

Idiomatic Expressions Used in “Barbie 2023” by Greta Gerwig

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini berjudul “Idiomatic Expression used in “Barbie 2023” by Greta Gerwig”. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis ungkapan idiomatik dan mengetahui makna dari ungkapan idiomatik tersebut yang digunakan dalam film Barbie 2023. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan cara menonton film, mencatat ungkapan idiomatik yang terdapat dalam film, mencari makna dari ungkapan idiomatik yang telah dicatat, lalu menentukan jenis-jenis ungkapan idiomatik tersebut. Kemudian data tersebut dianalisa dengan menonton film tersebut secara berulang-ulang dan dipahami untuk mengerti maknanya dengan menggunakan sumber seperti, kamus. Pengumpulan data menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah jenis-jenis idiom yang dikemukakan oleh Palmer (1976). Peneliti menunjukkan tiga jenis idiom atau ungkapan yang terdapat di dalam film, yakni kata kerja frasa, kata kerja preposisional, dan idiom parsial. Dari hasil analisis penulis, penulis menemukan total 84 ekspresi idiomatik yang digunakan dalam film Barbie 2023, dengan 54 kata kerja frasa, 13 kata kerja preposisional, dan 17 idiom parsial. Penulis menyimpulkan presentase: kata kerja frasa (64.28%), kata kerja preposisional (15.47%), dan (20.23%) parsial idiom. Tipe ekspresi idiomatik yang dominan digunakan dalam film Barbie 2023 adalah kata kerja frasa, dengan presentasi tertinggi yakni 64.28%.

Kata Kunci: ekspresi idiomatik, jenis-jenis idiom, makna, film.

Abstract

This research is entitled “Idiomatic Expressions Used in “Barbie 2023” by Greta Gerwig”. This research aimed to identify types of idiomatic expressions and figure out the meaning of the idiomatic expressions used in Barbie 2023 movie. The data was collected by watching the movie, taking notes on the idioms in the movie, looking for the meaning of the idioms, then determining the types of idioms. Henceforth, the data was analyzed by watching the movie repeatedly and attentively to understand the meaning by using sources such as, dictionaries. The data was collected using a qualitative descriptive method. The theories used in this study are the types of idioms proposed by Palmer (1976). The researcher shows there are three types of idioms found in the movie, namely, phrasal verbs, prepositional verbs, and partial idioms. As a result of the writer’s analysis, the writer found a total of 84 idiomatic expressions used in Barbie 2023 movie, with 54 phrasal verbs, 13 prepositional verbs, and 17 partial idioms. The writer concluded the percentages: phrasal verb (64.28%), prepositional verb (15.47%), and partial idiom (20.23%). The dominant type of idiomatic expression used in Barbie 2023 movie was the phrasal verb, with the highest percentage of 64.28%.

Keywords: idiomatic expression, type of idioms, meanings, movie.

INTRODUCTION

Language is an important tool used by human in everyday life to communicate with each other. “Language is purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols”, (Sapir, 1921, p. 7). Based on the statement it can be concluded that language is a method to convey ideas, emotions, and needs by creating symbols or utterance. Furthermore, language can be used to not just simply transmit ideas, emotions, and needs. It can be used to maintain and sustain relationships as well. Linguistics is derived from the Latin word “*Lingua*” means language and “*istics*” means knowledge or science is a human science that studies the nature of languages, how it was created, acquired, evolved, and works. “Linguistics can be define as an arbitrary system of sounds, symbols, in which mostly used by the members of society to interact, identify themselves, and contribute to society”, (Oviogun & Veerdee, 2020, p. 4). In Linguistics there are two concentrations, the first one is Micro-linguistics and the other is Macro-linguistics. “The study of language as a system of human communication”, (Richards & Schmidt, 2010, p. 343). Based on the statement, it can be understood that Linguistics is a study that learns how communication works in society.



