

**STUDENTS' ABILITY TO COMPREHEND IDIOM AND  
SLANG FROM MOVIES: A STUDY CASE IN ENGLISH  
LITERATURE STUDENT UNIVERSITAS HASANUDDIN  
BATCH 2017-2018**



**A THESIS**

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as Partial Requirements to Obtain Bachelor Degree in  
English Literature Study Program*

**LUTHFI ANNISAA MUFIDAH FRANJIH**

**F041171321**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM**

**FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES**

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**THESIS**  
**STUDENTS' ABILITY TO COMPREHEND IDIOM AND SLANG FROM**  
**MOVIES: A STUDY CASE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDENT**  
**UNIVERSITAS HASANUDDIN BATCH 2017-2018**

**BY**

**LUTHFI ANNISAA MUFIDAH FRANJIH**

**Student No: F041171321**

It has been examined before the Board of the Thesis Examination on Friday, 20  
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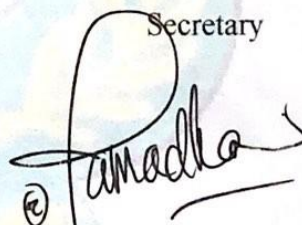
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NIP. 196012311986011071

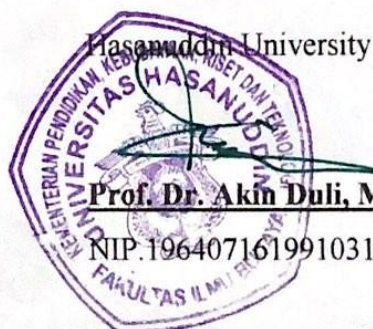
Secretary



**Rezky Ramadhani, S.S., M.Litt.**

NIP. 199303102018074001

Dean Faculty of Cultural Sciences



**Prof. Dr. Akin Duli, M.A**

NIP. 196407161991031010

Head of English Department



**Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl. TESOL**

NIP. 196012311986011071



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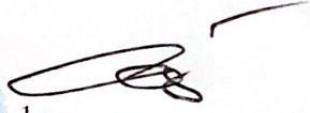
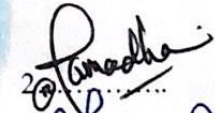
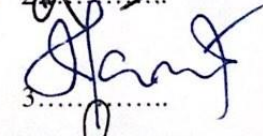



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**STUDENTS' ABILITY TO COMPREHEND IDIOM AND SLANG FROM  
MOVIES: A STUDY CASE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDENT  
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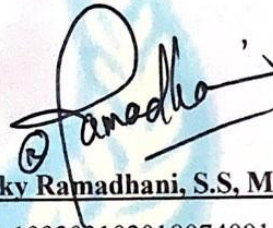
First Supervisor

Second Supervisor



Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl. TESOL

NIP. 196012311986011071



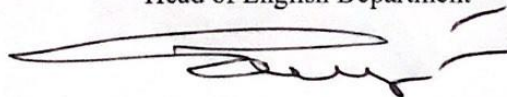
Rezky Ramadhani, S.S., M.Litt.

NIP. 199303102018074001

Approved for the Execution of Thesis Examination  
by the Thesis Organizing Committees

On Behalf of Dean,

Head of English Department



Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl. TESOL

NIP. 196012311986011071



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DECLARATION

The thesis by **LUTHFI ANNISAA MUFIDAH FRANJIH** (Student Number; **F041171321**) entitled, **STUDENTS' ABILITY TO COMPREHEND IDIOM AND SLANG FROM MOVIES: A STUDY CASE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDENT UNIVERSITAS HASANUDDIN BATCH 2017-2018** has been revised as advised during examination on Friday, 20 August 2021 and approved by the board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

Dra. Herawaty, M.Hum., M.A., Ph.D

First Examiner

1.....  


Drs. Simon Sitoto, M.A.

Second Examiner

2.....  


## STATEMENT OF WORK'S ORIGINALITY

The undersigned,

Name : Luthfi Annisaa Mufidah Franjih

ID Number : F041171321

Title of Thesis : Students' Ability to Comprehend Idiom and Slang From  
Movies: A Study Case in English Literature Student Universitas Hasanuddin  
Batch 2017-2018

Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis that I have written does not contain any materials published by other people. It does not cite other people's ideas except the quotations and references as a scientific paper should.

