

An Analysis of Structural Units and Modification of the Idiomatic Expressions on Speech Videos

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Abstract

This research analyzed idiomatic expressions in speech videos on the TEDx Talks YouTube channel. This study used descriptive linguistics to collect qualitative data and used analytical techniques. The data were taken from nine speech videos from TEDx Talks YouTube channel, after collected the idiomatic expressions, the data were categorized using two theories: Biber's (1999) and Ernst's (1981) theories. This study found 54 kinds of structural units of idiomatic expressions with the most dominant were prepositional phrase idioms with total 21 idioms, followed by selected verb + noun phrase idioms with total 14 idioms, next selected verb + prepositional phrase idioms with total 13 idioms, and lastly noun phrase idioms with total 6 idioms. This study also found 11 idiom modifications, and internal modifications were the most appeared with total 5 idioms, followed by external modifications with total 4 idioms, and lastly conjunction modification with total 2 idioms. The implications of this research can be used in teaching and learning for EFL/ESL.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a fundamental purpose that most people would select first as a means of communicating feelings, expressions, and ideas. However, many people are often confused when they hear some expressions. There are some expressions whose meanings are difficult to comprehend. Those expressions could be idiomatic expressions (Antara, 2015). A component of the language that people use to communicate is idiomatic expression. When the meaning of a phrase or set of words cannot be inferred from their separate definitions, we say that they are idioms. This kind of statement or phrase requires full memorization of its meaning since it cannot be deduced from familiarity with the meanings of its separate words (McKay & Hornby, 1975). Idioms are widely utilized in daily conversation today, and according to Sipayung (2017), they make language attractive. In addition, idioms often show and reflect societal mores, values, perspectives, and feelings (Glucksberg, 2008). In the other hand, idioms are necessary for EFL/ESL learners because they provide insight into the cultural context and nuances of a language. Understanding idioms helps learners grasp the idiomatic expressions commonly used by native speakers, enhancing their overall language proficiency. It also enables learners to effectively communicate and comprehend idiomatic phrases in various situations, such as in academic professional settings. Therefore, there is a continued need for, especially in the EFL/ESL setting, additional idiom research as well as improved pedagogical practices and resources (Rafatbakhsh & Ahmadi, 2019).

Idioms have long been a difficult and time-consuming part of language instruction due to the fact that their meaning is not always obvious to students and cannot be deduced from component analysis (Cameron & Low, 1999; Simpson & Mendis, 2003). The term "to kick the bucket" has nothing to do with actually kicking a bucket with one's legs; rather, it is a

metaphor for death (Rana, 2016). For understanding the meaning of idioms, this study uses a dictionary since it compiles by language experts. A dictionary also offers examples of how idioms are used in context, which can be helpful to understand the meaning effectively. Sipayung (2017) asserts that dictionaries are the only reliable source for understanding the precise meaning of idioms.

In this paper, idioms will be proofed as the idiomatic phrases listed in online dictionaries: Cambridge Dictionary and Merriam-Webster Dictionary. Cooper (1998) stated that idiomatic expressions can be defined using two methods: lexically and contextually. From a lexical perspective, an idiomatic term has the meaning that is customarily defined to the frequent usage in dictionaries. Contextually, it can usually figure out what an idiomatic phrase means since different idioms have different 4 meanings in different contexts. Lee & Lyons (1982) stated that a word's contextual meaning is determined by its use in a certain situation.

One definition of an idiom is a word combination whose meaning is distinct from that of the individual words. In addition, idiomatic phrases may stand in for many other structural elements, and their meaning is not solely dependent on the meaning of their individual pieces (Biber, 1999). Biber (1999) divided the structural units of the idiomatic expression: wh-questions idiom, noun phrase idiom, prepositional idiom, and selected verb-based idiom.

Three types of modifiers can modify idioms: external modification, internal modification, and conjunction modification (Ernst, 1981; Minugh, 2007). Ernst (1981) investigation focuses on the semantic interpretation of the idiomatic phrase. Therefore, he simply mentions that the external modifier affects the entire idiom. However, the idiom has become embedded or anchored in the discourse. For further explanation of Biber (1999) and Ernst (1981) theories, it will be explained in chapter II of the theoretical framework section.

