

Idioms and Their Meaning

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**IDIOMS AND THEIR MEANING IN THE ENOLA HOLMES MOVIE AS A
REFERENCE TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING**

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Abstract

Idiom is considered difficult to understand because the meaning of idiom is often opaque and cannot always be translated literally. English movies can be used as interesting learning media to learn idiom. This research aims to analyze about the types and meanings of the idioms in the "Enola Holmes" movie. The idioms found are classified according to Fernando's theory as pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal idioms. The idioms found are translated according to the appropriate context in the "Enola Holmes" movie. This research is expected to be an additional reference in lexical learning, especially idioms. Based on the analysis, the researcher finds 61 idioms from the "Enola Holmes" movie. According to the classification, there are 25 pure idioms, 20 semi idioms, and 16 literal idioms. The "Enola Holmes" movie can be used as a media to teach idioms, and this research can contribute as a reference to study idioms.

Keywords: *idioms; idioms classification; idioms meaning; "Enola Holmes" movie*

INTRODUCTION

English is the language used to communicate by people in almost every part of the world and from different backgrounds as a *lingua franca* (Rohmah, 2005, pp. 106–107). As a *lingua franca*, English is studied in most of the countries in the world as a second language. In an increasingly globalized era, people are expected to be able to learn and understand English at least at a basic level. Reasons to study English ranging from sociocultural, economic and business aspects,

educational reasons, and also political convenience (Rohmah, 2005, p. 108).

English language, as it is widely used in various countries, will certainly have many variations built by the diversity of variation of social and cultural of the people. It is certainly possible for various new English language styles and variations to appear. The example of the language variation that is created is idiom. Idiom itself still has cultural attachments, as well

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as the views of their users. The use of idiom always develops from time to time as times develop. By certain groups, idiom can even become a slang (Sari, 2015, p. 14).

Lexical Studies is a study that helps to extend and understand more about vocabulary in English (Prastikawati & Budiman, 2020). One of the topics studied in Lexical studies is idiom. Idiom is defined as words or phrases that have a non-literal meaning. Idiom sometimes cannot be interpreted directly because its meaning can be so different from its literal meaning (Kovács, 2017). Without deep understandings, English learners will find it difficult to find the appropriate meaning of idiom.

English movie is one of the interesting English learning medium. There are many advantages that can be obtained in learning English through movies. English learners can find out the correct pronunciation like native speakers. In addition, through English movie, English learners can find out a lot of new and hard vocabularies such as slang, phrasal verbs, and idioms. By paying close attention to the actors, English learners will also know the accent used and know how the right intonation when the speakers pronounce the words (Sujit & Uzzaman, 2015, pp. 15–17).

The researcher decided to analyze the idioms in the “Enola Holmes” movie because this movie is a very interesting new movie in 2020 that aired on *Netflix*. This movie tells the story of Enola's journey to find her missing mother, but end up by her solving the case of the missing Marquess. This movie has the genre of action, fantasy, family, mystery. Learning the use of idioms in real situations through movies will be easier. From the “Enola Holmes” movie, it can be seen how native speakers use idioms in appropriate contexts and situations.

This research is a qualitative research. Qualitative research is rich in descriptions and explanations. Qualitative research is focus more on a phenomenon by going through the process of observation, which aims to gain a deep understanding (Ary et al., 2010, p. 29). The researcher analyzed the idioms, types, and meanings in the “Enola Holmes” movie which can be used as a reference in teaching Lexical Studies, especially learning idioms. “Enola Holmes” movie script was downloaded by the researcher via internet. In order to be better to understand the conversation by each character, the researcher analyzed the “Enola Holmes” movie script while re-watching “Enola Holmes” movie and paying attention to expression and situations of the characters in the film so the researcher knew on which situation the idioms appears. Furthermore, this research is expected to be contributed in learning idiom as one of the topics in Lexical Studies as a reference.