Makassar, August 2021

The Writer



Luthfi Annisaa Mufidah Franjih

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Makassar, 13rd August 2021

Luthfi Annisaa Mufidah Franjih

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## ABSTRAK

**LUTHFI ANNISAA MUFIDAH FRANJIH (F041171321).** *Kemampuan Mahasiswa Memahami Idiom dan Slang Dari Film: Studi Kasus Sastra Inggris Mahasiswa Universitas Hasanuddin Angkatan 2017-2018 (Dibimbing oleh Abidin Pammu dan Rezky Ramadhani)*

Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk mengetahui keefektifan film terhadap pemahaman siswa tentang idiom dan bahasa gaul dan kesulitan yang mungkin mereka hadapi dalam memahaminya. Sebagai penutur bahasa Inggris sebagai bahasa kedua, film sebagai salah satu bentuk budaya populer merupakan salah satu dari banyak bentuk budaya populer yang dapat digunakan untuk memahami dan mempelajari bahasa Inggris dengan lebih baik.

Penulis menggunakan film-film Marvel Cinematic Universe (film-film bergenre Superhero) sebagai sampel idiom dan bahasa gaulnya dalam penelitian ini. Untuk menganalisis data, penulis memutuskan untuk menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif. Responden penelitian ini berjumlah 50 orang mahasiswa Program Studi Sastra Inggris Universitas Hasanuddin angkatan 2017-2018. Data dikumpulkan dengan menggunakan pertanyaan terbuka dan tertutup dan selanjutnya dikelompokkan menjadi dua kelompok. A) Responden yang menonton film lebih dari enam jam seminggu, dan B) Responden yang menonton film kurang dari enam jam seminggu.

Berdasarkan temuan dan analisis, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa mayoritas responden menganggap bahwa film efektif untuk meningkatkan pemahaman siswa tentang idiom dan slang. Hal ini dibuktikan dengan banyaknya responden dari kelompok A yang mendapatkan nilai baik dari angket dan kesulitan dalam memahaminya lebih sedikit dibandingkan dengan responden dari kelompok B.

Kata kunci: **komprehensi, idiom, slang, film**

## ABSTRACT

**LUTHFI ANNISAA MUFIDAH FRANJIH (F041171321).** *Students' Ability to Comprehend Idiom and Slang From Movies: A Study Case in English Literature Student Universitas Hasanuddin Batch 2017-2018 (Supervised by Abidin Pammu and Rezky Ramadhani)*

This research aims to find out the effectiveness of movies on students' comprehension of idiom and slang and the difficulties they may face in understanding them. As a non-native English speaker, movie as one of the popular culture forms is one of many other options to understand and learn the English language better.

The writer used Marvel Cinematic Universe's movies (Superhero genre-based movies) as her idioms and slangs samples in this research. In order to analyze the data, the writer decided to use the qualitative descriptive approach. There were 50 students from Universitas Hasanuddin English Literature Program Batch 2017-2018 as the respondents of this research. The data were collected using open-ended and close-ended questions and further sorted into two groups. A) Respondents who watch movies more than six hours a week, and B) Respondents who watch movies less than six hours a week.

Based on the findings and analysis, this research showed that the majority of the respondents consider that movies are effective to improve students' comprehension of idiom and slang. This is proved by the number of respondents from group A that have a good score from the questionnaire and they have fewer difficulties in understanding them than the respondents from group B.

Keywords: **comprehension, idiom, slang, movies**

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

English is an international language across the world. It is very common to see people using English as well as they are using their first language. In this 21<sup>st</sup> century, the spread of language and culture is very rapid and we all can see how western movies spread and brings more insight in understanding English.

As a student that studying English Literature, mastering productive abilities in English is very important. These productive abilities are including writing, listening, and speaking and we can gain it from formal education or informal ways through the internet, lifestyle, or popular culture.

In this modern era, popular culture in form of music, art, movie, television, radio, cyberculture, and fashion consumed by the majority of society's population. These days, as globalization and mass media appears, movies as one of a form of popular culture spreads easily. It is common that teenagers are often talking about movies and get excited especially blockbuster movies from action, romance, or superhero-themed movies.

Since the year of 2013, superhero movies have filled the movie theaters. These superhero genre-based movies are varied from DC Universe, to Marvel Cinematic Universe. The spread of superhero genre-based movies caught people's attention



especially teenagers because it offers a different atmosphere compared to other movie genres. It offers a story where we can imagine the world's alternate universe and project our fantasy and curiosity into one place.

