CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

In learning English, individually and in groups, people must pay attention to idioms to expand their ability to speak English. Idioms are expressions that cannot explain logically or yet have implied meaning. Idioms are essential because most native speakers use idioms in daily conversation. According to Katamba (1994: 291), an idiom is a linguistic entity that functions more as a word. However, it is composed of several words. Biber et al. (2006) defined idiomatic expressions as a countenance with the intention of components.

Many linguists mean that idioms are persistent, cannot be understood word for word, or cannot be found in a general glossary. For illustration, *break the ice* refers to physically breaking or shattering ice, but in idiom's terms, *break the ice* means making others feel more comfortable and relaxed. And the most used example is *a piece of cake*, which means something that is exceptionally easy or effortless and does not refer to an actual slice or portion of a cake. We can find many idiomatic expressions in movies, novels, talk shows, podcasts, songs, etc. This paper uses the song as a subject because they are a widely used medium by people, both children and adults.

A song is a work of varying tones or rhythmic sounds, usually accompanied by musical instruments. Many people like to listen to music and spontaneously know and understand the song. But not everyone can enjoy the song. The song is

experiencing a significant change in the music and even the lyrics, with some having difficulty understanding the song's message. A song lyric is not like the words we use directly, but sometimes there are figurative words and idioms. Song lyrics combine sound art and poetic language, using straightforward language and rhythm and sound combined with figurative words and the singer's voice and melody. In Indonesia, English songs are popular even in many circles, but not everyone knows or understands the songs they like. People can use a song to learn idioms, especially to discover the substance of each phrase and the purpose behind it. In addition, a song can be considered an instrument for comprehending vocabulary and grammar, which improves pronunciation.

In addition to studying the definition of idioms, it is also expected to understand the classification of idioms because it can help to identify the types of idioms. Based on interest in studying idioms, the study will use a theory from McCarthy and O'Dell (2010) to classify several categories of idiomatic expressions found in the song by Ariana. This study also applied Leech's (1981) theory to determine the meaning presented in the idiomatic expressions. This study will only analyze the song compiled on Ariana Grande's sixth album, *Positions*. As additional information, Ariana Grande was known globally as a young American singer-actress who started her music career in 2013. At that time, she released her first album, *Yours Truly*, which gained immense popularity and success. She has also obtained numerous awards, including her album consistently breaking weekly records. She already has six studio albums; the latest is *Positions*, released in 2020.

Because the songs are always trending and many Indonesians like Ariana Grande's songs, the researcher was very interested in analyzing Ariana Grande's songs on the sixth album, *Positions*. It is intended for many people to understand the meaning of Ariana Grande's songs and provide information about idiomatic expressions.

1.2 Problems of the Study

According to the previous statement, the problems of the study are determined as follows:

1. What types of idiomatic expressions are found in song lyrics in the *Positions* album?
2. What is the meaning of idiomatic expressions found in song lyrics in the *Positions* album?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems that have been specified, the writer also set the objectives of the study, which consist of the following:

1. To identify the types of idiomatic expressions discovered in song lyrics in the *Positions* album.
2. To describe the intended meanings of the idiomatic expressions found in song lyrics in the *Positions* album.

1.4   Limitation of the Study

Regarding this, there will be a limitation that is used in this study. The writer uses data from Ariana Grande's song lyrics in the *Positions* album, which in one album there are 14 songs and focuses on eight types of idiomatic expressions. McCarthy and O'Dell (2010: 22-32) used the theory to answer questions on the first problem about idiom types. Furthermore, it uses the theory of meaning from Leech (1981: 9-19) to answer questions on the second problem.

1.5   Significance of the Study

Regarding the topic discussed in this study, there is the theoretical and practical significance for the readers, primarily researchers, English teachers, and English students.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

This study aims to identify the structure, type, and meaning of idiomatic expressions found in Ariana Grande's sixth album, *Positions*. It is expected to contribute to linguistics, particularly in translation and idiom research.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

This study can be used as an illustration, reference, source of understanding, and study of idiomatic expression strategies directed to readers and for further researchers and anyone learning idiomatic expressions with different objects and theories.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS, AND THEORIES

This chapter discussed some reviews of related literature, concepts, and theories. Cite a few reviews of the literature that are relevant to this study. Concepts are applied to define the terms used in this study in clear language. And some of the theories utilized to analyze this study's problems make up the theoretical framework.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

The prior studies may present a similar subject of study about idiomatic expressions. It is used as a research reference. Below are the five previous studies to be used in this study.