Idiom

Idiom is expression words or phrases that have non-literal meanings. It cannot be interpreted directly because its meaning is sometimes different from its literal meaning. Idiom is a frozen pattern of the language that cannot be translated of each component individually (Baker, 2001, p. 63). Idiom is defined as words or sentences that have a non-literal meaning. It cannot be interpreted directly because its meaning will be different from its literal meaning (Kovács, 2017). Idiom is defined as a whole sentence. Idiom must be interpreted in one sentence according to the context, then it will get the intended meaning (Longman Dictionary, n.d.). The arrangement of words in an idiom is not always in accordance with grammar. It is called as idioms with irregular form (Siedl & W. McMordie, 1988). According to Thornbury (2007), quoted from (Puspitaloka, 2019), grammar studies the

structure and rules of how to form an appropriate sentence in a language. Although the idiom has an irregular grammar structure from the standard English grammar, it can be accepted and can still be understood and produces an expression (Siedl & W. McMordie, 1988).

Types of Idiom

To classify idioms is actually quite complicated, even for experts. Some experts try to classify idioms into several types. These types of idiom classification can be based on the structure, level of transparency of meaning, semantically or lexically (Kovács, 2017). According to Fernando, as quoted from Kovács journal, titled “*About the Definition, Classification, and Translation Strategies of Idioms*”, there are three types of idiomatic expression:

Pure idiom

Pure idioms have combinations of composing words that have different meaning from their actual meaning. Each element of the idiom-composing words has meaning that is different from its literal meaning.

Semi-idiom

Fernando has classified semi-idioms as those where one of the words that construct the idiom has a literal meaning while the other have idiomatic elements. The meaning of semi-idioms is not as ambiguous as pure idioms but still requires proper understandings.

Literal idioms

Literal idioms are considered as idioms that are easy to interpret. Each elements of the literal idioms have its literal meaning. However, it would be quite confusing for English learners to notice these literal idioms without deep learning and understanding.

Lexical Studies

Lexical Studies is one of the subjects studied in the field of linguistics. It discusses word formation, derivation of words, and even words meaning. The basis for learning in lexical is including the meaning of the word itself, homonym, homograph, homophone, lexeme and its variants, classifying words into verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and smaller word class units, namely prepositions, pronouns, determiners, and conjunction (Jackson, 2002). Lexical Studies also deals with the interpretation of the meaning of the word. The duties of a lexicographer are to study and define meaning. The important and closely related meaning of a word and or a combination of words or sentences has a close background relationship with the real situation, the context of the sentence, and the relationship with other vocabulary (Jackson, 2002).

Lexical Studies is a subject studied to understand more about vocabulary in English. This understanding can be through the English word formation, affixes, phrasal verbs, idioms, and knowing how to implement them in the sentences. Lexical Studies is a subject that must be taken by the students of English Education of Universitas PGRI Semarang. This course is called Lexical Studies 1 and 2 taken in the second and third semester with a weight of 2 credits of each. One of the sub-topics in Lexical Studies is about phrasal verbs and idioms. One of the sub-topics in Lexical Studies is about phrasal verbs and idioms. This course is designed to train students in understanding English vocabulary through phrasal verbs and idioms, and applying them correctly and logically both on writing and orally. This course discusses the definitions of phrasal verbs and idioms, types of phrasal verbs and their meanings, types of idioms and their meanings, as well as English idioms

that can be found in newspapers and other contexts (Prastikawati & Budiman, 2020).

METHOD

Descriptive qualitative research design is suitable to analyze data from contents because the descriptions of the data obtained are presented based on the appropriate context (Lambert & Lambert, 2013). The main instrument used for data collection in qualitative research is the researcher him/herself (Ary et al., 2010, p. 421). Three qualitative data collection methods that are often used are observation, interviews, and document analysis (Ary et al., 2010, p. 431). To analyze the idioms in “Enola Holmes” movie script, the researcher used observation and document analysis method with the several steps: (1) Watching “Enola Holmes” movie. (2) Reading the script of “Enola Holmes” movie. (3) Scanning for possible idioms in “Enola Holmes” movie script and marking the possible idioms. (4) Collecting all information about the idioms in the Movie. (5) Taking tentative notes all of the possible idioms found from “Enola Holmes” movie script (6) Stating the reasons why idioms can be useful for additional references to lexical learning based on real and logical contexts.

According to (Ary et al., 2010), data analysis is the most complex phase of the research. The process is time-consuming and requires researcher skills to process previously collected data through observation, interviews, and document analysis. Analysis involves reducing and organizing data, simplifying data, looking for significant patterns, and discovering what is important of the data. Qualitative data analysis can be described in three

stages: (1) organizing and familiarizing (2) coding and reducing (3) interpreting and representing (Ary et al., 2010, pp. 481–490).

