

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Research

Language is foremost means of communication, and communication almost always takes place within some sort of social context.<sup>1</sup> Language as means of communication is very useful and flexible. Language can serve the human needs in their communication in any situation.

People have always been interested in language, in such matters as its origin, its nature, its various uses for since many years ago. People as social creatures, no matter where they live, use a language or symbol to communicate on another. So, understanding and learning of language becomes very important for human being to live in a community, wherever, whenever.

Language, today, has become a social commodity inside communities. Language is just as important in building human connections either written or orally. It roles as intimate part of social identity and also forms the basis of how users identify with each other. Without language, we cannot express the ideas, opinions, thought and feeling simply and need more time to explain by medium non language. It has a very crucial role inside

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<sup>1</sup> Julie S. Amberg and Deborah J. Vause, “American English: History, Structure, and Usage”, [https://assets.cambridge.org/97805218/52579/excerpt/9780521852579\\_excerpt.pdf](https://assets.cambridge.org/97805218/52579/excerpt/9780521852579_excerpt.pdf), Accessed on October, 28<sup>th</sup> 2015

community. That is why people then learning language as one of their abilities to survive. Without language, people will have a much more boundaries to communicate each other. That boundary is *Language Barrier*.

Language acquisition is one of the most impressive and fascinating aspect of human development.<sup>2</sup> This can also be a mean to break the language barrier. When they were still babies, they started learning word from “ba” or “pa” in first several months. At twelve months, most babies will have begun to produce a word or two that everyone recognizes.<sup>3</sup> Along with the time flows, human will be able to speak their mother tongue. They also will have more knowledge by having some capabilities in mastering any language. Then they will find that this world have not only one language.

There are thousands languages spread around the world whether just few of them that is used worldwide. According to figures from UNESCO, the world's most widely spoken languages are: Mandarin Chinese, English, Spanish, Hindi, Arabic, Bengali, Russian, Portuguese, Japanese, German and

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<sup>2</sup> Patsy M. Lightbrown and Nina Spada, *How Language Are Learned*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Patsy M. Lightbrown and Nina Spada, *How Language Are Learner*, ... p. 2

French.<sup>4</sup>

But, English considerably is used by most of people in the world as a means of communication. Lately, cause of the effect of globalizations, the information moves and changes very fast and now. Moreover, as a global language people use English in order to make relationship among people in different countries around the world. And without a doubt or overestimating, english is a “Key of Communication”.

By the end of twentieth century English already well on its way to becoming a genuine *lingua franca*, that is a language that used widely for communication between people who do not share the same first (or even second) language.<sup>5</sup> There is something incredible about the way English has grown in the last few decades. In 1985, Braj Kachru, on Jeremy Harmer has estimated that there were 320 - 380 million people speak English as a first language and 250 – 380 million people speak English as a second language. And now, the non-native English that speak English outnumbers the English native speaker around the world.

On this case, increasing the ability of English be as a “Key of Communication”, is also supported by Holly Young. He

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<sup>4</sup> BBC Team, “Languages of the World - Interesting Facts about Languages”, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/guide/languages.shtml>, accessed on August, 7<sup>th</sup> 2015

<sup>5</sup> Jeremy Harmer, *the Practice of English Language Teaching*, (Cambridge: Pearson Education ltd., 2012), p. 13.

wrote that almost all of the information that provides on internet used in English. Since internet has been a gate of global information, the first language that used on the internet was almost certainly English. By the mid 1990s, it was estimated that English made up 80% of the content. However, from once dominating the web, English's now has shrunk to around 30% in cyberspace. Then, French, German, Spanish and Chinese have all pushed into the top 10 languages online.<sup>6</sup> Even English has shrunk to around 30% on the web until 2015, yet English remains is the highest language used on internet with 872.9 million users until 2013.<sup>7</sup>