The first study was carried out from the thesis by Subkhan (2018), *An Analysis of Idiomatic Expression Found on American Sniper Movie.* This first study investigates the types and meanings of idiomatic expressions in the "American Sniper" movie. The writer applied McCarty and O'Dell's (2010) theory to obtain the data to examine the types of idiomatic expressions. Meanwhile, the writer used Leech's (1981) theory to discover and describe the meaning of idiomatic expressions. This study is conducted in the descriptive qualitative approach. The result revealed that there are only three types of idiomatic expressions presented and used in American Sniper movies, such as trinomials (2), euphemisms (3), and

fixed statements (30). Regarding this, it also revealed that the idioms expressions contain some meanings, such as conceptual (16), connotative (16), social (2), and affective meaning (1). It can conclude that the result displayed 35 types of idiomatic expressions. Furthermore, the similarities between the previous and current studies are that both writers are concerned with idiomatic expressions, especially related to the type and meaning. Meanwhile, the difference is about the object that is used. In this previous study, the writer selected a movie, while in this study, using song lyrics to find out the expression of idioms.

The second study was taken from the thesis by Rosyada (2019) entitled, *Idiomatic Expressions Found in Green Day's Song Lyrics Seventh Album 'American Idiot.'* This second previous study is about the types and the meaning (mainly: lexical and contextual) of idiomatic expressions used in Green Day's song lyrics, primarily in the "American Idiot" album. Regarding this, the writer used Makkai's (1994) theory to explore the types and also applied the theory by Lyons (1984) to establish the lexical and contextual meaning. This second study used the descriptive qualitative method to examine the data. The finding indicated there are various types of idiomatic expressions discovered in Green Day's song lyrics, such as irreversible binomial (14), phrasal compound (13), phrasal verb (10), tournure (4), incorporating verb (4), and pseudo (1). Furthermore, the findings confirmed that 20 data have lexical and contextual meanings. In contrast, there are 34 data which has different meanings between lexical and contextual meanings. The resemblances between this second previous study and this study are that the writer is concerned with the types of idiomatic expressions used in the song lyrics. The dissimilarity is

that this study only investigated the lexical and contextual meaning found in the song lyrics.

The third study is from an article by Gunawan & Eripuddin (2019) entitled *An Analysis of Idiomatic Expression Found in Adele's Lyrics Song*. This study explores the varieties and meanings of idiomatic expressions in Adele's song lyrics. In this study, the theory of Makkai (1994) was used to investigate the varieties and meanings of idiomatic expressions. The writer employed the descriptive qualitative approach to examine the data. The finding displayed that there are different types of idiomatic expressions used in Adele's song lyrics, such as phrasal verbs (35), tournure (17), and irreversible binomial (4). The analysis showed 56 idiomatic expressions of Adele's song lyrics according to the idiom's types and meanings. The resemblance between this previous and current study is that the writer discussed the variety and meaning of idiomatic expressions in the song lyrics. The difference from this research is the theory used. Previous research used Makkai's (1994) theory, while this research used McCarty and O'Dell's (2010) theory as the leading theory.

The fourth study is an article focused on the types and meanings of idiomatic expressions, written by Ariyani (2021), entitled *Types and Meanings of Idiomatic Expression Used in Bruno Mars Song*. Unlike previous research, Ariyani (2021) focuses on knowing the type of meaning contained in idiomatic expressions and finding the speaker's condition when conveying the message or meaning. In this qualitative descriptive study, Ariyani (2021) uses Siedl & Mc Mordie's theory to guide in determining and analyzing the data collected from 5 songs belonging to

Bruno Mars. The results showed four types of idiom expressions contained in the fifth one belonging to Bruno Mars, verbs with prepositions, special categories, nouns with prepositions, and prepositions with adverbs. The results of this study also show that the meaning contained in idiom expressions can also powerfully convey messages to the audience. It is known by researchers when analyzing data using Leech's theory. This analysis indicates that the most common idiom expressions are connotative, followed by affective and denotative meanings. The similarity between previous research and this research, the researcher uses song lyrics as data to analyze the type and meaning of idiomatic expressions. The difference is that previous research clarifies the meaning and types of idioms and the speaker's condition when conveying the message.

The fifth is an article by Sukrawan, Utami, & Jayantini (2021) titled *The Types of Idiom and Their Meaning in Michael Jackson's "Thriller" Album.* In this study, Sukrawan (2021) analyzed nine song lyrics in Michael Jackson's "Thriller" album. In finding out the types of idiom expressions used in the nine-song lyrics, Sukrawan (2021) applied Palmer's theory (1976) and Leech's theory (1974) to categorize and describe the types of meanings presented in the idiom expressions found. The results of this study indicate that there are nine idiom expressions, with details: 5 belong to the category of total idioms (55.56%) and 4 to the category of partial idioms (44.44%). In comparison, the types of meanings in these idiom expressions are divided into 2, with the most types categorized as affected meaning (55.55%) and connotative meaning (44.44%). The resemblance between this previous and current study is that the writer discussed the variety and meaning of

idiomatic expressions in the song lyrics. The difference from this research is the theory used. Previous research used Palmer's theory (1976) as the main theory, while this research used McCarty and O'Dell's theory (2010) as the leading theory.

