



## An Analysis of Idiomatic Expressions in The Animated Series “*Gravity Falls*” Season 1 Episode 1 & 2 (2012)

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**Abstract.** This research investigates the types and frequency of idiomatic expressions used in the animated series *Gravity Falls* (2012), created by Robert Hirsch. Employing a descriptive qualitative approach, the researchers analysed transcripts from two selected episodes: Episode 1, *Tourist Trap*, and Episode 2, *The Legend of the Gobblerwonker*. The analysis was guided by the typology of idioms proposed by O'Dell and McCarthy (2010), which categorizes idioms into six distinct types. The findings indicate the presence of three types of idiomatic expressions across the two episodes: clichés and fixed statements (10 instances), binomials (1 instance), and euphemisms (2 instances). Among these, clichés and fixed statements emerged as the most dominant category. Specifically, seven instances of this type were found in the first episode, while the remaining three occurred in the second.

**Keywords/Kata Kunci:** *Analysis, Idiom, Gravity Falls*

### INTRODUCTION

Language is a spoken sound made by humans (verbal) and can also be in another form which is symbols known as alphabets (writing). Language itself functions as a way for someone to communicate, where it can be delivered in many different ways and form, one of it being through idioms. Idiom is a phrase and not just a single word. Therefore, idiom is a group of words that has meaning differs from its literal meaning of each individual words. This means, Idiom is a type of words that are peculiar and is not to be taken literally.

In idiom, the incorporation of figurative language can be found. The use of some figures of speech such as using metaphors, personification, and hyperbole adds a fancier, flattery, and richness to the colors of the language. For example, “She is as sly as a fox” where it compares a fox as something sly and agile at moving thus making it a metaphor used in an idiom. Second is personification where it gives human feature to inanimate object, for example “My knee kissed the road” with the personification in this idiom is giving the action of the knee kissing the road which has a meaning of the person fell down instead of literally kissing the road. The third is hyperbole, with the example being “I feel heavy hearted with him” meaning that a person is not literally have a heavy heart but rather a sense of discomfort towards him.

In literary work, idioms are useful as means of incorporating figurative language into literary work. Idioms can reveal character's aspects of personality as well as add some flair to the writing of a narrative. One example of literary work that uses idioms is animated series. Animated series itself is popular among all level of ages. This is because animated series is a fun show to watch because the story is imaginative and can help others learn such as for children and teenagers. One of this literary work of animated series is called “*Gravity Falls*”. This series has 2 seasons with 20 episodes in each of its season with the total of 40 episodes combined.

This research aims to find out the types of idioms used and the dominantly used of the idioms found in the *Gravity Falls* series, specifically episode 1 & 2. This research use O’Dell and McCarthy’s (2010) theory that differentiate idioms into six types. Namely similes, binomial, proverb, euphemism, cliché and fixed statement, and other languages. The findings are expected to contribute in the study and research about idiom.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

In this research, the researchers reviewed three previous studies that have been done by other researchers and are related. The first study by Wahyuni (2023) from the English Education Department of Teacher Training and Education Collage of Bina Bangsa Getsempena University Banda Aceh entitled “An Analysis of Idiomatic Expressions in Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life” movie. The aim is to identify the types and the meaning of idiomatic expression found in American Sniper movie and to interpret the meaning of the idiomatic expression. In this study, the researcher used qualitative and applied descriptive qualitative method. The data in this study were some scenes and idiomatic expression said by the characters in the movie.

The second study is by Rosalia et al. (2018), from IKIP Siliwangi entitled “An Analysis of Idioms in Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2 Movie”. The aims in this research by her is to find out the idiom types within the movie and which type of idioms is mostly presented or used. This research used qualitative method. In the data collection process, the researcher used the movie script which was first downloaded 8 from the internet.

Lastly, the third study is by Zaid (2019) from the State Islamic University of Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten entitled “An Analysis of Idiomatic Expression Used by Characters in Hotel Transylvania Movie”. The objective of this research is to do analysis to the idiomatic expression types within the movie itself used by the characters using O’Dell and McCarthy’s theory. In this theory, idioms are divided into six types. The researcher used qualitative research and applying the method of qualitative descriptive. The data in this research were some of the scenes in the movie which includes the idiomatic expression used by the characters. The process of data analysis was done by categorizing also classifying the data inside the movie of “*Hotel Transylvania*”.