“Micro-linguistics is a study concerned with the study of language itself, involving sounds (Phonetics and Phonology), grammatical structures (Morpheme), Syntax, Semantics, and Pragmatics”, (Sana, 2021). Semantics can be summarised as a study of how we recognize what the utterance is meant even it isn't clearly said or written. In other words, semantics is the study of understanding the utterance based on the context of the utterance itself. “Semantics concerned on relations between grammar and the lexicon and meaning. Therefore, defining the meaning of each word, not in terms of its component features, nevertheless in terms of the relations to other words. This approach is used in the semantic description of language and used in the analysis of semantic or lexical relations. Semantic relations have some types namely, Polysemy, Synonymy, Antonymy, Hyponymy, Hypernymy, Ambiguity, and Idiom”, (Todd, 1987). “Semantics is about language significance study. The vocabulary used conveys the importance of the subject because of the interrelationship between linguistic classes”, (Maulud et al., 2021). “Semantics, generally speaking, is the study which covered the meaning of languages”, (Tecumseh Fitch, 2010). It can be concluded that Semantics studies the importance of choosing the correct vocabularies to transmit the right message in accordance to the subject.

Idiomatic expressions or idiom is a figure of speech that often included in literary works. “Idioms are English expressions which have a meaning that is not so clear and obvious from the individual words”, (McCarthy & O'Dell, 2017). To summarised, an idiom is a phrase that has its own special meaning whose meaning is unpredictable from the actual meaning of the words. “Idioms tend to confuse people since they have to think and figure out the meaning of the idioms used by the speaker”, (Suhendar & Arsiandi, 2020). “Idioms should always be learned in the context with the additional knowledge of the structural organisation of an idiom will give input to identifying them in sentences”, (Suhendar & Arsiandi, 2020). Based on the two statements, it can be concluded that idioms can confuse people when they have to interpret the meaning when they are not used in context. By studying the meaning of idioms, we can avoid misunderstanding and experience a smooth conversation. “An idiom is a phrase whose meaning is difficult or sometimes impossible to guess by looking at the meanings of the individual words it contains”, (Hornby & Crowther, 1995, p. A6). It can be inferred from the statement that idiomatic expressions are impossible to decipher by looking at each individual words, rather it must be interpreted as a whole sentence.

This study was undertaken to determine the meaning of the idiomatic expressions used in Barbie 2023 movie in accordance to the context in the movie. This study was also to figure out the types of idiomatic expressions used in the movie and to find the most dominant type of idiomatic expressions used in the movie. By analysing this movie, hopefully the researcher can give a better understanding on the topic of idiomatic expressions which can be used in daily conversation.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative method to gather and analysed the data or expressions present in the movie. The data in this study were collected from The Barbie movie that is released in 2023. The process of collecting the data used descriptive qualitative method as mentioned beforehand to get the desirable and appropriate data. There are four steps in collecting the data: (1) watching the movie, (2) analyse and take notes of the idioms found in the movie, (3) look for the meaning of the idioms found in the movie, (4) determine the types of idioms found in the movie. The main theory used in this study was from Palmer based in his book entitled “*Semantic: A New Outline (1976)*” regarding the types of idioms and to determine the types of idioms available in the movie. The types of idioms based on Palmer (1976) theory are phrasal verb, prepositional verb, and partial idiom.

1. Phrasal verb

Phrasal verb is the most common type of idiom in English, it is usually known as the initial name, Phrasal verb. It is the joint of verbs and adverbs. Examples: *get up, give up, get rid of*.

2. Prepositional verb

It is considered as a multi-word group of verbs that is created from a verb with another word or words. There are sequences of verb plus preposition as well such as, *look after* and *go for*, in addition sequences of verb, adverb, and preposition for instance, *put up with*. This type of idiom is hardly noticeable since they are quite uncommon.

3. Partial idiom

It is where one word has its own meaning and the other has a peculiar meaning to the particular sequence. In other words, it is an expression whose meaning is still connected to one of the fundamental elements such as, *when in Rome, do as the Romans do*.

To find the meaning in the idiomatic expressions found in the movie, the researcher decided to figure out the meaning of said idioms based on the context of which the conversation is happening in the movie.

Formula:
$$F = \frac{n}{\Sigma N} \times 100$$

F = percentage of each type of idiom

n = occurrence of type of idiom

ΣN = total occurrence of type of idiom

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

This research used Palmer (1976) theory as the main theory to gathered, described, grouped the idiomatic expressions found in the movie based on the types of the idioms. The researcher also figured out the meaning of the idiomatic expressions in accordance to the context in the movie entitled Barbie. The data was presented in form of words and table. The researcher managed to found 54 phrasal verbs, 13 prepositional verbs, and 17 partial idioms.

