomatic expression that My Favorite Song. 3) the implied meaning of idiomatic can be deduced from the context of the statement in the diaries, idioms cannot be understood in just one word or phrase, so they must be understood as a whole in the context of one sentence or paragraph in order to understand the meaning of the original contextual. Therefore, it is suggested to the future researcher to enhance understanding of idiomatic expressions in English Department students, particularly through writing-by-writing diaries, by providing a valuable resource on frequency and contextual aspects.

**Keywords:** Idiom, Frequency, Context, Diary Writing

**Article History:**  
Received 2023-12-20  
Accepted 2024-02-27

## INTRODUCTION

Idioms are employed in language in a variety of contexts, such as in diary when speakers are required to utilize idiomatic terms to communicate messages. Analyzing various idioms used by a certain civilization and classifying them into several categories is really fascinating. English speakers utilize the language's colloquial idioms to convey their emotions and circumstances. Idioms are expressions whose meanings change from their logic, making them incomprehensible if we attempt to understand each word separately. According to Mona Baker, an idiom is defined as frozen patterns of language that allow little or no variation in form and often carry the meanings which cannot be decided from their components (Chaer, 2017). It indicates that an idiom's meaning cannot be accurately transferred from one language to another without undergoing certain modifications. Idioms, on the other hand, are linguistic units-whether they be words, phrases, or sentences-whose meanings cannot be inferred from the language's fundamental grammatical rules or anticipated from the lexical meaning of the constituent parts (Cambridge, 2018).

Idioms or figurative expressions are an integral part of language that reflect the culture and history of the speaker. They add color and richness to everyday communication. For students, especially those learning a second language, mastering idioms is often a challenge. This is because idioms cannot be taken literally and often require a deep understanding of the cultural context and usage.

The researcher on the use of idioms in the context of diary writing can provide valuable insights into the extent to which students use idioms in everyday life and how the context influences the frequency and types of idioms used. Such studies can help educators develop more effective teaching strategies to improve students' idiom mastery.

The researcher did pre-observation at school to know the problem engaged concerning students' idioms comprehension, it showed that the teacher still used an old media for teaching idioms. It made students got bored with that material. They are also confused when asked to understand a figurative sentence because they do not understand the meaning of the sentence. Apart from that, the author also conducted interviews with English teachers at SMAN 1 Gemuh. It was confirmed that third year students had difficulty understanding idioms due to their low mastery of the material they received. These conditions are a challenge for SMAN 1 Gemuh teachers to create innovative learning that is fun and capable foster students' enthusiasm in improving idioms.

Relate to this problem, the researcher aim to identifying the frequency and context of the different idiomatic used the diary writing diaries of favorite song. Writing diary is an effective method for encouraging students to express themselves freely and reflectively. Writing a diary is often done by everyone to save stories in written form and to immortalize them creatively to enhance the figurative expressions contained in them. Improve idioms, it can involve choosing the right expression, matching the expression with its meaning, filling in the gaps with appropriate expressions.

## **METHODS**

### ***Design of the research***

In this researchers, the researchers used descriptive qualitative (Creswell, J. W. (2014) Qualitative method is a researchers procedure that produces descriptive data including written and spoken words of the researchers objective whether it is from people or books. The researchers studied the contextual meaning of idiomatic expressions. Unfortunately, it describes the data in words and uses diaries for analysis. Therefore, this researchers is descriptive qualitative because it is very dependent on descriptive narratives. A qualitative approach was taken because this research is currently under discussion.

### ***Role of the research***

The researchers act as data collectors and analysts. The researcher collected the data that finds students' diaries. Researchers observed idiomatic expressions and messages in the film. The object of researchers is to use students' diaries of favorite song.

### ***Object of the study***

The object of researchers is to find out the types of idiomatic expressions and messages in the students' diaries of favorite song. In this study the researchers analyzed the diaries of favorite song.

### ***Method of data collection***

To collect data, researcher carry out observations through the following steps:

1. Read every contextual meaning of idiomatic expressions in the diaries of favorite song.
2. Choose the types on contextual meaning of idiomatic expressions.
3. Find messages from contextual meaning of idiomatic expressions.
4. Organize the data based on the classification.

### ***Method of data analysis***

In doing analysis the researchers uses procedures as follows:

1. Identification

After collecting the data, the researchers identified the data based on the types of contextual meaning of idiomatic expressions and messages from the students' diaries of favorite song, which

focus on the literal and non-literal meanings of the contextual meaning of idiomatic expressions to make it easier to classify the data.

## 2. Classification

The researchers classifies each language idiom according to several points based on the type of contextual meaning of the idiomatic expression.