From this reason, we know that many people in the world attracted to learn or study English. Learning is normally considered to be a conscious process which consist of committing to memory of information relevant to what is being learned.<sup>8</sup> By

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<sup>6</sup> Holly Young, a journalist of the Guardian poured his thought on the digital article under the title *The digital language divide How does the language you speak shape your experience of the internet?* To see his complete thought, you can read it on this address <http://labs.theguardian.com/digital-language-divide/>

<sup>7</sup> The Data Processed until November 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 by Miniwatts Marketing Group on their website <http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats7.htm> which titled "*World Internet Usage Statistics News and World. Population Stats*", accessed on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> Brian Tomlinson, *Material Development in Language Teaching*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), p. 4.

learning English, we can gain something and useful in our daily activity because English, now, has more influence on us. The triumph of English as international language also can be found in many aspect of our daily activities. It spread out in most of scientific and technology researches, international journals, international Nobel thoughts, story books, international trades, magazines, newspapers, scientific books, manual books, social media and other information are printed in English.

Jeremy harmer in his book also wrote the reason of why English has grown so much in the world. At least, there are five reasons: A Colonial History, economics, information exchange, travel, and popular culture or pop culture such as movies or songs.<sup>9</sup>

People in many countries now have been realizing that English as an international language has become a very important language used around the world, including in Indonesia. Teaching learning process of English in Indonesia began since the proclamation of Indonesia and has been one of important subjects taught in this country. At least until now, English remains subject that is examined in national examination.

But, learning English as a foreign language is a little bit hard for the most of Indonesian students because it is not their mother tongue as well. Learning English for most Indonesian

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<sup>9</sup> Jeremy Harmer, *the Practice of English* ..... , p. 14.

students means learning the thick dictionary, structure, grammar and the sound of system in that language from the very beginning. Most of them will feel bored even confused when acquiring English.

When people want to master or to speak English well, people must learn and master the vocabulary as well as the grammar and pronunciation because vocabulary can express meaning of words, which are used. There are four skills in teaching learning process of English, they are, listening, speaking, reading and writing. Those are really important in every language in the world. But, above all, there is one thing that more important than those four skills. It is vocabulary, the basic of all languages in the world.

Vocabulary is a must-have skill that people must learn first on every language. It is necessary in the senses that words are the basic unit of building block of language, the units of meaning from which larger structure such as sentences; paragraphs and whole text are formed.<sup>10</sup> It plays more role than any grammar and structure because basically everything we say, write, read or listen happens because we have vocabulary. If you never know even a word in ancient Greek, ancient Chinese or ancient Javanese (Sanskrit) or other languages, you will never be able to speak that languages.

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<sup>10</sup> John Read, *Assessing Vocabulary*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), p. 1.

Within hundred years, English has developed and spread so fast and used by millions of people.<sup>11</sup> Whether, the character of language has shifted. Some people prefer to use some idioms in their daily activities to give deeper meaning on their words.

The Jakarta post based on the result of the research that write by Hendra Saeful Imam wrote that there are at least 192 English idiomatic expressions used in sport column of that daily newspaper.<sup>12</sup> Furthermore Hendra wrote a that “*Idioms are a colorful and fascinating aspect of English. They are commonly used in all types of language, informal and formal, spoken and written*” that he retrieved from Cambridge International Dictionary of Idioms. It is interesting when idiom now has become very popular words. It creates a significant portion of our everyday communication.<sup>13</sup>

Idiom is an interesting phenomenon in languages. A meaning of an idiom is not a sum of its literal parts and often it

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<sup>11</sup> John Read, *Assessing Vocabulary*, .... p. 3.