To analyze the data, the researcher analyzed the data through the following steps: first step is organizing the data. The data is all of the possible idioms in “Enola Holmes” movie. The second step is coding and reducing all the data to determine the idioms. The third step is tentatively classifying the idioms according their types based on Fernando classification. The idioms that has been analyzed is arranged in table form. The next step is searching for the meaning of the idioms found in the “Enola Holmes” movie. The researcher searched for the meaning of idioms using online dictionaries and cross checked with other relevant dictionaries and sources. After all the data are found, the researcher described and interpreted types of idioms and the meaning of idioms found in the “Enola Holmes” movie. Further step is describing and interpreting pedagogical implication of the research as a reference to Lexical Study especially the idioms learning.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Types of Idioms in the “Enola Holmes” Movie

The researcher collected data from the “Enola Holmes” movie script as a data source to find idioms. The idioms found then are categorized according to types based on Fernando’s classification as pure idiom, semi-idiom, and literal idiom. The idioms found are presented in the table as follows:

Table 1: *Types of Idioms in the “Enola Holmes” Movie*

| Pure idiom | Semi idiom | Literal idiom |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Whole world | Put away | Build up |
| A firm hand | Foul play | Grow up |
| To catch an eye | On one’s own account | Get out |
| Turn in one’s grave | Break up | From top to bottom |
| Paint your own picture | Clever little tongue | Someone life flash before them |
| Thrown off course | Out of one’s hands | Worth a fortune |
| Turn out | The game is afoot | Rid someone of something |
| Run rings around | Get on | Ahead of the times |
| Be hot on someone tail | Brush with death | Show out |
| The beating heart of | Cut off | Keep one’s mouth shut |
| A blooming | Take one’s seat | Come down |
| On the edge of a cliff | Go to pot | Come by |
| To prepare the ground | Look the spit of | To mean something |
| To fleece someone’s path | Track down | At stake |
| Breadcrumb trail | Open up | Fuss over |
| Stars and garters | Take off | Lead someone astray |
| Shut up | Get away | |
| Make a match | Dilly-dally | |
| Hand over | Set something off | |
| Live up to | Reveal one’s hand | |
| To pick one’s brain | | |
| Watch out | | |
| On one’s head be it | | |
| Wash one’s hands of | | |
| A strange fish | | |

Based on the results of the analysis of the idioms in “Enola Holmes” movie script, 61 idioms are found within dialogues in the “Enola Holmes” movie. These 61 idioms are then categorized based on their types according to Fernando's classification: literal idioms, semi idioms and pure idioms. After the idioms are classified, there are 25 pure idioms types, 20 semi idioms types, and 16 literal idioms types.

The researcher includes some examples of type idiom analysis in the “Enola Holmes” movie as follows:

Pure idiom types

Idioms that are classified as pure idioms have constituent words whose meaning is much different from the original meaning.

Whole world

This idiom is classified as a pure idiom. This idiom is categorized as pure idiom because both of the constituent words of the idiom are completely different from the literal meaning. The phrase "whole world" does not refer to "world" in a literal sense.

A firm hand

Firm hand is included in the pure idiom category. A firm hand cannot be interpreted according to its literal sense. A firm hand refers to someone and not only to a part of the body.

Paint your own picture

Paint your own picture is included in the pure idiom category. This idiom is not interpreted according to its literal meaning. The meaning of this idiom has

nothing to do with literally "drawing a picture".

Be hot on someone's tail

Be hot on someone's tail is a pure idiom because the meaning of the constituent words of the idiom is very different from the literal meaning. Hot on someone's tail has absolutely nothing to do with "hot" and "tail" in literal sense.

The beating heart of something

The beating heart of something is a pure idiom category. The phrase beating heart does not refer to "heartbeat" in a literal sense. Therefore, the idiom the beating heart of is included in the category of pure idiom based on the explanation in Fernando's classification.

A strange fish

A strange fish is classified as a pure idiom. Categorized as pure idiom because the meaning of the idiom has nothing to do with "fish" in literal.