## 3. Data Analysis

After classifying the contextual meaning of idiomatic expressions, the researcher analyzed the idiom data used in the students' diaries of favorite song.

The steps to analyze the data are presented as follows:

- a. Reading diaries, observing idiomatic expressions found in students' diaries.
- b. The researcher includes data found in the diaries of favorite song.
- c. The researcher analyzes literal and idiomatic words to make clear definitions.

The researcher classifies the data based on the type of idiom: Simile idiom, Phrasal verb idiom, Metaphorical idiom, Aphorisms idiom, and Culture and historical idiom.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Research Findings

#### 1. The types of idiom expression in diaries: My Favorite Song

According to the data that the researcher has found, there are 79 data from 30 the diaries. The researcher collected the information from the diary: My Favorite Song. The researcher made an effort to use lexical analysis, particularly idiomatic expression, to analyze the data. Classification of idiom used in this research as from (Grant and Bauer, 2004). Idiomatic expression can be categorized into several types. They included simile idiom, phrasal verb idiom, metaphorical idiom, aphorisms idiom and cultural and historical idiom. The types of idiomatic expression are presented as follows:

**Table 1. Simile Idiom**

A line from the exchange that contains one of the similes is "as quick as me." Because Burnie's goal in this exchange is to inspire Ember to put in as much effort as he desires. Additionally, it is a subliminal reminder to the audience to never give up.

NO	Idiom	Types Idiomatic Expression	Meaning
1	Song 2	Moths to a flame	Menggambarkan ketertarikan yang kuat dan tak tertahankan pada sesuatu yang berbahaya atau merusak, seperti hubungan yang beracun atau kebiasaan buruk
2	Song 3	Go down deh	Ungkapan khas jamaika yang artinya "ayo turun kebawah" atau "ayo bergerak". ini bisa diartikan sebagai ajakan

			menari atau bersenang-senang
3	Song 4	Beat it	Berarti `pergi dari sini`, ungkapan ini memiliki makna yang lebih kuat, yaitu untuk menghentikan tindakan kekerasan dan permusuhan.
4	Song 5	Feeling out of place	Merasa tidak cocok atau tidak sesuai dengan lingkungan sekitar
		Not fitting it	Merasa tidak terima atau tidak termasuk dalam suatu kelompok
		Being different	Merasa berbeda dari orang lain
5	Song 7	Our friendship is like a fine wine, it gets better with age	Perbandingan persahabatan dengan anggur yang semakin enak seiring berjalannya waktu.
		Our bond is as strong as steel	Perbandingan hubungan persahabatan dengan kekuatan baja.
6	Song 8	As blue as the sea	Sangat sedih
		Feeling like a fish out of water	Merasa tidak nyaman atau tidak cocok di suatu tempat.
7	Song 9	We're trapped in a world of pain	Ungkapan ini menggambarkan situasi yang penuh penderitaan dan kesengsaraan, seolah-olah dunia telah terperangkap dalam lingkaran setan.
8	Song 10	As strong as an ox	Sangat kuat dan tahan banting.
		As tough as nails	Sangat tangguh dan tidak mudah menyerah.
9	Song 11	Every hour, every minute, every second	Ungkapan ini semakin menegaskan intensitas perasaan cintanya. Waktu seolah berhenti ketika

			bersama orang yang dicintainya.
		I'll be lovin' you right	Ungkapan sederhana namun kuat, menunjukkan komitmen Jungkook untuk selalu mencintai pasangannya dengan tulus.
10	Song 12	As easy as riding a bike	Sesuatu yang mudah dilakukan dan tidak perlu banyak berpikir.
		Like taking candy from a baby	Sangat mudah untuk mendapatkan sesuatu.
11	Song 13	We're young and we're restless	Ungkapan ini menggambarkan semangat muda dan keinginan untuk selalu mencari kesenangan.
12	Song 14	Like a phoenix rising from the ashes	Bangkit kembali dari kegagalan.
13	Song 15	It's been a long time coming	Ungkapan ini menunjukkan bahwa perpisahan ini sudah lama direncanakan atau sudah menjadi keharusan.
		I'm over you, baby, but you're still on my mind	Ini adalah sebuah paradoks yang menarik. Meskipun sudah move on, ingatan tentang mantan masih terngiang. Ini menggambarkan kompleksitas perasaan setelah putus.
14	Song 17	Wish I was who you drunk texted at midnight	Ungkapan ini menunjukkan keinginan untuk menjadi orang yang selalu dipikirkan oleh orang yang dicintai, bahkan saat dalam keadaan mabuk.
15	Song 20	My head's under water, but I'm breathing fine	menggambarkan perasaan tenggelam dalam cinta namun tetap merasa bahagia.
16	Song 22	Like a photograph, every corner, every street	membandingkan kenangan tentang kota dengan foto. Setiap sudut dan jalan di kota seakan tertangkap dalam ingatannya dengan jelas.