<sup>12</sup> It published by English Education Study Program Language and Arts Department of Sekolah Tinggi Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan Siliwangi Bandung. Or you can download it from <http://publikasi.stkipsiliwangi.ac.id/wp-content/blogs.dir/2/files/2013/11/09220217-HENDRA-SAEFUL-IMAM.docx>

<sup>13</sup> Marek Hivlia, “Some Functional Differences between Idioms And ‘Single Words’”, <http://philologica.net/studia/20090308140000.htm>, accessed in August, 5<sup>th</sup> 2015.

does not have equivalents in other languages.<sup>14</sup> Idiom itself in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English (1995: 627) defined as "*Idiom is a phrase of sentence that the meaning is not obvious through knowledge of the individual meanings of the constituent words but must be learnt as a whole.*" In addition, idiomatic expressions can be just one or a group of words, and the meaning is not derived exclusively from the detonation of words comprising the expression.

Idiom can give beauty to language and headache to language learners.<sup>15</sup> So even idiom sometimes giving us a little headache, but idiom is an important to be mastered in certain situation.

In fact, the use of idiom is so widespread that an understanding of these expressions is essential to successful communication, whether in listening, speaking, reading, or writing. Yet some idiom sometimes are in contradicted on to

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<sup>14</sup> Tiina Kainulainen, "Understanding idioms: A comparison of Finnish Third Grade Students of National Senior Secondary School and IB Diploma Programme", *A Pro Undergraduate Thesis from Department of English*, (Finland: University of Jyväskylä, 2006), p. 4.

<sup>15</sup> Abbas Ali Zarei and Nahid Rahimi, "Idioms Etymology, Contextual Pragmatic Clues, and Lexical Knowledge In Focus", (Germany: LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing), [www.ikiu.ac.ir/public\\_files/profiles/items/1350297763.pdf](http://www.ikiu.ac.ir/public_files/profiles/items/1350297763.pdf), accessed in August, 7<sup>th</sup> 2015.



logic and grammatical rules.<sup>16</sup> Idiom also cannot be translated literally and must be understood or memorized.

There is clearly a need to study idiom from the point of view of second language learning since most of the studies on English idiom have concentrated on how native speakers understand them.

Even idiom is a little bit hard to learn, there are always paths to learn idiom. One of the most interesting ways to learn idiom is by using song. Song is important trends of modern era. Most of students want to learn English in different style, and songs are already very familiar to young people. Because song is so familiar, they sometimes even know the history of the song or the history of the singer. The songs also can be used as a media of vocabulary development.

Song is one of media to memorize vocabulary well. If you ever see on YouTube, when an animation film “Frozen” released, there are so many children in all around the world could sing English even sometimes they do not know the meaning. It proves that song is one of media that is powerful to teach vocabulary.

Since the songs are meant for enjoyment, song can also be a media to teach student who have anxiety in learning English. It also supported by Dulay, as cited by Tomlinson (2011:9)

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<sup>16</sup> B.A Phytian, *Correct English: Pedoman Belajar Bahasa Inggris*, terj. Febrianti Ika Dewi, (Jakarta: PT Indeks, 2012), p. 9.

Research has shown... the effect of various forms of anxiety on acquisition: the less anxious learner, the better language acquisition proceeds. Similarly, relaxed and comfortable students apparently can learn more in a shorter period of time.

It means that learners that have less anxiety in learning second language acquisition having a better progress than learners that have so much anxiety inside themselves. Similarly, when learner has more comfortable and relaxed situation while they are learning, they will be able to learn more in a shorter periods of time. Above all, song is also highly memorable to everyone who listens to it and it can provide active student participation.

Hopefully, by using songs, students are having a great time to learn English without feeling anxiety and also able to understand some idioms as their capability in their communicative language skill.

## **B. Research Questions**

This research proposal guided though following major questions:

1. What types of idiom are found in Adele's song lyrics in album "25"?
2. What meaning of idioms are found in Adele's song lyrics in the album "25"?
3. What is the possibility of the use of Adele's songs as an English teaching material?

### **C. Objective of the Research**

This research proposal is intended to meet the following objectives:

1. To find out types of idioms found in Adele's Album
2. To find out the meaning of idiomatic expression found in Adele's song lyrics.
3. To find out the possibility of teaching idiom by media Adele's song lyrics.