Semi-idiom types

Fernando classifies semi-idioms as those, where one of the words that construct the idiom has a literal meaning while the other have idiomatic elements.

Put away

According to Fernando's classification, this idiom is semi idiom. This idiom is a phrasal verb. This idiom is mentioned as semi idiom because one of the constituent words can be literally interpreted and the other one cannot be interpreted literally. The word "put" still literally means "put", while "away" does not mean "far". Put away cannot be interpreted separately.

Foul play

Foul play is categorized as semi idiom because one of the constituent words of the idiom can be interpreted literally, and the other one cannot be interpreted literally. Foul play is familiar to use in the sport game, which means unfair conduct in a game. In the "Enola Holmes" movie, foul play does not mean unfairness. "Foul" means bad, rude, vile. While "play" does not mean "games", but unspecified criminal or unscrupulous actions.

The game is afoot

The game is afoot is a semi idiom. Classified as semi idiom because some of the words have a literal meaning and some have to be interpreted first. "Game" in this context is not only defined as a "game" in the true sense but an interesting event. "Is afoot" means literally that is happening, or about to happen.

Dilly-dally

Dilly-dally is a semi idiom. "Dilly" is not defined as "stupid". "Dally" can still be interpreted literally as "wasting time". This phrase is included in the category of semi idioms according to Fernando's classification.

Reveal one's hand

Reveal one's hand is a semi idiom based on Fernando's category. "Reveal" can be interpreted according to its literal meaning. "Someone's hand" cannot be interpreted as "hand" in the sense of a part of the human body. In this idiom "hand" means "plan; secret; or strategy".

Literal idioms types

The constructor of the literal idiom is the literal word and meaning, but allow little variation. Literal idioms are

considered as idioms that are easy to interpret.

Worth a fortune

Worth a fortune is categorized as a literal idiom. The meaning can be interpreted directly according to the literal meaning of each constituent words.

Ahead of time

Ahead of time is an idiom that is categorized in the literal idiom type because the constituent words can be interpreted literally. Ahead means "to be in front" while "time" literally means time.

Show out

Show out is categorized as a literal idiom. Show out can be interpreted literally. The meaning as an idiom is not much different from its literal meaning. Show out is a phrasal verb and is often used in everyday language.

Lead someone astray

Lead someone stray belongs to the literal idiom category. The meaning of lead someone astray can be interpreted directly according to the literal meaning of the constituent words. The meaning of the idiom is very close to the literal meaning, so it can be called a literal idiom according to the category of Fernando.

At stake

At stake is a literal idiom. "Stake" can be interpreted as "bet, wager, gamble". This idiom can be interpreted directly by its original meaning.

Meanings of Idioms in the "Enola Holmes" Movie

The researcher searched for the meaning of the idioms that have been found in the "Enola Holmes" movie script using relevant online dictionaries. Idiom

meanings are presented with sentences/dialogues where this idiom is used in the "Enola Holmes" movie. The idioms and its meaning can be used as a clear example of the use of idioms in the appropriate context and correct sentences. The researcher presents some examples of the meaning of the idioms that have been analyzed as follows:

Pure idiom types

One's whole world

[Enola]: *Mother said we are free to do anything at Ferndell... (Oh. Sorry, Grandpa) ...and be anyone. She was my whole world.*

00:02:03,375 --> 00:02:24,791

The meaning of the idiom one's whole world is to be extremely important; to be someone or something that someone cares about very much. In the movie, what Enola means as her whole world is that her mother is extremely important for her, her mother is everything for her.

A firm hand

[Sherlock]: *Enola may prefer to stay here. You could acquire a governess.*

[Mycroft]: *She needs a firm hand, Sherlock.*

00:12:16,916 --> 00:12:24,208

A firm hand means someone that has a strong sense of management; a high degree of discipline and direction. In the "Enola Holmes" movie, the phrase a firm hand is used by Mycroft to state that Enola needs someone who is firm and has a high degree of discipline to educate her.

Paint your own picture

[Eudoria]: *Paint your own picture, Enola. Don't be thrown off course by other people. Especially men!*

00:25:47,500 --> 00:25:53,958

Paint one's own picture means determines one's life, future, or way by one's own. In the "Enola Holmes" movie, Eudoria uses the phrase paint your own picture is not to ask Enola to draw in a literal sense, but to determine her life by her own.

