CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL BASES

2.1 Review of Related Theory

2.1.1 Semantic Theories

A branch of linguistics, semantics is defined as the study of meaning. In semantics, we have to explain and clarify the nature of meaning although there is no very general agreement either about the nature of meaning or about the way in which it should be described.

Semantic theory is a part of linguistic theory which includes the study of syntax (grammar) and phonetics (pronunciation) the study of meaning. The different grammar and pronunciation in a language may differ the meaning of that language. Therefore, other studies are involved in semantics. Katz (1973: 7) states that a semantic theory must explain why the meaning of a linguistic construction makes it a case of a certain semantic property or relation, makes it exhibit the phenomenon of synonymy, ambiguity, or redundancy, and so forth. On the other word, semantics should be able to define any expression in a language and specify those meanings based on their case whether it is meaning properties or relation.

2.1.2 Meaning

As has already said on the explanation above, there is no very general agreement either about the nature of meaning or about the way in which it should be described. Besides, the word “meaning” is described in various
definitions by semanticists, for instance, Leech (1981: 23) notes three points of meaning through the following:

1. Meaning involves the speaker’s intention to convey a certain meaning that may or may not be evident from the message itself.
2. Consequently, interpretation by the hearer is likely to depend on the context.
3. Meaning in the sense is something, which is performed rather than something that exists in static way. It involves action (the speaker produces and effects on the hearer) and the interaction (the meaning being negotiated between the speaker and the hearer on the basis of their mutual language).

2.1.3 Idioms

One of the most important aspects of language is idioms. They are frequently used in a wide variety of situations, from friendly conversations to more formal conversations and written contexts. Palmer (1976:107) stated that an idiom is a lexical meaning which developed from several words; it cannot be explained in the ordinary meaning of each word. So idiom is a meaning that cannot be explained by using the lexical meaning. Although it is composed by some words, but it cannot be explained or translated word by word.

Other opinion that supporting palmer’s statement is from Cutler. Idiom is a sequence of two or more words that the meaning is not translated from the individual meaning which sequenced (Cutler, 1979). As usually people translated the meaning of phrase by literal meaning. So when idiom faced it become opaque.
Idiom is easier to recognize the people who familiarity with the idiom and understand the culture which idiom approach (Questia, 2013)

Moreover, Bourque (2010:7) stated that "idiom is a phrase that is commonly understood in a given culture or subculture to have a meaning different from its literal meaning". Burke increase that idiom understood by native speaker who the idioms from. It is the reason why English idiom hard to understand, because we are not the native speaker. Idiom is one of expression is used to enrich their spoken and writing language.

Hornby (1995: 589) mentions that an idiom is a phrase or sentence whose meaning is not clear from the meaning of its individual words and which must be learnt as a whole unit, for instance, the idiom spill the beans means to reveal secret information, especially without intending to do so.

Carter (1993: 65) defines idioms as special combinations with restricted forms and meanings that cannot be deduced from the literal meanings of the words which make them up. Accordingly, an idiom is learned and used as a single unit. It should not be analyzed into its constituents; it is unchangeable and always carries figurative meaning. In addition, Ball (1968: 1) finds that an adequate definition of an idiom is the use of familiar words in an unfamiliar sense. An idiom allows no variation in form under normal circumstances. Unless the speaker is consciously making a joke or attempting a play on words. Baker (1992:63) identifies the grammatical and syntactic restrictions of idioms. A speaker or writer cannot normally do any of the following with an idiom.
1. Addition: adding any word to an idiomatic expressions would alter its meaning, or remove its idiomatic sense. Thus, adding the adverb ‘very’ to the adjective ‘red’ in ‘red herring’ (very red herring) affects the figurativeness of its meaning completely. 23

2. Deletion: deleting the adjective ‘sweet’ and the article ‘the’ from the expressions ‘have a sweet tooth’ and ‘spill the beans’ would totally change their meanings. Hence, (have a tooth) and (spill beans) have no idiomatic sense.

3. Substitution: idioms accept no replacement of words even if those words are synonyms. For example, ‘the long and short of it’ means the basic facts of a situation. The adjective ‘long’ cannot be substituted by another adjective, like tall, despite they have nearly the same meaning.

4. Changing the words order: any changing in the order of the words of an idiom leads to the destruction of the idiom’s meaning. For instance, the order of the words in the expression ‘the long and the short of it’ cannot be changed into ‘the short and the long of it’.

5. Changing the grammatical structure: the passive form ‘some beans were spilled’ has different meaning from its active form ‘they spilled the beans’ meaning ‘they reveal a secret’.

Translating idioms is one of the most difficult tasks for translators. It involves far more than the replacement of lexical and grammatical items between languages, and it may involve discarding the basic linguistic elements of the SL text. According to Baker (1992: 65), the first difficulty that a translator comes
across, while translating idioms, is the ability to recognize and distinguish idiomatic from non-idiomatic usage. Recognition is difficult, and sometimes impossible, since many idioms can be slightly modified, while others can be discontinuously spread over a clause. As a rule, the more difficult an expression is to understand and the less sense it makes in a given context, the more likely a translator will recognize it as an idiom (Baker, 1992).