Several scholars have already investigated idiomatic expressions. One important thing that Zaid (2019) found is that the idioms employed in the Hotel Transylvania movies are all six kinds that O'Dell and McCarthy identified: binomials, proverbs, euphemisms, clichés, and fixed statements. A simile is a term that draws parallels between two concepts. An idiom known as a binomial uses a conjunction (a connecting word) to join two words. A proverb is a brief statement that offers advice or caution based on an experience that the majority of people have had. It is applicable in both good and bad circumstances. To avoid stating anything unpleasant, people often employ euphemisms, which are idioms. A cliché is a statement that is repeated so often in ordinary life. In regular speech, you will often hear and employ fixed statements. In order to comprehend the meanings of the words used in the Hotel Transylvania movie, Zaid (2019) looked up their definitions in the following dictionaries: Oxford, Cambridge International, and Mc Graw-Hill's Dictionary of American Idiom and Phrasal Verb. According to Zaid's research, there were 28% more instances of proverb idiom and cliché idiom than categories. Following it with 24% was the fixed statement idiom. After it came euphemism idiom and binomial idiom, both of which accounted for 8%. The second group accounted for 4% of all idioms (Zaid, 2019).

Using Makkai's theory of English idiom structure, Baharuddin (2022) identified the idiomatic expressions employed in "Know" by Jason Mraz. The five categories of idioms identified by Makkai's theory include tournure, phrasal compound, irreversible binomial, and integrating verbs. The study's findings revealed that out of all the songs on the album, the researcher could only identify three types of idioms. The study uncovered a total of 23 tournure idioms, 9 phrasal verbs, and 7 irreversible binomial idioms. The investigator was unable to locate other idioms, including phrasal compound idiom, integrating verb idiom, and pseudo idiom.

Previous studies used movies and songs. Meanwhile, this study takes speech videos from the TEDx Talks YouTube channel. It is worth investigating the speech videos from TEDx Talks since TEDx Talks videos are frequently used in teaching 5 and learning environments as the media, especially in listening courses. Izzah et al (2020) stated that a TEDx Talk is one type of media for improving students' listening skills. Academic listening training is one of many suggested uses for TED speeches, among others, both in and out of the classroom. Furthermore, theoretically, this study differs from the prior research. O'Dell and McCarthy's theory of idiomatic expressions—which includes six sorts—was used in the prior investigations. These types include binomials, proverbs, euphemisms, clichés, and fixed statements. The second one relied on Makkai's theory of idiomatic phrases, which classifies verbs as either phrasal, tournure, irreversible binomial, phrasal compound, or adding verbs. In contrast, this research will dissect idiomatic expressions according to Biber's theory in order to identify their building blocks: When idiom is used, noun phrase idiom, prepositional phrase idiom, or selected verb-based idiom. Biber (1999) stated that although the content keywords are usually invariable in most idioms, there is often significant variation in the morphological forms of verbs, nouns, and others. Therefore, it is beneficial to learn more about the different kinds of structural units of idiomatic phrases. Moreover, this study also will analyze the idiomatic expression using Ernst's theory to find out the idiom modifier, whether it is an internal modification, external modification, or conjunction modification. It is necessary to find out more about idiom modifiers since idioms have many additional variations.

Furthermore, speech video is one of the media used in listening courses. Takaesu (2014) used TEDx Talks as extensive listening material for college students. As an English second language learner, the researcher frequently finds an idiomatic expression in speech videos and get it difficult to understand. Hence, it is beneficial to continue analyzing idiomatic expressions in speech to make ESL learners get easier to understand.

2. METHOD

This study is descriptive linguistics since this study examined the parts of the speech, namely the idiomatic expressions found on the TED Talks YouTube channel. Descriptive linguistics is a field that focuses on describing and analyzing the structure and usage of language. Carneiro (2013) stated that descriptive linguists conduct fieldwork in linguistic communities, recording samples of speech from various speakers, embodied in various speech genres such as narratives, daily conversation, poetry, and so on. Moreover, Harris (1951) added that descriptive linguistics allows for the study of speech as human behavior, as well as the recording of physiological motions involved in articulation, the cultural and interpersonal context in which the speaking occurs, the sound waves produced by the activity of talking, and the auditory impressions gained by the hearer.

This study was taken in Jakarta. The researcher took the data via YouTube using the internet connection. The researcher spent about fourteen months conducting this study, which are from September 2022 to November 2023.