2.2 Concepts

The concepts part presents the concepts used in this study. This part describes four concepts: Idiomatic expression, Ariana Grande, song lyrics, and album *Positions*:

2.2.1 Idiomatic Expression

According to Poole (1999), idiomatic expressions are phrases that differ from the word's meanings. At that time, a part of the meaning can vary from an idiom; this phrase contains a meaning that did not become detectable from its essential words to a morpheme, the tiniest part of the meaning of which there may be occurred in one word. In the case of the *blue joke*, understanding what part of the color spectrum is marked by the word *blue* delivers no usefulness in comprehending the meaning of the *blue joke*. However, it can become an idiom when the phrase can be understood as an entity. This sovereignty of the meaning of their essential words provides idioms significant sovereignty as there is no excuse for indecent jokes to be blue.

2.2.2 Ariana Grande

Ariana Grande-Butera (now famous under the name Ariana Grande) was born on June 26, 1993. She was known globally as an American actress, singer, and

songwriter. She had her Broadway debut in 2008's *13: The Musical* at 15 years old. However, Ariana significantly raised her career after she played *Cat Valentine* characters on the *Victorious* TV series aired on Nickelodeon. After that, she also decided to reprise her role in the iCarly, Sam & Cat spin-off. After gaining popularity as an actress, Grande signed a contract with Republic Records in 2011. In 2013, Grande released her studio album, *Yours Truly*, two years later, which topped the US chart. Introducing her debut album, which has the lead single *The Way* with Mac Miller, quickly reached the top ten of the US Billboard Hot 100 in a short time. Through her lead single, Grande received many appraisals for her wide vocal range, which reminds the audience of senior singer Mariah Carey.

2.2.3 Song Lyrics

According to Cambridge English Dictionary, a song is a brief part of the music with sung expressions. Generally, the *song* is also defined as the action of singing or chanting. Meanwhile, *lyrics* are described as a favorite song's words (Oxford Learner's Dictionaries). Song lyrics are an arrangement/series of pitched words from various inspirations. Inspiration itself can be obtained from experience in everyday life.

2.2.4 Positions Album

Positions is the sixth studio album released by Ariana Grande under Republic Records on October 30, 2020. The composer also Ariana made the *Positions* album to highlight Ariana Grande's outstanding vocals. However, this album was made to convey her emotional healing. Grande still accentuated R&B and pop music with trap inflections in this sixth album. However, she added some points and accents

towards hip-hop, disco, microhouse, neo-soul, electro-house, funk, and up to orchestral pop. Regarding this, the *Positions* album presents 14 enchanted track lists.

2.3 Theories

This part presents the theories used in this study. Two theories focused on the types and meanings presented in idiomatic expressions. The theories are proposed by Leech (1981) to analyze the meanings. Meanwhile, McCarthy and O'Dell's (2010) theory analyzes the types of idiomatic expressions.

2.3.1 Types of Idiomatic Expressions

The Dictionary for Advanced Learners from Cambridge defined *type* as a certain group of individuals or items those equivalent elements and create a less unit of a bigger group. As someone selected to illustrate a particular group of individuals, you would typically relate with that group, maintaining all the grades. Meanwhile, Rana (2016) defines idiomatic expressions as part of any language spontaneously spoken or used by speakers so that they produce meaning based on the opportunities and events at that time. Idiomatic expressions, primarily English idiomatic expressions, are one of the language features used in daily communication by English native speakers. It differs from Miller (2020), which defines idiomatic expressions as a form of speaker expression that is figurative, unclear, and ambiguous. In other words, it is possible to conclude that idiomatic expressions are sentences, words, or phrases that speakers implicitly use to convey

their opinions using words that disguise their original meaning. Related to this, McCarthy and O'Dell (2010: 22-32) define the types of idiomatic expressions as follows:

1. Similes

    Similes are expressions corresponding to two items containing the words *as* or *like*. To make English more vibrant and significantly stronger in both spoken and written form, similes can be used to change individual terms. For example, their daughter is as *bright as a button.* The expression *as bright as a button* means extremely brilliant or ingenious.

2. Binomial

    A Binomial is an idiom comprising two words connected by the conjunction *and*. The two words are in a fixed sequence. For example, the twins look identical; when you communicate, you realize they are like *chalk and cheese.* Chalk and cheese formally mean completely different or diversified.

3. Trinomials

    Trinomials are idioms that convey something using three words in a row. For example, bringing the business to the top took a lot of blood, sweat, and tears. It means hard effort or persevering.