In specific reference to the relationship between English and pop culture and its form in movies, 'globalization' is often mentioned. Pennycook (1994) concurs with Flaitz (1988), arguing that "English is closely connected to the global spread of popular culture through music and films" (Flaitz 1988: 201).

English native speakers usually use idioms and slang in their everyday conversations. Sometimes, it can also be found in texts. English idioms and slang are not common to people that English is not their first language. Idioms and slang are used widely now, people can find them in daily conversations, social media, movies, songs, and many more. Understanding these expressions is important to help none native speaker to be more fluent, and native-like. It also enriching the vocabulary knowledge of none native speaker.

Therefore, the writer finds it important for students of English Literature to understand idioms and slang.

## **1.2 Identification of The Problem**

In this research, the writer is attracted with popular culture forms that spread globally and it affects on people with English as their second language. Since idioms and slang are not quite learned in formal education, the writer is curious if these things can be acquired through movies as one of popular culture form.

### **1.3 Scope of The Problem**

Since movies are spread massively and there are a lot of box office movies that easily accessible by the society, the writer will only focuses on Marvel Cinematic Universe movies (Superhero genre-based type of movies) as one of popular culture form, also idioms and slang as the subject of this research.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

1. To what extend are the movies effective to improve students' comprehension of idiom and slang?
2. What are the difficulties faced by students in understanding idioms and slang?

### **1.5 Objective of The Study**

1. To figure out whether watching movies can help improve students' understanding of idioms and slang.
2. To understand the difficulties that the students face when hearing idioms and slang in the movies.

### **1.6 Significance of The Study**

After finishing this research, the writer hopes to give contributions and benefits for academic and practical sphere, with hope such as:

1. **Academic Benefits:** This study will hopefully give contribution to reading, writing, and speaking class in order to enhance their English knowledge.
2. **Practical Benefit:** The result of this research may hopefully help other researchers for their research in studying the influence of other kinds of Popular Culture and people's ability in English.



## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Previous Study**

The writer tries to support her research by compiling important related researches that deal with movies and their effect on improving language understanding. Based on other researches, the writer found some similarities and differences in each of the research. Below are the previous studies:

##### **2.1.1 Iranmanesh, A., Darani, L.H. (2018). How Can Movies be Effective in Learning English Idiomatic and Everyday Expressions.**

This research highlights and examines the effect of movies in order to be able to comprehend English idiomatic and everyday expression among Iranian EFL learners. In Iran, most students have taken English classes for at least 6 years before they enter university. However, most of them remain insufficient in their ability to use the language. They have remarked that the dull materials utilized in most language classes are one among the explanations for his or her lack of motivation to find out and learn more about English idiomatic and everyday expression.

In recent years, to promote the learners' mastery of language skills, language teachers have been eager to look for a variety of quality teaching materials and aid to be used in EFL classes to ensure that the students can gain an optimum level of learning. Teaching English, nowadays, has

become tougher than ever. In order to assist the learners' mastery (increase the proficiency) of language skills, language teachers need to provide quality teaching materials which will be engaging, interesting, up-to-date while simultaneously being a tool that will ensure that the students learn.

The output of this research revealed that movies were effective in learning English idiomatic and everyday expression among Iranian EFL learners. Given its many benefits and advantages, movies are considered among the best techniques in teaching English. Moreover, movies offer a variety of methods and resources for teaching the target language, helping students to improve their listening, communicative skills, and understanding English better.

### **2.1.2 Zulfa, Raidha. (2018). Correlation Between Frequency Of Watching English Movies And Vocabulary Mastery Of The Eleventh Grade Students Of Riyadhul Jannah Kuala Tungkal**

This study is aimed to evaluate whether the frequency of watching English movies correlates with students' vocabulary mastery. The researcher of this study using quantitative research design, where the research instruments used in this research are a set of questionnaire and vocabulary test and will be given to thirty one-eleventh grade students of Riyadhul Jannah Kuala Tungkal in the academic year of 2017/2018, as a sample of the research.

Based on the result of this research, there is a correlation between vocabulary mastery and student's frequency of watching English movies. The student with high frequency of watching English movies got excellent to good scores in vocabulary, while those with a low frequency, have fair to poor vocabulary scores.