The data sources of the research are the speech uploaded by TED Talks' YouTube channel. The data were obtained from nine TED Talks YouTube channel videos. The titles involving: How to Motivate Yourself to Change Your Behaviour, What Makes You Special, It Is Okay Not to Have a Plan, Why I Live a Zero Waste Life, Is Social Media Hurting Your Mental Health, A Guide to Believing in Yourself, How to Have a Good Conversation, The Secret of Becoming Mentally Strong, The Skill of Humor.

The selected videos were published from October 2014 to October 2018 on the TED Talks YouTube channel since it has interesting topics for the language learners. The

requirement of the data is the selected data has a video duration of more than ten minutes to get a large number of data results.

To identify and analyze the data, this study uses a coding scheme as the instrument. It aims to categorize and code the contents that are analyzed. It outlines the different categories that the researcher is interested in studying. This study used Microsoft Excel as a tool for creating a coding scheme or coding manual directly in spreadsheet.

Since the data are in the form of videos, the researcher takes the following techniques: (1) Accessing YouTube using laptop and internet data, (2) Searching the TEDx Talks YouTube channel, (3) Watching and listening the ten videos that already chosen, (4) Using transcript on YouTube to make sure and examine the idiomatic expression, (5) Collecting the idiomatic expression and inserting to the table for analysis, (6) Categorizing and determining the idiomatic expression using Biber's (1999) and Ernst's (1981) theories.

After collecting the data, the data were analyzed by categorizing types of idiom modification. Furthermore, the types were coded thematically into the following techniques; (1) This study used Microsoft Excel to analyze the data since it is easier to categorize processes (2) The results were concluded after categorization and coding.

In analyzing the idiomatic expressions, the first step is to identify the sentences that found in TEDx Talks videos. And then, the identification step inserted into the table. The idiomatic expressions were categorized either it is external, internal, or conjunction.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The research findings are divided into two categories in this section: categorizing the structural units of idiomatic phrases in idiomatic expressions on TEDx Talks, and determining the idiom modifications whether it is external modification, internal modification, or conjunction modification of the idiomatic expression. Each of these findings is detailed through different theories, using Biber's (1999) and Ernst's (1981) theory.

Different Kinds of Structural Units of Idiom

The analysis of different kinds of structural units of idiom resulted in 54 idioms from the nine speech videos. Based on the results, noun phrase idiom totals 6 idioms, prepositional idiom totals 21, selected verb + prepositional totals 13 idioms, and selected verb + noun phrase totals 14 idioms. The structural units of idioms using Biber's theory is found as follows:

Wh-questions Idioms

This research could not find the wh-questions idiom since the researcher only analyzed within the scope of nine speech videos from TED Talks YouTube channel, meanwhile Biber (1999) found wh-questions such as how do you do?, what on earth . . .?, what's up?, what in the world . . .?

Noun Phrase Idioms

In this section, the researcher found six idioms that fall under the category of noun phrase idioms. These idioms consist of two or more words that function as a noun phrase when combined. The research here differs from Biber's (1999) in this section is this study did not find nothing/anything/something the matter as a noun phrase idioms element.

a) Way of life

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, way of life means the manner in which a person lives.

“So I decided to put on a brave face, and embrace everything I could about the American way of life.”

- b) The love of someone's life
Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, the love of someone's life means the person someone loves more than any other person at any time in life.
“This friend of mine, one day, decided to pack his bags and leave his home in Baroda and come to Mumbai to meet the love of his life.”
- c) The hard way
Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, the hard way means a way of doing something that makes it more difficult than it needs to be.
“I learned this the very hard way, but you cannot make everyone happy.”
- d) One day
Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, one day means at some time in the future.
“One day after class, feeling still particularly upset about watching her throw everything away.”
- e) One way or another
Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, one way or another means in some way that is not known yet.
“Every single thing in my fridge was in one way or another packaged in plastic, and I couldn't believe it.”
- f) One more time
Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, one more time means again or once more.
“We check likes - just one more time.”

Prepositional Phrase Idioms

The examination of prepositional phrase idioms led to the discovery of 21 idioms in this category. These idioms contain prepositions elements such as for, in, as, at, on, out, and up. The difference between this study and Biber's (1999) study is Biber (1999) has a prepositional as, up, and for in this section. Meanwhile, this study only finds the prepositional element in, at, on, and out in this section.

