

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Both in formal and non-formal situations, English native speakers do not frequently communicate with literal expressions but with figurative ones. Such tendency aims at creating beauty, charm, appropriateness, flexibility, and origin to the language users. Figurative expressions which establish those aims are called *idioms*. Within *Meaning-Based Translation*, Beekman and Callow (1974) has noted idiomatic expressions as, "... cannot be understood literally and which function as a unit semantically" (cited in Larson, 1984, p. 115). Simply an idiom is in general as a figurative meaning; that is, the meaning cannot be literally interpreted with the form of the word.

Idioms are referred to as the style which plays big role in developing literary works which can be seen in everyday life such as in newspaper and magazine articles, novels, movies, and song lyrics. Among those works, the very specific work is the song lyric, because its arrangement of the essential meaning delivered by instruments and vocal tones is the simplest way of telling powerful ideas. As the result, listeners want to hear the song lyrics every second of their life minute and also at the same time lead the singers or the songwriters to be a historical musician such as two American singer-songwriters namely Michael Jackson and Katy Perry.

Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has listed them as the historical American singer-songwriters due to their album – *Bad* of Michael Jackson and *Teenage Dream* of Katy Perry – successfully sold over 28 million digital copies. Simply, as a matter of fact, it is undeniable to say that because idiomatic expressions can describe imaginary ideas, not only in song lyrics but also in other literary works,

better than literal expressions do, the well-designed idiomatic expressions applied in both of their album are intensively visible. From that fact and as the result, the writer has to do a concise analysis in order to choose the most proper object analysis between the two albums.

Aside from the album achievement, based on the concise analysis, the album whose song lyrics mostly apply idiomatic expressions of the two common types of English idioms proposed by Palmer (1981) as called the “phrasal verb” and “partial idioms, where one of the words has its usual meaning” (p.81) is *Teenage Dream* of Katy Perry. Not only have that, the album carried over a view of the central “what is going on” or storytelling mediated by the idiomatic expressions that sets out various emotional values which are more than about love; for instance, curiosity and affection. On the other hand, *Bad* album is shown in a fan page saying, “Idiomatic expression, though, used in *Bad* album, for instance, *The way you make feel*, *Liberian Girl*, *Just good friends*, *man in the mirror*, has extensively described the album theme about ‘love’” (“All Michael Jackson”, 2001). Thus, being compared to *Bad*, *Teenage Dream* is no.1 not only in applying idiomatic expressions but also in setting out various essential ideas.

Besides, it is necessary to notice a bit that the fact of the title “King of Pop” tied to Michael Jackson, without any doubt, make him everlasting inside of his broad fans around the world, but it may not be denied that Katy Perry also has broad fans too. As what Michael did before, she also has been on her way to get on the top of the success in music field as reflected on *Teenage Dream* album’s success mentioned before. In addition to the album using idioms frequently, *Teenage Dream* is an update album from an up-and-coming singer, Katy Perry. Therefore, the album should be studied.

Idiomatic expressions have led an advantage to Katy Perry's fans especially English native one at becoming more appreciative and enjoyable with *Teenage Dream*. For those, knowing idiomatic expressions in *Teenage Dream* is likely a flick of their fingers, but it is totally different for English non-native listeners. When facing such expressions in the album, most of them must have been guessing the meanings, and as the result it will head for a failure to understand what actually each song in the album is all about so then they debate without an end as shown in "online commonsense media reviews for *Teenage Dream*", which is a website where everybody from every place around the world can join and give comments on the 12 songs in the album. It can thus be said that idiom has frequently been the barrier for English non-native listeners.

Analyzing idioms in meaning field really needs an extra carefulness as stated before by Beekman and Callow (1974) that the meaning cannot be interpreted literally, and add to it, Brinton (2000) has asserted semantically conventionalized idioms or known as "noncompositionality" (p.100). It needs now to be pointed out that idiomatic expressions are concerned with cultural background. As decades passed by, English has accepted many influences in language from its colonization, and at the same time many pairs of idiomatic expressions created. Culture has made the idiomatic phrases, which any word in it cannot be replaced by other words; thus, now it has been very clear that getting touch with idiom has to consider at least an English dictionary.

With stick to the point, for the purpose of avoiding a number of complaints about the originality of this research, the writer mentions one previous research conducted by Akbar (2011) who analyzed forms and meanings of *idiomatic expressions in randomly chosen Celine Dion's 10 song lyrics*. Unlike Akbar using 10 Celine Dion's song lyrics chosen randomly, the writer uses 12 Katy Pery's song lyrics listed in *Teenage Dream* album.

Without any doubt, therefore, it is worthwhile looking at the details of idioms in the album, of course, without marginalizing each meaning of the idiomatic expressions in every lyric of the 12 songs. This is really as the key making this research significant, because along with the process of analysis it begins to help English non-native listeners to avoid some misunderstandings over idiomatic meaning they are confused or wrong about, so they will be more appreciative and enjoyable of Katy Perry's *Teenage Dream* album like English native ones do, and next chapters will demonstrate and discuss it thoroughly.

1.2 Research Question

- What are the forms of the idiomatic expressions in Katy Perry's *Teenage Dream* album?
- What are the meanings of the idiomatic expressions in the album?

1.3 Scope of the research

The writer limits the research into idiomatic expressions and their meanings found in Katy Perry's *Teenage Dream* album.

1.4 Purpose of the research

- To find out the forms of the idiomatic expressions in Katy Perry's *Teenage Dream* album
- To find out the meanings of the idiomatic expressions in the album

1.5 Significance of the research

The writer does seriously hope that this *skripsi* can be an additional reference for English Literature students who are conducting the related research, and the other benefit is to expand the writer's and students' understanding about idiomatic expressions widely applied in song lyrics.