Be hot on someone's tail

[Enola]: *In the morning, we'll have to move fast. The bowler hat man will be hot on your tail...*

00:33:47,750 --> 00:33:51,125

Be hot on someone's tail means following closely behind someone. In the "Enola Holmes" movie, Enola warns Tewkesbury that the bowler hat that is hunting him will easy to track him down and catch up if they don't move quickly.

The beating heart of

[Enola]: *London: the beating heart of England. Mother will be here somewhere, and though she prepared me for many things...*

00:35:13,500 --> 00:35:20,083

The beating heart of means the main origin of activity or excitement in a place or organization; the center of something. In the "Enola Holmes" movie, Enola defines London as the center of England, a bustling city of social, economic and government communities.

A strange fish

[Mycroft]: *You are a strange fish, little brother.*

[Sherlock]: *And you're a cantankerous one, older brother.*

01:50:13,208 --> 01:50:19,000

Strange fish means someone who is really unique, crazy, weird. In the context from the "Enola Holmes" movie, strange fish is not referring to a real fish as an

animal, but Mycroft thought that Sherlock was an eccentric or strange person.

Semi-idiom types

Fernando classifies semi-idioms as those where one of the words that construct the idiom has a literal meaning while the other have idiomatic elements. The meaning of semi-idioms is not as ambiguous as pure idioms but still requires proper understanding.

Put away

[Mycroft]: *Clothes haven't been put away.*

00:08:00,375 --> 00:08:03,166

Put away is a phrasal verb that cannot be interpreted separately per word. Put away means to keep something where it should be placed; to eat or drink a lot of something; to put someone in a prison or a mental hospital; to save an amount of money. In the "Enola Holmes" movie, put away means to keep something where it should be placed and is used to refer to clothes that are not tidied up and not kept in closets as it should be.

Foul play

[Sherlock]: *But it wasn't foul play.*

[Mycroft]: *How? Are you certain?*

00:08:14,458 --> 00:08:20,916

Foul play means unscrupulous actions, that can be a potential cause of a death or disappearance; unfair conduct in a game. In the "Enola Holmes" movie, foul play means a criminal act that can cause death or someone or kidnapping. Sherlock gave a statement that their mother disappearance was not due to criminal acts or kidnapping.

The game is afoot

[Enola]: *Mother was able to vanish from Ferndell, and so must I, in the clothes Sherlock himself grew up in. It's a necessary distraction. I was just beginning to master it. Phase one of the plan complete. I'm coming to find you, Mother. The game is afoot.*

00:20:38,708 --> 00:21:02,916

The game is afoot means something exciting, thrilling has started, or about to start. This phrase comes from William Shakespeare's famous play, King Henry IV Part I, published in 1597. In the "Enola Holmes" movie, Enola said the game is afoot when she is determined to run away from home and begins her journey to find and solve the mystery of her mother's disappearance.

Dilly-dally

[Miss Harrison]: *Girls... Would you just take this parcel into my office that I might open it later? No dilly-dallying.*

01:30:48,916 --> 01:31:01,333

Dilly-dally means to waste time. In the "Enola Holmes" movie, dilly-dally is uttered by Miss Harrison to her students to move quickly and not waste time through aimless wandering to bring the package to the principal's office.

Reveal one's hand

[Enola]: *And my final thought is that I may have revealed my hand in front of my brother when checking the newspaper. This is Sherlock Holmes's doing.*

01:49:11,291 --> 01:49:19,375

Reveal one's hand means to make one's plans, intentions, ideas known to others. In the context based on the "Enola Holmes" movie, reveal one's hand means that Sherlock has accidentally found out what Enola is planning to do to find their mother by using a word play in the form of

a code and then later will be published in the newspaper.

Literal idioms types

Literal idioms are called idioms that are easy to interpret. The constructor of the literal idiom is the literal word and meaning, but allow little variation. However, it would be quite confusing for newbie English learners to notice these literal idioms without deep learning and understanding.

Worth a fortune

[Mycroft]: *I knew his father, obnoxious sort. Liberal, but worth a fortune.*

00:36:53,125 --> 00:36:57,958

Worth a fortune means worth a lot of money; very rich. In the "Enola Holmes" movie, Mycroft defines Tewkesbury's father as worth a fortune, which means Tewkesbury's father is very rich.