- a) In advance
Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, in advance means before a particular time, or before doing a particular thing.
“And knowing that in advance made them do something that they, otherwise, may not want to do.”
- b) In front of
Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, in front of means done or said when the person you are talking about is present.
“Our mistake as teachers, as mentors, as employers is that, instead of working with this positive image that people so effortfully maintain, we try and put a clear mirror in front of them.”
- c) In the way
An online definition from the Cambridge English Dictionary states that in the way means to be in a position that stops anything or someone from occurring or progressing.
“I wanted to be popular, maybe have a boyfriend for prom, and I felt that Fatima just got in the way with her shyness and her strict dress code.”
- d) In touch (with someone)
Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, in touch (with someone) means seeing someone or communicating with someone regularly.

“And the easiest way to get in touch with her was to get into showbiz, and he did.”

e) At first

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, at first means in or at the beginning.

“And I used to be shy at first, maybe even awkward, but I gave into their requests.”

f) In someone’s control

Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, in someone’s control means in someone’s power to direct or control.

“See the thing with auditions is, that no matter how good or bad you were at it, regardless of your performance, you should know that if an audition has to translate into an offer, that is not in your control.”

g) In the middle of something

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, in the middle of something means busy doing something.

“Not having a plan actually turned out to be quite useful for me, because when I was in the middle of trying to figure out what to do, I chanced upon the internet.”

h) Early in life

Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, early in life means at a young age.

“You know, a lot of us are forced to make very important decisions very early in life, and we’re not even sure what we want to do; I wasn’t.”

i) In the world

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, in the world means in any conditions; of all possible things.

“And I thought he was probably the grossest person in the entire world.”

j) In fact

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, in fact means actually.

“In fact the average American person produces approximately 4.4 pounds of trash per person per day.”

k) At the same time

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, at the same time means used to mention something that must be considered in any condition to what you have just said.

“Well, at the same time I was still running my blog: Trash is for tossers and I noticed that I was getting a recurring question.”

l) In mind

Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, in mind means in one’s thoughts.

“And so when we go and buy a product, we’re at the complete mercy of the company, hoping that they have our best interest in mind.”

m) By no means

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, by no means means not at all. *“So let me introduce you to four of the most common stressors on social media, that if go unchecked have potential to become full-blown mental health issues, and this is by no means an exhaustive list.”*

n) Behind the scenes

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, behind the scenes means if something happens behind the scenes, it happens without most people knowing about it, especially when something else is happening publicly.

“But we struggle with insecurity because we compare our behind the scenes with everyone else’s highlight reels.”

o) Out of the ordinary

Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, out of the ordinary unusual, different, or strange: not what is considered to be normal.

"I knew this was out of the ordinary for her."

p) Along the way

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, along the way means during the time that something is happening or that you are doing something.

"A conversation requires a balance between talking and listening, and somewhere along the way, we lost that balance."

q) On a personal level

Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, on a personal level means in regard to someone's personal life.

"I talk to people that I like. I talk to people that I don't like. I talk to some people that I disagree with deeply on a personal level."

r) Out of nowhere

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, out of nowhere means very suddenly and unexpectedly.

"We've heard interviews often in which a guest is talking for several minutes and then the host comes back in and asks a question which seems like it comes out of nowhere, or it's already been answered."

s) In control

Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, in control means in the position of one who makes decisions.

"When I'm talking, I'm in control."

t) On someone's deathbed

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, on someone's deathbed means just before someone's death.

"She documented the five biggest regrets of people on their deathbed."

Selected Verb + Prepositional Idioms

This category comprises 13 idioms where a verb is followed by a prepositional phrase. These idioms provide unique insights into the way verbs are combined with prepositions to convey nuanced meanings. These idioms have prepositional elements such as in, around, up, out, as, on, off, through, from, with, and of. Biber (1999) found in, around, out, up, as, into, on, off, and through, while, this study did not find around, up, as, off, and through as the element of preposition. However, either this study or Biber (1999) found its own element. This study found from and with as the elements preposition that do not exist in Biber's (1999) study.

a) Jump into action

Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, jump into action means to act immediately.

"Until we reach this point, at which time you do jump into action, but sometimes it's a little bit too late."

b) Put yourself in someone's shoes

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, put yourself in someone's shoes means to imagine how someone else feels in a difficult situation.

"I was consumed by my own selfishness and unable to put myself in her shoes."

c) Bump in the road

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, bump in the road means something, usually something not very serious, that delays a process or prevents it from developing.