Table 1. Types and occurrences of idiomatic expressions found in Barbie 2023 movie

NO	Types of idiomatic expressions	Occurrences	Percentage
1	Phrasal Verbs	54	64.26%
2	Prepositional Verbs	13	15.47%
3	Partial Idioms	17	20.23%
Results		84	100%

From the table above, it can be seen the results of analysis of each idiomatic expressions used in Barbie (2023) movie. Based on the table we can concur that there are 84 idiomatic expressions used in the movie. It consists of 54 phrasal verbs (64.26%), 13 prepositional verbs (15.47%), and 17 partial idioms (55.56). These percentages helped us to identify the most dominant type of idiomatic expressions used in the movie. It can be seen that phrasal verb has the most occurrence in the movie with the highest percentage of (64.26%). We can use the formula above to count for the percentages of the idiomatic expressions occurrences to figure out which is the most dominant type of idiomatic expressions used in the movie.

Discussion

1. Phrasal Verb

Expression 1

Barbie: “Wait, I did write a book. It was like in was in some dream where I was somehow really invested in the Zack Snyder cut of Justice League. But what you said-**it broke me out of it.**”

The phrasal verb “**broke me out of it**” in this line means that what the person said to her makes her gain back her consciousness and realize that she used to write a book. **Break someone out of something** in general means to help someone to discontinue a habit.

Expressions 2

Ken: “**Buckle up**, babe, because Barbie Land is now Ken Land and it’ll be just like Century City in Los Angeles”

The phrasal verb “**buckle up**” in this context means that Ken told Barbie to accept and submit to the fact that he changed Barbie Land into Ken Land just like how everything was in Century City in Los Angeles. **Buckle up** in general means to fasten one’s seatbelt or in this case to make others accept their fate whether they like it or not.

Expression 3

Ken: “Hey Barbie! **Check me out!**”

The phrasal verb “**check me out**” in this context means that Ken urged Barbie to look and pay attention to him as he was about to do something cool. **Check me out** also means to take notice of something or someone.

Expression 4

Barbie: “What would a smart Barbie do? I just need to **clear my mind** so I can think”

The phrasal verb “**clear my mind**” in this context means Barbie needs to relax to see thing clearer and make her mind less erratic. **Clear one’s mind** in general means to free oneself from intrusive chaotic thoughts.

Expressions 5

Sasha: “Oh, **come off it**, everybody hates women. Women hate women and men hate women.”

The phrasal verb “**come off it**” in this context means that Sasha was telling her mother that she needs to come to her sense and realize that she is wrong. **Come off it** when said in general term is expressing disbelief or lack of faith.

Expression 6

Barbie: “What are you doing here?”

Ken: “I’m **coming with you**”

The phrasal verb “**coming with you**” in this context means that Ken wanted to come together with Barbie on her journey to the Real World. **Coming with someone** means to tag along with someone to a certain place.

2. Prepositional Verb

Expression 1

Ken: “I’d like to **apply for** your job of beach.”

Lifeguard: “So, you want to be a lifeguard?”

The prepositional verb “**apply for**” in this dialogue shows that Ken is planning to get a job on the beach, however, he has no idea having a job on the beach means being a lifeguard. **Apply for** also means to make an application for a job officially.

Expressions 2

Gloria: “Oh, Sasha, listen. I’m just a boring mom with a boring job and a daughter who hate me. Can you **blame me for** wanting to have a little fun?”

In this line the prepositional verb “**blame me for**” indicates that Gloria, Sasha’s mother never had the chance to enjoy having fun, therefore she asked her daughter if it’s fair to hold her as irresponsible for wanting to have some fun. **Blame someone for something** means an expression to accuse someone of being unruly and neglectful. Nevertheless, in this case it is used to express Gloria’s frustration with being critics.

Expression 3

Ken: “I don’t even **care about** being Ken anymore. I just miss my friend Barbie.”

In this line the prepositional verb “**care about**” expresses that Ken no longer places his importance on his role as “Ken” instead, he wishes to fix his relationship with Barbie. **Care about something** means to have an interest or concern about something.

Expression 4

Barbie: “The Nobel Prize for Journalism **goes to**... Barbie.”