17	Song 23	She's got a smile even when she isn't fine	Ungkapan ini membandingkan senyumnya dengan situasi emosionalnya yang sebenarnya
18	Song 24	Your love is like a hurricane	membandingkan intensitas cinta dengan kekuatan badai.
19	Song2 5	Flying in a dream, star by the pocketful"	Menciptakan rasa takjub dan penuh harapan, yang menunjukkan keadaan seperti mimpi
20	Song 26	I want your love, and my my my my my my my my	pengulangan kata "my" yang berlebihan menciptakan efek yang mirip dengan simile, seolah-olah dia sedang menekankan betapa dia menginginkan cinta orang tersebut.
21	Song 27	I'm coming at you like a dark horse	Ini adalah perbandingan langsung yang membandingkan dirinya dengan "dark horse". Ini menekankan kekuatan dan kejutan yang dia bawa.
		Like a bird without a cage	Perbandingan ini menggambarkan kebebasan dan kemandirian.
22	Song 28	You're like a drug to me	membandingkan perasaan cinta terhadap seseorang dengan kecanduan terhadap narkoba. Ini menggambarkan intensitas perasaan dan ketergantungan.
23	Song 29	I wish that I could tell you that I miss you	ungkapan ini membandingkan perasaan rindu dengan tindakan menyampaikannya secara verbal. Ini menunjukkan keinginan yang kuat untuk mengungkapkan perasaan tersebut.
24	Song 30	Life is like a box of chocolates	dalam konteks lagu ini mungkin dimodifikasi untuk menggambarkan kepahitan atau kekecewaan.

**Table 2. Phrasal Verb Idiom**

Because the speaker behaves as a verb in the phrase, the phrasal verb idiom is realized. Almost every discussion had verbs, and 8 idioms were discovered. The speaker recognized that these idioms were menacing, as evidenced by their contextual meaning.

NO	Song	Idiom	Meaning
1	Song 2	Burning desire	Menggambarkan keinginan yang sangat kuat dan tak terkendali
2	Song 3	Whine and go down	Dengan penambahan kata "whine" yang mengacu pada gerakan menari tertentu. Ini bisa diartikan sebagai ajakan untuk mengikuti irama musik
3	Song 4	Just beat it	Pengulangan frasa tersebut sebagai mantra atau seruan untuk bertindak. Ini adalah ajakan untuk mengambil tindakan dan tidak membiarkan diri kita dikalahkan oleh kekerasan.
4	Song 9	And the madness goes on and on	Frasa ini menekankan sifat berkelanjutan dari kekerasan dan kegilaan manusia.
5	Song 21	Back to this town	keinginan untuk kembali ke tempat asal.
		We'd drive around town	Ungkapan ini menggambarkan kegiatan sehari-hari yang biasa dilakukan bersama teman-teman saat muda.
		We'd fall asleep in the back of the car	Ungkapan ini menciptakan gambaran yang jelas tentang masa muda yang bebas dan tanpa beban.

6	Song 23	Stay up at night	memiliki arti "tidak tidur" atau "berjaga sepanjang malam". Ini sering digunakan untuk menggambarkan seseorang yang sedang memikirkan sesuatu atau khawatir.
---	---------	------------------	--

**Table 3. Metaphorical Idiom**

A statement or idiom of figurative language that, when understood, differs from the original sentence is known as a metaphorical idiom. This phrase is often heard in a community or organization and has been used for many generations. Additionally, the journal contained up to 30 metaphorical references.

NO	Idiom	Types Idiomatic Expression	Meaning
1	Song 1	We were running from the past	Upaya seseorang untuk meninggalkan masa lalu yang sulit
2	Song 2	Drawn to the dark side	Menggambarkan ketertarikan padal hal-hal yang negatif atau berbahaya
3	Song 6	Deep end	Situasi hidup yang penuh tantangan dan risiko
		Drowning in my thoughts	Menggambarkan perasaan tertekan atau kewalahan
		I'm swimming	Menggambarkan perjuangan yang terus menerus
4	Song 9	World of pain	World of pain
5	Song 11	Tightly take control, tightly take his soul	Ungkapan ini bisa diartikan sebagai keinginan untuk memiliki dan menjaga cinta pasangannya dengan erat.