"To end, I want to tell you how I hit the worst bump in the road yet, one that shook me to my very core."

d) Put (something) into words

Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, put (something) into words means to express (a thought or feeling) in words.

"The worst was something so painful, it's hard to put into words, even now."

- e) Shout something from the rooftops

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, shout something from the rooftops means to say something publicly.

"To end, I want you to take that sticker, that piece of paper where you wrote down what makes you different, and I want you to celebrate it today and every day, shout it from the rooftops."

- f) Fall into place

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, fall into place means when things fall into place, they happen in a satisfactory way, without problems.

"I had a passion, which I decided to pursue, and eventually, everything fell into place."

- g) Have something in your pocket

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, have something in your pocket means to be certain to win or succeed at something.

"I didn't have the recipe just hanging out in my back pocket."

- h) Be out of the loop

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, be out of the loop means to have or not have the special knowledge or power that belongs to a particular group of people.

"A collection of Canadian Universities found that 7/10 students said they would get rid of their social networking accounts if it were not for fear of being left out of the loop."

- i) Go with the flow

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, go with the flow means to do what other people are doing or to agree with other people because it is the easiest thing to do.

"Number four: Go with the flow."

- j) Err on the side of the caution

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, err on the side of caution means to be especially careful rather than taking a risk or making a mistake.

"Do that. Err on the side of caution."

- k) Fall into someone's lap

Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, fall into someone's lap means to come to a person suddenly in an unexpected way even though he or she did not try to get it.

"But expecting success to fall into your lap like some sort of cosmic reward, will only lead to disappointment."

- l) Get rid of something

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, get rid of something means to find a way to make someone leave because you do not want the person to be with you any longer.

"It's hard to get rid of those unhealthy beliefs that we've carried around with us for so long."

- m) Come into play

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, come into play means if something comes into play, it starts to have a use or an effect in a particular situation, and if it is brought into play, it is given a use or an effect.

"That's where the choice comes into play."

Selected Verb + Noun Phrase Idioms

In the last category, the researcher found 14 idioms featuring a verb followed by a noun phrase. These idiomatic expressions add variation to the communication. There is

difference between this study and the previous study in this section. This study did not find any prepositional elements such as on, by, and at as discovered by Biber (1999).

- a) Break the law
Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, break the law means to do something illegal.
"Yes, they broke a law, and they should pay a penalty for it."
- b) Fit the mold
Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, fit the mold means to be like.
"But sometimes, society tells us, and we tell ourselves, we don't fit the mold."
- c) Take the plunge
Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, take the plunge means to make a decision to do something, especially after thinking about it for a long time.
"So they backed me up on this decision, and I decided to take the plunge."
- d) Blown someone's mind
Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, blown someone's mind means if something blows your mind, you find it very exciting and unusual.
"That blew my mind!"
- e) Make a (big) difference
Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, make a (big) difference means to improve a situation or a condition in an important way.
"Over the course of however long, you realize that these little changes actually add up, and make a big difference."
- f) Take someone's life
Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, take someone's life means to kill someone.
"The 18-year-old Tyler Clementi, who took his life after his roommate secretly filmed him kissing another guy and outed him on Twitter."
- g) Take pleasure in
Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, take pleasure in means to enjoy.
"We are taught not to kick others when they are down, or take pleasure in their downfalls."
- h) Repeat oneself
Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, repeat oneself means to say again what one has already said.
"Number seven: Try not to repeat yourself."
- i) Drives me crazy
Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, drives me crazy means to make someone upset or annoyed.
"My mother-in-law drives me crazy you give away your power."
- j) Pass the time
Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, pass the time means to do something to keep busy while waiting.
"But it still helped me to pass the time to create humor, to create fun."
- k) Give someone hell
Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, give someone hell means if someone gives you hell, they criticize you severely.
"I was away from my six-week-old son, surrounded by male comedians, and they started giving me hell, right?"
- l) Burst someone bubble

Based on the Cambridge online dictionary, burst someone bubble means to say or do something that shows someone that their beliefs are false, or that what they want to happen will not happen.

“If you are considering saying yes to the choice, I don't want to burst your bubble, but others will too.”

m) Take a whack at

Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, take a whack at means to try to do (something).

“You're not the only one who's going to take a whack at it.”

