

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

The role of language is vital in various aspects of life, including education, culture, politics, and society. Everyone has their own language style to communicate and express their ideas and thoughts. In its development, language has complex structures and rules that involve both grammatical aspects and aspects of meaning. This is where the role of semantics becomes very important in the study of language.

One form of expression that the writer is interested in discussing is idiomatic expressions. According to Seidl and MacMordie (1988), idioms are groups of words that form a new meaning that is different from the meaning of the words separately. People, especially native speakers, often use idioms because they make language more interesting, lively, and expressive. By using idioms, people can convey feelings, emotions, or ideas in a more natural and colorful way than with ordinary sentences. Idioms also reflect the culture, customs, and way of thinking of the speakers of that language, making conversations sound more natural, like those of native speakers. Idioms are non-literal and can only be understood through the context of their use in everyday communication. These are expressions or phrases whose meanings cannot be taken literally, but have implied meanings depending on the context in which they are used. Semantics plays a crucial role in understanding how idiomatic expressions are understood and interpreted in everyday language as well as in popular media such as movies.

In the context of movies, language becomes an important element in the narrative,

characters, and themes of the story. Dialogue and narration in film are not only a means of communication between characters but also a tool to convey messages, emotions, and culture in the story. Language in movies often involves the use of idiomatic expressions. In movies, the use of idiomatic expressions is an important tool in developing characters, building atmosphere, and moving the storyline. Films often use idioms to give a certain feel, whether humor, suspense, or emotional depth.

The writer chose Kung Fu Panda 4 for the topic of discussion because this film is one of the popular animations that is not only interesting in terms of visuals or story. In Kung Fu Panda 4, the characters often use idiomatic expressions in their dialogues to convey hidden meanings and advice, but they are presented in an entertaining way. In addition, this film, directed by Mike Mitchell, is an American martial arts comedy film released in 2024. It combines humor with deep moral messages, often through the use of clever language, including idiomatic expressions. The combination of humor, philosophy, and the use of idiomatic expressions in this film makes it even more interesting.

The writer finds this research important because most of the previous studies that discuss idiomatic expressions in movies tend to focus on identifying the types of idioms and the frequency of their occurrence in movies without exploring in depth the function of idioms in building meaning in the context of communication. In fact, idioms not only function as fixed language elements but also have an important role in conveying emotions, shaping characters, and reflecting social dynamics between characters in the film. This study aims to fill the void by examining idioms in Kung Fu Panda 4 based on Adam Makkai's theory, the Stratificational Theory of Language, as a basic framework to define and classify idioms into two main types, which are lexemic idioms and sememic idioms.

The writer conducted this research to understand more about the types and functions of idiomatic expressions in the movie *Kung Fu Panda 4*, and this research can help readers understand the forms and functions of Idiomatic Expressions in this movie.

Based on the description above, this research aims to explain the types and functions of idiomatic expressions in the movie *Kung Fu Panda 4*.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

1. What are the types of Idiomatic Expressions used in the *Kung Fu Panda 4* movie?
2. What are the functions of Idiomatic expressions used in the *Kung Fu Panda 4* Movie?

## **1.3 The Objective of the Research**

The objectives of the study are :

1. To identify the types of Idiomatic Expressions used in the *Kung Fu Panda 4* Movie.
2. To find out the function of the Idiomatic expressions used in the *Kung Fu Panda 4* movie.

## **1.4 Focus of the Research**

The focus of this study is to analyze the idiomatic expressions found in the movie *Kung Fu Panda 4*.

## **1.5 Method of the Research**

This research used a descriptive qualitative method to analyze idiomatic expressions in the *Kung Fu Panda 4* movie. The descriptive qualitative method was chosen because the research focused on describing and interpreting the subject matter. The aim was to

provide a rich and detailed explanation of idiomatic expressions based on the theory used and by analyzing textual data.

### **1.5.1 Data Collection**

The main data source used by the writer was the *Kung Fu Panda 4* movie in the form of script dialogues, subtitles, and visuals. The script was obtained from a trusted movie script provider site and was downloaded in digital format (PDF). After the script was obtained, the data in the form of idiomatic expressions were identified and collected by reading and thoroughly watching each dialogue contained in the film script, and by using an idiom dictionary to find out the context of idiomatic expression usage in the film. Each expression containing idiomatic elements was recorded and classified based on its form and meaning. In addition, the Language Stratification from Adam Makkai's (1972) theory was used as a reference in the identification and selection process of the idioms found. All the data that had been collected were then prepared for analysis.

### **1.5.2 Data Analysis**

This study analyzed idiomatic expressions in *Kung Fu Panda 4* by using Adam Makkai's (1972) theory. First, the writer categorized the idioms based on Adam Makkai's classification. Then, analyzed the meanings of the idioms and their functions within the dialogues to understand how they contribute to communication and character interactions.

The writer used Adam Makkai's (1972) theory, the Stratificational Theory of Language, as a basic framework to define and classify idioms into two main types, which are sememic idioms and lexemic idioms. But, in this research, the focus is on Lexemic idioms to analyze the types of Idiomatic Expressions found in *Kung Fu Panda 4* Movie, and the writer used O'Dell & McCarthy's (2010) theory to define the functions of idioms

based on the context dialogue in *Kung Fu Panda 4* movie.

Next, the writer visualized the findings in a table that shows the four types of idiomatic expressions found in the *Kung Fu Panda 4* movie and the total idiomatic expressions found.

Lastly, the writer summarized the research results and outlined the limitations of the study.

## **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

### **1. Idiomatic Expression**

Idioms are manifestations of patterned interference between grammatical, semantic, and phonological structures of English (Makkai, 1972).

### **2. Lexemic**

According to Adam Makkai (1972), A lexemic idiom is any combination of words whose meaning is not derivable from the meanings of its component lexemes and which functions as a single lexemic unit.

### **3. Phrasal Verb Idioms**

These idioms always consist of a combination of a verb and an adverb (Makkai, 1972).

### **4. Tournure Idioms**

According to Makkai (1972), tournure idioms are a type of idiom that consists of a minimum of three words or lexons, and can usually include an article such as the or a.

### **5. Irreversible Binomial Idioms**

Irreversible Binomials are idioms consisting of two words (usually nouns, verbs, or adjectives) connected by a conjunction such as 'and' or 'or', and which have a

fixed order and cannot be reversed without changing or destroying their idiomatic meaning (Makkai, 1972).

## **6. Phrasal Compound Idioms**

According to Makkai (1972), this idiom is characterized by a verb that “incorporates” a nominal element (noun or noun phrase) into its structure.

## **7. Incorporating Verb Idioms**

According to Makkai (1972), in these expressions, the first word in the construction is usually a noun or adjective when looked at in other contexts outside of the expression.