### **2.1.3 Namvar, Firooz. (2014). The Use of Slang Amongst Undergraduate Students of a Malaysian Public University**

This research was aim to find out Malaysian youths are familiar or not with slang and to compare what kind of slang is used more. Although slang is language and culture-specific especially to English native speakers, they are often transmitted from one culture and language to another. This distribution of slang is helped by the massive progress of media, globalization, and the internet.

This research resulting that slang is an integral part of teenagers' communication. Although slang is a set of colloquial words or phrases in a particular language, with the advancement of the internet and technology, slang from one language and culture passes to another language and culture. The analysis data of this research showed that Malaysian youth are familiar and exposed with slang because most of the TV channels in Malaysia are American channels.

These researches above studied how movies as one pop culture form have an impact on one's English ability. The writer's aim in this research is to find the effectiveness of movies in student's comprehension of idioms and slang.

. The difference between these researches and the research that the writer conduct is these researches are focusing on educational purpose, and find a new way to teach the student about English idiomatic expression, focusing on students' vocabulary enrichment, while the research that the writer conduct is focusing on the ability that the student already has and its correlation to movie's exposure to their ability in understanding idiom and slang.

## **2.2 Theoretical Background**

### **2.2.1 Idiom**

There are many ways to express intent and meaning, and idiom is one of them. Idiom is a figurative expression that is frequently used both in literary work and daily life, especially for English native speakers. Every language in the world has its own idiom. People oftentimes hear idioms from movies, songs, radio, magazine, or social media.

According to Larson (1984: 20), "Idiom is a string of words whose meaning is different from the meaning conveyed by the individual words". Therefore, the idiom cannot be translated literally, or word by word.

In another hand, Hornby (1995) stated that an idiom is a phrase or sentence whose meaning is not clear from the meaning of its individual words and which must be learned as a whole unit, for instance, the idiom spill the beans means to reveal secret information, especially without intending to do so.

With the definition of the experts above, an idiom is an expression that cannot be separated word by word, a collection of unchangeable special phrases whose meaning cannot be traced from the meaning of its constituents.

### **2.2.2 Slang**

Slang is an informal language commonly used in speech rather than writing in society. Slang usually in the form of words and phrases that are found in particular groups and has been introduced since the sixteenth century. According to Adams (2009: 57), “the speaker uses slang in order to achieve social dynamics with the people to whom he/she is speaking and slang outlines social spaces, and attitudes”. It means when someone is using slang, they expose their idea, feeling, attitude as how they want to perceive people that talk to them.

Swan (1995: 534) also states that “slang is a very normal kind of vocabulary, used mostly in a speech by people who know each other well”. Meaning slang is used by people in a small group, and they know

each other so therefore they don't have to explain their intention beforehand.

Throughout time, Partridge (1950) divided slang history into five decades. First is the sixteenth century, where slang appeared for the first time and was only used in one particular group such as beggars, criminals, thieves, etc. Second, in the seventeenth-century slang was rich of figurative language or metaphors and related to immoral action. Third, in the eighteenth-century slang being recognized as a part of English vocabulary. Fourth, in the nineteenth century, the first slang dictionary was produced in 1899 and it started the growth of slang among society. And last, in the twentieth-century slang become used not in one particular group anymore, and become a part of spoken language where people use it in daily conversation.

### **2.2.3 Movies**

Movies, as described by Wanadilok (1974: 201), "movie is an authentic medium which carries true impression and concepts with animation". The main types that are often used to categorized movie regarding to Wanadilok statement are genres, setting, mood, and format. The setting is defined as the location of the movie, mood is known as the emotional charge carried throughout the movie, and format is the way movie have been shot using particular equipment or presented.



Besides the entertainment purpose, movies are also used to inspire and educate those who watched them. A movie can teach people about science, human behavior, and history. Movies are available in any kind of language. The term used in this research is an English movie, a movie in which the character speak or use English in the dialogue.

### **2.3 Theoretical Framework**

Before writing this thesis, the writer had conducted a small observation which shows students are likely to spend their spare time on the internet, whether scrolling social media, streams movies online or playing online games. But there are some students that not spent all of their spare time on the internet, these students focusing their spare time on work part-time, or being active in the organization or a volunteering program. Following the 3 main previous studies above, the writer would also to know to what extend movies are effective to the comprehension of student in understanding idioms and slang, and difficulties that student faced in understanding them.