4. Proverbs

    Proverbs are brief statements that reference situations that most people have encountered and offer guidance or caution. Proverbs have fixed forms like idioms; deducing the meaning from a proverb's words is difficult. For

example, I have to devote myself and finish all the exams to be a professional accountant, but, you know, *no pain, no gain*. The phrase *no pain, no gain* refers to the idea that success requires some suffering.

5. Euphemism

Euphemism is an idiom often used to say something that others consider offending or unpleasant in a more pleasing way. Euphemisms can help communicate with language that is appropriate for the current context. For example, I am just going to *cover my nose with powder*. The expression *covers my nose with powder* means to go to the toilet.

6. Cliché

Cliché is an idiom presented as a commentary often used in particular day-to-day circumstances. Most individuals have heard these comments before. Therefore, it is not brand-new. Both headlines, commercial slogans, and casual conversations commonly include clichés. For example, Ignorance is bliss. This sentence can be understood that sometimes, a human can feel happier when did not know all the truth behind it.

7. Fixed Statement

The fixed statement is a kind of idiomatic expression often used and occurs in everyday conversation. It is usually to give a designated statement about something. For example, take it easy! This sentence can be interpreted as calm down or relax.

8. Other Languages

Other language is a variety of idiomatic expressions primarily derived from Latin or French. For example, Her payment was based on the *ad hoc* system. The *ad hoc* system was used to determine her payment. *Ad hoc* is an idiomatic phrase that implies it is unplanned but positioned or accomplished when required.

2.3.2 Seven Types of Meaning

Language meaning aspects are the basis of semantics. Semantics is also frequently used to observe the study of meaning broadly in all language expressions, revealing how language's meanings contribute to the overall effect of linguistic communication. Leech (1981: 9-19) divides the various meanings into the following categories:

1. Conceptual Meaning

The first one is the conceptual meaning. It is generally accepted that conceptual meaning, also known as denotative or cognitive meaning, is the most important aspect of linguistic communication. For instance, the definition of *woman* may be +human, -male, -child, as opposed to the description of the *boy*, which could be +human, -female, +child. Any term given to a sound characterizes it positively by the traits it contains and implicitly negatively by the features it lacks.

2. Connotative Meaning

The other variety of meanings often presented in the idiomatic expression is connotative meaning. A statement's communicative value as a result of

what it relates to, above and beyond its purely conceptual substance, is known as the connotative meaning. For instance, the word *woman* has the concepts of +human, +female, and +adult. Still, it may also have psychological connotations, such as sociable, having motherly instincts, having skilled cooking, and so on. Due to the perspective taken by an individual, a group, and society, connotative meaning can yet encompass the alleged attributes of a referent.

3.   Social Meaning

The third linguistic piece's social meaning is the information it reveals about the social context of its use. For example, in social reality, the phrase *I haven't got a knife* may easily assume the weight of a request, such as *please get me a knife*, even though it has the form and meaning of an assertion.

4.   Affective Meaning

It is different from affective meaning, primarily known as a symbiotic type. Since we rely on mediating other categories of meaning to express our emotions, affective meaning is mostly parasitic. For instance, if the phrase *will you belt up* is uttered with the intonation of a mild request, it can be transformed into a playful remark between intimates.

5.   Reflected Meaning

When a term has many conceptual meanings, reflected meaning is the meaning that develops when one meaning of the word influences how we interpret another. For instance, responses to these phrases conditioned by the everyday, non-religious connotations of *comfort* and *ghost* can be found in

both *The Comforter and The Holy Ghost*, referring to the Third person of the Trinity. While the Holy Ghost sounds tremendous or even horrible (a ghost is more frequent and familiar in no religious sense), the Comforter seems cozy and *comforting* (albeit in a theological context, it signifies the strengthener or supporter).

6. Collocative Meaning

Collocative meaning is a word's association with other words' meanings that often occur in its surrounding. For instance, the terms pretty and handsome both mean good-looking, but they may be identified by the variety of nouns that they are likely to co-occur or collocate. For instance, beautiful is associated with girls, women, eyes, etc. Contrarily, handsome is a synonym for a boy, man, prince, etc.

7. The Thematic Meaning

Thematic meaning is The way a speaker or writer arranges the message in terms of sequencing, concentration, and emphasis conveys. For instance, even though they appear to have the same conceptual substance, an active phrase like *Mrs. Bessie Smith contributed to the first award* has a different meaning than its passive counterpart, *Mrs. Bessie Smith donated the first prize*. The active statement appears to answer the implicit question, *what did Mrs. Bessie Smith donate?* Whereas the passive sentence answers the question, *Who contributed the first prize?* They have distinct communication qualities since they imply different contexts.