Ahead of time

[Enola]: *I work for Sherlock Holmes. I... I'm his assistant. He sends me ahead of time to prepare the ground.*

00:57:26,833 --> 00:57:33,541

Ahead of time means earlier; sooner; more advanced or innovative in a particular era. In the "Enola Holmes" movie, ahead of time in "He sends me ahead of time to prepare the ground" means that Sherlock sent Enola to Basilwether earlier (before Sherlock himself).

Show out

[Sir Whimbrel]: *My sister-in-law has all the help she needs. Show her out.*

00:57:03,083 --> 00:57:06,041

Show out means to escort or accompany one to an exit; to present or perform something. In the “Enola Holmes” movie, show out in “Show her out” has the meaning to lead someone to the door by which they leave a place. Show out is one of the most used phrasal verbs.

Leading someone astray

[Enola]: *So, this is where you laid your plans. Or maybe that's what you wanted them to think. You were leading them astray.*

01:07:15,875 --> 01:07:28,625

Leading someone astray means to lead someone in the wrong direction; cause someone to believe an untruth. In the “Enola Holmes” movie, lead astray is spoken by Enola in reference to Tewkesbury's actions that may be aimed at misleading those who seek him, including bowler hat.

At stake

[Tewkesbury]: *Where's my mother?*

[Lady Dowager]: *In London. With your uncle. Looking for you. They never understood. I'm so sorry, my darling. The future of the country is at stake.*

01:40:37,333 --> 01:41:01,000

At stake means at risk; in question; to be won or lost. In the “Enola Holmes” movie, in the sentence uttered by Lady Dowager mean that the future of the country is at stake and fragile.

Pedagogical Implication

This research is intended as an analysis of the idioms in the “Enola Holmes” movie that can be used as a reference to Lexical learning. Lexical Studies is one of the subjects that must be taken by students of English Education at Universitas PGRI Semarang. One of sub-material in Lexical Studies. This course is

designed to train students in understanding English vocabulary through phrasal verbs and idioms and applying them in writing and orally correctly and logically. This course discusses the definitions of phrasal verbs and idioms, types of idioms and their meanings, as well as English idioms that can be found in newspapers and other contexts.

Idiom analysis in the “Enola Holmes” movie script can be used as a reference to Lexical learning and also as an additional teaching material for teachers, especially for idiom learning. Teachers and English learners can read this research to find out some of the idioms in the “Enola Holmes” movie as learning materials and additional knowledge. By doing this analysis, this research is purposed as an additional reference for learning idioms through media other than books and dictionaries. Teachers can use this research as a reference where the “Enola Holmes” movie can be chosen as a learning media. Through movie media, the sentences where the idioms appear will be spoken directly by the speakers in a certain context, so that, it can be used as an example of the appropriate and contextual use of idioms.

The idioms found are analyzed about their types and meaning. The idioms meaning are presented with sentences/ dialogues where this idiom is used in the “Enola Holmes” movie, so that, it can be used as a clear example of the use of idioms in the appropriate context and correct sentences. Therefore, this research can be used as a reference and as an additional teaching material to Lexical studies, especially idioms.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, the researcher finds 61 idioms in the “Enola Holmes” movie. The 61 idioms found are then classified according to Fernando's

classification. According to the classification, there are 25 pure idiom types, 20 semi idiom types, and 16 literal idiom types. Furthermore, the meaning of the idioms found are analyzed based on the appropriate context in the “Enola Holmes” movie. The meanings of idioms are searched using relevant online dictionaries and other relevant sources. In addition, this research is expected to be an additional reference in Lexical learning, especially idioms learning. Therefore, teachers can use the “Enola Holmes” movie as a media to teach idioms and use this research as a reference to learning idioms in Lexical learning.

For further research, the other researchers can conduct other researches by using movie objects with different aspects to be analyzed, such as the cultural aspects, translation techniques, and other linguistic aspects that can be linked as material within the scope of learning linguistics. Related to this research, teachers can use learning media other than textbooks, for example, English movies, as interesting and relevant learning resources. Through a movie, various linguistic aspects can be studied. So, English teachers can take advantages of previous researches as additional learning references.

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