From the definitions above it can be concluded that an idiomatic expression or an idiom is an expression (i.e. term or phrase) whose meaning cannot be deduced from the literal definition and the arrangement of its parts. An idiom can be in the form of phrase, clause or sentence. In addition, the source and the target cultures have a great influence on the comprehensibility as well as the translatability of idioms. Hence, better understanding and using idioms needs both knowing their historical background and familiarity with both the source and the target cultures, and having a clear idea about their different situational context.

It should be quite clear by now, the concept of idiom has been interpreted differently by different people. The scope of idiomaticity and the view of different types of idioms are quite extensive. Since idioms differ greatly both in their character and composition, it is indeed important to provide categorizations for different types of idioms. In this research, some classifications of English idioms from some experts will be introduced by the researcher.

2.1.4 Classification of Idioms
Lim (2004) says that generally speaking, English idioms consist of the following seven types:

a. phrasal verb, as in *call on, put off, do away with*,

b. prepositional phrases, as in *in a nutshell, from time to time, with a view to*,

c. idioms with verbs as keywords, as in *come in handy, fight shy of, leave much to be desired*

d. idioms with nouns as keywords, as in *a blessing disguise, child’s play, food for thought*

e. idioms with adjectives as keywords, as in *cold comfort, wishful thinking, plan sailing, and*

f. idiomatic pairs, as in *safe and sound, aches and pains, sink or swim.*

g. Idioms of comparison, as in *as red as*

Moreover, Seidl and McMordie (1980: 41-240) also classify idioms into the following groups.

a. Key words with idiomatic uses

   1) Adjective and adverb, e.g. *bad news, a big mouth, in short, it is high time*

   2) Noun, e.g. *by the way, in the end, the bottom line*

   3) Miscellaneous, e.g. *after all, how in the world, it is too bad*

b. Idioms with nouns and adjectives

   1) Noun phrases, e.g. *a blessing in disguise, a breath of fresh air*

   2) Ajectives + noun, e.g. *a blind date, a close call, a narrow escape*

c. Idiomatic pairs
This kind of idiom consists of some combination. Five different types are given as follows:

1) pairs of adjectives, e.g. *safe and sound*,
2) pairs of nouns, e.g. *flesh and blood*,
3) pairs of adverbs, e.g. *in and out*,
4) pairs of verbs, e.g. *sink or swim*,
5) identical pairs, e.g. *all in all.*

d. Idioms with prepositions, e.g. *at ease, behind the scenes, in a flash, out of bounds*

e. Phrasal verbs, e.g. break up, go on, get out, settle down, get up

f. Verbal idiom

1) Verb + noun, e.g. *throw a party*
2) Verb + prepositional phrase, e.g. *keep in touch*

g. Idioms of comparison, e.g. *as black as coal, as dumb as a statue, to eat like a horse, to go like the wind*
McCarthy and O’Dell (2003: 6) give another classification to the English idiom types focusing on their combinations, as it is shown in following the table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forms</th>
<th>Examples</th>
<th>Meanings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verb+object/complement (and or adverbial)</td>
<td><em>Kill two birds with one stone</em></td>
<td>Produce two useful results by just doing one action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepositional phrase</td>
<td><em>In the blink of an eye</em></td>
<td>In an extremely short time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compound</td>
<td><em>A bone of contention</em></td>
<td>Something which people argue and disagree over.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simile (as+adjectives+as or like+a noun)</td>
<td><em>As dry as a bone</em></td>
<td>Very dry indeed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binomial (word +and + word)</td>
<td><em>Rough and ready</em></td>
<td>Crude and lacking sophistication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinomial (word+word+ and word)</td>
<td><em>Cool, calm and collected</em></td>
<td>Relaxed, in control, not nervous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole clause or sentences</td>
<td><em>To cut a long story short</em></td>
<td>To tell the main points, but not all the fine details</td>
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2.1.5 Jason Mraz’ and His songs

Jason Mraz was born in Mechanicsville, Virginia, on June 23, 1977. He is singer and writer songs. He has school in American Musical and Dramatic Academy, but in one year later he dropped out (Marian K). Recently, his songs have been popular in Indonesia, especially “I’m yours”. His music horizons widened to include reggae, pop, rock, folk, jazz, and hip hop.

In high school he discovered the works of singer-songwriter Dave Mathews, whose storytelling style inspired him and gave his own music direction. He is quoted saying to Fred Shuster in the Los Angeles Daily News "Through Mathews, I started listening to jazz because suddenly there was a saxophone in
my life, “To this he added, "I really love writing lyrics. I love words and internal rhymes. I think of lyrics as a very rhythmic instrument and to twist a message around in there is fun. That's where I really get the most pleasure."

His career as an artist commenced at the age of 13, when he procured his first professional gig as a member of an R&B band called 'Dressed to Kill'. He was the youngest member of the band and interestingly, as his voice had not yet changed, sang all the high parts.