6	Song 13	Dancing in the street	Ini adalah metafora untuk menggambarkan kebebasan dan kebahagiaan.
7	Song 17	Sparks in the sky	menggambarkan perasaan tertarik atau ketertarikan yang kuat antara dua orang. "Percikan api di langit" ini seakan menyambar dan membuat mata lawan bicara berkilau.
8	Song 18	Dancing with our hands tied	Ungkapan ini menggambarkan situasi di mana seseorang merasa terikat oleh keadaan dan tidak memiliki kebebasan untuk memilih.
9	Song 20	Baby, you're the only one	Ungkapan ini menegaskan bahwa kekasihnya adalah satu-satunya orang yang spesial baginya.
		You look perfect tonight	Ini adalah pujian yang umum, namun dalam konteks lagu ini, "perfect" tidak hanya merujuk pada penampilan fisik, tetapi juga pada keseluruhan pribadi kekasihnya.
		You're my endgame	Dalam konteks lagu ini, Ed Sheeran menyatakan bahwa kekasihnya adalah tujuan akhir dalam hidupnya.
10	Song 21	Thought we built a dynasty that heaven couldn't shake	"Dynasty" (dinasti) biasanya mengacu pada keluarga kerajaan yang kuat

			dan kekal. Dengan menggunakan metafora ini, MIIA menggambarkan harapannya untuk membangun hubungan yang sangat kuat dan abadi dengan pasangannya.
		A scar I can't reverse, When the more it heals, the worse it hurts	Ungkapan ini menggambarkan luka batin yang sulit disembuhkan. Luka ini semakin terasa sakit ketika seseorang berusaha untuk melupakannya.
11	Song 23	She can be hurting but she's got enough love to fill up Tennessee	membandingkan cinta seseorang dengan ukuran negara bagian Tennessee. Ini menunjukkan bahwa cintanya begitu besar dan luas.
12	Song 24	I'm drowning in your eyes	membandingkan perasaan terpesona oleh seseorang dengan tenggelam dalam air.
		We're lost in the cosmos	menggambarkan hubungan yang sangat dalam dan intim, seolah-olah mereka berdua hanyalah bagian dari alam semesta yang luas.
13	Song 25	Golden age of something good and right and real	Gambaran masa lalu yang indah dan sempurna
		A love story written in crayon	Kisah cinta yang sederhana dan kekanak-kanakan yang mudah dihapus

			atau dilupakan
14	Song 26	I'll put on a poker face	membandingkan tindakan menyembunyikan perasaan dengan memakai topeng atau persona.
		Just when you think you've got me figured out	Just when you think you've got me figured out
15	Song 27	You're a mystery	membandingkan orang yang dia nyanyikan dengan sesuatu yang sulit dipahami atau diprediksi.
		I'll make your heart race	menggambarkan efek kuat yang dia miliki pada orang tersebut, seolah-olah dia bisa membuat jantung orang itu berdebar kencang.
16	Song 28	We're living in a world of fantasy	menggambarkan hubungan mereka sebagai sesuatu yang tidak nyata atau tidak berkelanjutan.
		Our love was a masterpiece 'til you tore it all to pieces	membandingkan hubungan mereka dengan sebuah karya seni yang indah yang kemudian hancur.
17	Song 29	A year ago, I was lost without you	Ungkapan ini menggambarkan betapa pentingnya kehadiran mantan kekasihnya dalam hidupnya. "Lost" di sini adalah metafora yang menunjukkan keadaan kebingungan dan kehilangan arah tanpa kehadirannya.

		You were my everything	membandingkan mantan kekasihnya dengan seluruh dunianya. Ini menunjukkan betapa besar perannya dalam hidupnya.
18	Song 30	My heart is a broken glass	Ini membandingkan hati yang hancur dengan gelas yang pecah.
		I'm drowning in sorrow	Ini menggambarkan perasaan sedih yang sangat dalam.

**Table 4. Aphorism Idiom**

Aphorisms idioms used to impart knowledge or morality, these phrases are typically seen on specific days and are typically employed by significant people or occasions. This idiom contains the following: 8 [idioms](#).

NO	Idiom	Types Idiomatic Expression	Meaning
1	Song 1	We were just kids with big dreams	Banyak anak muda memiliki ambisi besar saat mereka masih muda
2	Song 4	No one wants to be defeated	Tidak ada orang yang ingin kalah atau dikalahkan. Ini adalah pesan yang memotivasi dan menginspirasi
3	Song 7	A friend in need is a friend indeed	Seorang teman yang ada di saat kita membutuhkan adalah teman sejati.
		Better a diamond with a flaw than a pebble without	Lebih baik memiliki teman yang tidak sempurna daripada tidak memiliki teman sama sekali.
4	Song 8	Every cloud has a silver lining	Setiap kesulitan pasti ada jalan keluarnya.