Division of Idiom Modification

The analysis of the three types of idiom modification resulted in 11 idioms from the nine speech videos. Based on the results, external modification totals 4 idioms, internal modification totals 5 idioms, and conjunction modification totals 2 idioms. The researcher found the idiom modification in the speech videos of the TEDx Talks YouTube channel. The idiom modification using Ernst's theory is found as follows:

External Modification

This study has found four external modifications in the idiomatic phrase, for instance, the very hard way. This study has found the word very in the idiomatic phrase the hard way. The hard way is a way of doing something that makes it more difficult. However, here there is the word very that changes the situation to become extreme difficulty. The previous study has the word social in the idiomatic phrase kicked the bucket. Kicked the bucket means die, while kicked the social bucket changes the meaning of the situation. It becomes bucket-kicking in the social domain. Both the word very and social change the whole meaning. These words influence the meaning by adding additional information to the phrases. Those words give more details about the degree of difficulty or the context in which the action takes place. Hence, the role of the grammatical word class, in this case, helps to modify and enhance the meaning of the idiomatic phrases.

a) Idiom on the Cambridge online dictionary: The hard way

Meaning: a way of doing something that makes it more difficult that it needs to be.

External modification: the very hard way.

The very hard way is categorized as external modification because it adds additional meaning or emphasis to the idiom. The modifier very hard intensifies the meaning of the hard way and highlights the extreme difficulty or challenge involved.

Example taken from the speech video:

“I learned this the very hard way, but you cannot make everyone happy.”

b) Idiom on the Cambridge online dictionary: In the world

Meaning: in any conditions; of all possible things.

External modification: in the entire world.

The word entire is the modifier. It modifies the whole idiomatic phrase. The modifier entire in the idiomatic phrase in the entire world emphasizes the scope of possible things.

Example taken from the speech video:

“And I thought he was probably the grossest person in the entire world.”

c) Idiom on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary: I have been there

Meaning: it used to say that one has experienced the same thing that someone else has experienced.

External modification: I've been right there.

The word right is indeed an external modifier that applies to the whole idiom. By adding the word right, it emphasizes information about the precision of the location.

Example taken from the speech video:

“And I’ll admit, I’ve been right there with you.”

- d) Idiom on the Cambridge online dictionary: Be out of the loop

Meaning: it is to have or not have the special knowledge or power that belongs to a particular group of people.

External modification: being left out of the loop.

The word left in this phrase is an external modifier that intensifies the meaning of being out of the loop. It emphasizes that someone has been deliberately excluded or overlooked.

Example taken from the speech video:

“A collection of Canadian Universities found that 7/10 students said they would get rid of their social networking accounts if it were not for fear of being left out of the loop.”

Internal Modification

This study has found five internal modifications in the idiomatic phrase, for instance, made perfect sense. This study found perfect as the modifier of the noun sense. It emphasizes that the sense is perfectly clear and easy to understand. The previous study has an example jump on the horse-drawn Reagan bandwagon. Reagan and horse-drawn modify the noun bandwagon and it emphasizes something like join old-fashioned Reagan campaign. Both the modifiers belong to the grammatical word class of adjectives. The modifier “perfect” adds a sense of importance and exclusivity to the phrase. Similarly, the modifiers "horse-drawn" and "Reagan" modify the noun "bandwagon." adds an „old-fashioned“ or „behind the times“ to the phrase. Hence, the role of the grammatical word class, in this case, it helps to modify and shape the noun of the idiomatic phrases.

- a. Idiom on the Cambridge online dictionary: Put yourself in someone’s shoes

Meaning: it is to imagine how someone else feels in a difficult situation.

Internal modification: put myself in her shoes.

The modifier in her shoes modifies the noun myself and adds the idea of imagining oneself in someone else’s situation or perspective.

The example taken from the speech video:

“I was consumed by my own selfishness and unable to put myself in her shoes.”

- b. Idiom on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary: The love of someone’s life

Meaning: it is the person someone loves more than any other person at any time in life.

Internal modification: the love of his life.

The modifier of his life modifies the noun love. It emphasizes that this person is the most significant and cherished romantic partner in someone’s life.

Example taken from the speech video:

“This friend of mine, one day, decided to pack his bags and leave his home in Baroda and come to Mumbai to meet the love of his life.”

- c. Idiom on the Cambridge online dictionary: Make sense

Meaning: to be clear and easy to understand.

Internal modification: made perfect sense.

The word perfect internally modifies the noun sense. It indicates that the sense is perfectly clear and easy to understand.