Barbie: “And the Nobel Prize for Literature **goes to**... Barbie.”

The prepositional verb “**goes to**” in this context indicated that the Nobel Prize are rewarded to the Barbies for their outstanding achievement. **Goes to** in this case means to give or presented an award to the recipient.

Expression 5

Barbie: “I’m not really sure what I’m supposed to do now. I’ve always been stereotypical Barbie, and I don’t think I’m **really good at** anything else.”

The prepositional verb “**good at**” in this line implies Barbie’s doubt about her abilities and a feeling of not being good enough to become anything else beyond her image as “Stereotypical Barbie”. **Good at something** means to be adept or skilful at a particular skill.

Expressions 6

Mattel Executives: “Would you like some mineral water?”

Barbie: “Yes, thank you. Oh, I’m **not used to** that having anything in it”

The prepositional verb “**not used to**” in this context indicated that Barbie never drank actual water or any liquid in her life, since living in Barbie Land does require Barbie to drink real water. Therefore, she feels awkward to drink actual liquid from a glass. **Not used to something** means to be unfamiliar to a certain situation or environment in which makes one feel awkward and uncertain.

3. Partial Idiom

Expression 1

Barbie: “We fixed everything so that all women in the Real World can be happy and powerful.”

Weird Barbie: “I don’t know, but if you ask me, you had something to do with this too.”

Barbie: “Me?”

Weird Barbie: “**Take two to rip a portal.**”

The partial idiom “**takes two to rip a portal**” here explains that it needs two parties involved in a situation and both are responsible for it. In this context, Weird Barbie is suggesting that a human is way too involved in Barbie’s changes, therefore Weird Barbie believes there is a human playing with her too emotionally in the Real World. The original idiom of it was “**it takes two to tango**” which has the same meaning only different phrasing.

Expression 2

Warehouse Employee: “Whoa, boss, these Mojo Dojo Casa Houses are literally **flying off the shelves**.”

The partial idiom “**flying off the shelves**” in this line does not mean the toy houses are flying away from the shelves, instead, it means that the toy houses sell well to the point it is extremely high in demand.

Expression 3

Gloria: “Okay, **duck**.”

The phrase “**duck**” in this line does not mean the animal duck, instead, it means to lower one’s head to avoid being seen or hit. In this context, Gloria told Barbie and Sasha to lower their head to they would not be seen by their pursuers.

Expression 4

Woman: “Excuse me, sir, **do you have the time**?”

The phrase “**do you have the time**” can be considered a partial idiom, because this expression is mostly used to ask someone about the current time, not to ask someone whether they have a literal time or not.

Expression 5

Man #4: “Have I **died and gone to heaven**?”

The partial idiom “**died and gone to heaven**” does not mean the man literally died and gone to the other side, instead, it is considered as an expression where one feels extreme joy to the point it feels heavenly.

Expression 6

Barbie: “I’ve gotta talk to **somebody in charge**”

Barbie: “Oh. But since I came all this way, could I just meet **the woman in charge**, your CEO?”

Barbie: “Are **any women in charge**?”

The phrase “**somebody in charge**” here does not mean a literal person being charged in a charging port, rather, it means an authoritative figure or the CEO of the company, which was non-existent at the time.

CONCLUSION

After watching and analysing Barbie (2023) movie, the researcher found 84 idiomatic expressions used in the movie. The writer used Palmer (1976) types of idioms theory, the writer discovered that there are 54 phrasal verbs (64.26%), 13 prepositional verb (15.47%), 17 partial idioms (20.23%). As it can be seen here, the most dominant type of idiomatic expressions used in Barbie (2023) movie was the phrasal verb being used 54 times with the highest percentage of 64.26%. Phrasal verb being the most used idiomatic expressions in the movie, since it is relatable to the audience and often used in daily conversation to make the dialogue flows naturally. By studying idiomatic expression, the researcher managed to described the meaning of each type of idiom based on the context and the researcher also managed to distinguish the difference between idiomatic expression and basic daily words in sentences. Learning idiomatic expressions can help us to get better understanding on the topic. The writer recommends next researcher to learn about figurative language if they wish to study about idioms and also to not only rely on one source to find information about idioms, but also look further for another reliable resource. Not only focus on one book or journal, but it shall focus and look for another dependable resource as well.

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