### **D. Scope of the Research**

The scope of this study can be described as follow:

- a. Idioms that will be analyzed by researcher were sourced from Adele songs in the album "25".
- b. Idiom that will be analyzed by researcher is only the lexical idiom that derived from book *Idiom Structure in English* by Adam Makkai.

### **E. Significance of The Research**

The result of this study is expected to be able to give the following benefits:

1. For readers, hopefully this research can give a reference about idiomatic expression and its meaning.
2. For English teachers, hopefully this research can give a reference of teaching idiom in teaching learning process.

3. For the writer, hopefully this research can give more knowledge in learning idiom.

## **F. Previous Research**

Considering the topic discussed in this thesis, there are some research have been done related to this topic are:

1. Yasin Anwari (07311006), *An Analysis of Figurative Language and Education Values Found in The Lyric of Yusuf Islam's Songs*, from Tarbiyah and Teacher Training Faculty, State Islamic University Walisongo Semarang, 2014. The result of research showed that there is thirteen of figurative language found in the lyric of Yusuf Islam songs.<sup>17</sup>

The difference between his research and this writer's research is on the object of the study. He studied about figurative languages if the songs while this writer's research will study about idiomatic expressions.

2. Fatkhur Rahman (063411009), *The Use Of Figurative Language In Yusuf Islams Song Lirycs To Express Religious Values And Its Possibility As Teaching*

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<sup>17</sup> Yasin Anwari, "An Analysis of Figurative Language and Education Values Found in The Lyric of Yusuf Islam's Songs", *Thesis*, (Semarang: Tarbiyah and Teacher Training Faculty, State Islamic University Walisongo Semarang, 2014.)

*Material In English For Islamic Studies A Descriptive Research Of I Look, I See - Yusuf Islam Friends & Children Album*, from Tarbiyah Faculty, Walisongo State Institute for Islamic Studies Semarang, 2011. The result of research showed that there are fourteen figurative meaning found in the lyrics of Yusuf Islam song and can be It is possible for using song lyrics of “*I look I see*” Yusuf Islam’s album as a teaching material in English for Islamic Studies because the lyrics really contain religious values of Islam which is being material in English for Islamic Studies.<sup>18</sup>

The difference between his research and this research are in the object and purposes of the study. His research focused Yusuf Islam songs while the writers research focus on Adele songs. Moreover, his research researched the possibilities for Islamic studies while the writer’s research will focus on possibilities for English studies.

3. Laela Nur Mukarromah (103411019), *Students’ understanding of idiom and their reading*

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<sup>18</sup> Fatkhur Rahman, “The Use Of Figurative Language In Yusuf Islams Song Lirycs To Express Religious Values And Its Possibility As Teaching Material In English For Islamic Studies A Descriptive Research Of I Look, I See - Yusuf Islam Friends & Children Album”, *thesis*, (Semarang: Tarbiyah Faculty, Walisongo State Institute for Islamic Studies Semarang, 2011)

*comprehension of recount text (a correlation study on the 4<sup>th</sup> semester of English education of UIN Walisongo Semarang in the Academic year of 2014/2015)* from Tarbiyah Faculty, Walisongo State University , 2015. The result of research showed that there is no correlation between students understanding in idiom and their reading comprehension recount text.<sup>19</sup>

The difference between her research and this research are in the object. His research focused on reading and the object was recount text. Whether this research is focus on Adele's song lyrics.

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<sup>19</sup> Laela Nur Mukarromah, "Students' understanding of idiom and their reading comprehension of recount text (a correlation study on the 4<sup>th</sup> semester of English education of UIN walisongo Semarang in the Academic year of 2014/2015)" *thesis*, (Semarang: Tarbiyah Faculty, Walisongo State University, 2015) p. 64.