		It's always darkest before the dawn	Sebelum fajar menyingsing, selalu ada kegelapan.
5	Song 10	It's not what you have, but who you are that matters.	Yang terpenting bukanlah apa yang anda miliki, melainkan siapa anda
6	Song 12	All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy	ini mungkin muncul jika lagu memiliki tema tentang pentingnya bersantai.

### Discussion

There are simile idioms, phrasal verb idioms, metaphorical, and aphorisms. The data shown simile idioms is a comparison (as or like). Phrasal verb idioms as connecting verb sentences, metaphorical realization is a figurative language. [Aphorisms idiom](#) is morality. It is obtained from the results that the type of idiom that often appears in the diary is the type of aphorisms idiom. Aphorisms are idiomatic expressions intended to convey wisdom, morals. They are also colloquially called "sayings," widely read books, famous speeches or other texts. They contain profound philosophical truths in short, easy-to-remember sentences.

Simile idioms, it is realized because in the discussion of the diary: My Favorite Song., there are 33 [idiom](#) found, Comparative sentences (as or like) are frequently used in ordinary discourse to create similes, and listeners occasionally hear these words to be highly linked.

A line from the exchange that contains one of the similes is "as quick as me." Because Burnie's goal in this exchange is to inspire Ember to put in as much effort as he desires. Additionally, it is a subliminal reminder to the audience to never give up. Because the speaker behaves as a verb in the phrase, the phrasal verb idiom is realized. Almost every discussion had verbs, and 8 idioms were discovered. The speaker recognized that these idioms were menacing, as evidenced by their contextual meaning.

A statement or idiom of figurative language that, when understood, differs from the original sentence is known as a metaphorical idiom. This phrase is often heard in a community or organization and has been used for many generations. Additionally, the journal contained up to 30 metaphorical references.

These lines are typically seen on specific days and are typically used by significant individuals or events. They are cultural and historical idioms of significant events or persons according to the location. This idiom contains seven significant occurrences.

Aphorisms idioms used to impart knowledge or morality, these phrases are typically seen on specific days and are typically employed by significant people or occasions. This idiom contains the following: 8 [idioms](#).

Additionally, only significant days or individuals often employ the last cultural and historical idiom discovered in the seven data idioms.

### CONCLUSION

Based on the previous analysis as a whole of the data presentation transcript, it was found that the diary: My Favorite Song contains various idiomatic. 1) researcher wants to name five categories of idioms, including phrasal verb idioms and simile idioms. Idioms related to culture, history, aphorisms, and metaphors. Only four idioms were discovered in this investigation, though. Idioms of

the following sorts include metaphors, phrasal verbs, similes, and cultural and historical idioms. 2) most of there are 99 idiomatic expressions in the diary script; According to the kinds of idiomatic expressions identified, there is one simile idiom, and 30 idioms are the most frequently used phrasal verbs or ones employed in diary writing. Only 31 idioms were metaphorical, 30 were aphorisms, and 7 were cultural and historical. 3) most of idiomatic idioms can be found in the diary. The sorts of 99 idioms are determined by context and frequency. It might be argued that the context in which an idiom is spoken or pronounced is just as important to comprehending its meaning as the original meaning. Thus, it has been demonstrated that meaning and context are closely related.

In suggestion, 1) readers of this study who are interested in the same research, such as semantics and pragmatics, are expected to have a better understanding of the frequency and contextual of the idiomatic expressions used. So they can get a good understanding of idiomatic expressions that are often used, especially in idiom such as diaries. 2) english Department students, it is hoped that this study will become a meaningful resource for those who want to know more about frequency and contextual, especially idiom. The researcher suggests they study idiomatic expression through writing-by-writing diaries for English students.

## REFERENCES

### **Book with Two Authors:**

Chaer, Abdul. (2017). *Linguistik Umum*. Jakarta: PT. Rineka Cipta.

**In-text reference:** (Chaer & Abdul, 2017)

### **Book with Editor as Author:**

Cambridge University. (2018). *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary Third. Edition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**In-text reference:** (Cambridge University, 2018)

### **Articles in Reference Books (unsigned and signed):**

Creswell, John W. (2008). *Education Research (3rd Edition)*. New York: Pearson Prentice Hall.

**In-text references:** (Creswell & John w, 2008)

### **Journal Article when each issue begins with p.1:**

Grant, L., & Bauer, L. (2004). Criteria for re-defining idioms Are we barking up the wrong tree?. *Applied linguistics*.

**In-text reference:** (Grant, L., & Bauer, L, 2004)