Example taken from the speech video:

“But the idea that I didn’t have to produce any trash, was so empowering, and so inspiring, and it made perfect sense.”

Conjunction Modification

This study has found two conjunction modifications in the idiomatic phrase. Those are “on the one hand, and the elderly on the other hand,” and the second one is “has nothing and everything to do with social media.” This study found and the elderly as the conjunction modifier of the idiomatic phrase on the one hand ... on the other hand. This modifier helps to connect different perspective or groups in a comparison or contrast. The previous study has an example “we pulled Malvolio’s cross-gartered leg.” Here, cross-gartered plays as a conjunction modifier. This statement shows the combination of two independent propositions, as Ernst (1981) explains. In this study, the modifier helps to connect different perspectives or groups in a comparison or contrast. In the previous study, the modifier plays a similar role as a conjunction modifier. It adds more meaning to the phrase by connecting the idea of Malvolio's cross-gartered leg with the overall context or proposition being discussed. Hence, the specific words used in the modifiers differ between the two studies, both serve the purpose of enhancing the meaning and creating connections within the idiomatic phrases.

- a. Idiom on the Cambridge online dictionary: On the one hand...on the other hand
 Meaning: it is used when you are comparing two different facts or two opposite ways of thinking about a situation.
 Conjunction modification: on the one hand, and the elderly on the other hand.
 The phrase and the elderly is the modifier. This modifier helps to connect different perspective or groups in a comparison or contrast. Example taken from the speech video:
“So, what this means is that the most vulnerable populations, kids and teenagers on the one hand, and the elderly on the other hand, they're the least likely to accurately learn from warnings.”
- b. Idiom on the Cambridge online dictionary: Have nothing to do with someone
 Meaning: it is to be a matter or subject that someone has no good reason to know about or be involved with.
 Conjunction modification: has nothing and everything to do with social media.
 The additional phrase and everything is the modifier since it connects the original idiom. It emphasizes the contrast between the two perspectives.
 Example taken from the speech video:
“Everything I have talked about today has nothing and everything to do with social media.”

4. CONCLUSIONS

This research aims to analyse structural units and modification of idioms on speech videos. For the research question number one, the researcher found 54 kinds of structural units of idioms. Based on the results, noun phrase idiom totals 6 idioms, prepositional phrase idiom totals 21 idioms, selected verb + prepositional totals 13 idioms, and selected verb + noun phrase totals 14 idioms. From these results, it was found that prepositional phrase idioms were the most dominant.

The study’s second aim is to analyze the idiom modifications, and 11 idiom modifications were found from the 100 idioms. In light of the finding, the researcher found that internal modification has the most found with totals 5 idioms, followed by external modification with totals 4 idioms, and conjunction modification with totals 2 idioms. It was concluded that internal modification often appears on speech videos of TED Talks YouTube channel.

In conclusion, idiomatic expressions are necessary to study since they are prevalent in English and the meaning is ambiguous. Moreover, idiomatic expressions have various

meanings. Knowing the kinds and types of modification for language learners can be beneficial in several ways. It helps learners to use idioms more effectively in different contexts. It enhances learners' overall language proficiency by expanding their vocabulary, understanding of word classes, and knowledge of idiomatic structures. For example, practically, learning idiom modification allows students to understand that idioms can be modified, and the meaning changes from the original meaning as mentioned in this study. Therefore, the results of this study add to the body of knowledge and provide important clues for researchers and studies to come.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of this study contribute to the teaching and learning in EFL/ESL context since idioms are the most commonly encountered in spoken or written conversations. Teaching idiom modification is essential for EFL/ESL learners because it helps them understand how idioms can be adapted and modified to fit different contexts and situations since knowing how idiom can be modified is crucial for EFL/ESL learners. It helps them grasp how idiom can be adjusted. Understanding idiom modification allows learners to use idioms more flexibly and accurately in their language interactions. Moreover, it enhances learner's overall language proficiency. Thus, lecturers can develop idiomatic expression teaching materials using Ernst's (1981) and Biber's (1999) theories. Second, this study may serve as a foundation for similar studies in the future, with the caveat that they can approach the same questions from various angles or fill in any gaps in our understanding, for example, other researcher can use this research but using different theory. Moreover, since this study used speech videos, other researchers can use these theories but in different source for instance, movie, poem, etc.

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