From the related studies above the similarities between the first, second and third study by Wahyuni (2023), Rosalia et al. (2018), and Zaid (2019) is that the three studied the topic of idiom which is the same with the current research. The differences between the previous studies and the current research is the film used and how the data were obtained and processed. In the current research, the researchers use “Gravity Falls” as the film of animated series, specifically season 1 episode 1 & 2. This concludes that the three previous studies studied and analyzed the same topic as the current research. This proved that the previous studies can be used as references for this research where this research will analyze the Idiom found in the “Gravity Falls Series Season 1” using O’Dell and McCarthy’s (2010) theory.

According to their theory, there are six types of idioms, which are simile idioms, binomial idioms, proverb idioms, euphemism idioms, cliché and fixed statement idioms, also other language idioms. The six types of idioms by O’Dell and McCarthy’s (2010) theory has their own characteristics, for example:

a. Similes

Simile is a type of idiom or expression used to compare two different things, where in this idiom always contain the word “as” or “like”. By using this idiom, it means that a person is trying to compare something. For example, “The baby’s skin is as smooth as silk” it means that the person using this idiom is trying to compare two things which are the baby’s skin and silk.

b. Binomial

This idiom can be defined as a type of words that are joined or constructed with the word “and” as a linking word. One example of this idiom is “Managing the climate change isn’t a black and white issue” it means that the issue of climate change is not separate and clear. Another example of this idiom is “They finished the race neck and neck” which means that the people finished the race at an equal time or at the same time.

c. Proverb

This type of idiom is constructed from short sentences, this idiom usually refers or convey something that most people have had the experienced of in their life. In the proverb idiom, there are two types of situation which are positive situation and negative situation. For the positive situation is “Variety is the spice of life” this means that changes can make one’s life more interesting. Another example is “Every cloud has silver lining” which means that there is always something good in every bad situation. While the negative situation “All is fair in love and war” this idiom has the meaning that all behavior is acceptable in extreme situation, especially in romantic situations and competitions. One more example for the negative situation is “It takes two to tango” which means two people are equally responsible.

d. Euphemisms

Euphemism can be defined as a type of idiom that is used to avoid harsh and sensitive situation where it may offend or considered as rude. This means that by using the idiom, communication with others can be more appropriate. Example of the use of euphemism in a sentence is “Not long for this world” which means that a person is going to die soon, and by using this idiom in a conversation, it will convey the meaning with a more appropriate way.

e. Cliché & Fixed Statements

A cliché idiom is a type of idiom that has been used too often in everyday situation where the characteristics are most people already familiar with the meaning, therefore making the idiom unoriginal. For example, “Look at the bright side” where most people already

familiar with this idiom, the meaning itself is try to see something good in a bad situation”. Moving on to the fixed statement idiom. This type can be found in everyday life on which this idiom has their own structure and meaning which cannot be altered with the example of “Take it easy” or “So far so good” meaning calm down or relax and things are going well up to the current point.

#### f. Other Languages

In the English language, there are many words and phrases that originated, derived or borrowed from other languages such as Latin and French. The idiom in this type means that they are not originated from the English language. Some example for this idiom is “De facto” which means existing but not officially agreed and “Status quo” meaning the present situation.

According to Chen (2021) there are few characteristics of idioms, the first one is being a group of words, which mean they are both phrase or words. The second one is that idiom is considered a group or a unit that act as a whole, even though there are different words in a single idiom. Third is that idiom contains both literal and non-literal meaning. The last but not least is that the word order inside an idiom cannot be change, it is a fixed form and changing or re-arranging the phrase or word order can erase an idiom from its meaning. Additionally, according to McCarthy and O’Dell’s (2010) the six types of idioms in their theory also have characteristics, these characteristics are as follows:

##### 1) Characteristics of Similes

The characteristics of the simile’s idiom is that they always used to compare two different things. Furthermore, the idiom contains the word “as” and “like” in them which makes the comparison between two things sounds and feel more powerful. Lastly, this idiom has strong meaning in them, which means they are used in either humorous or sarcastic conversation.

##### 2) Characteristics of Binomials

The Binomials idiom have certain characteristics. The first one is in the idiom always contain a conjunction, which this conjunction is the word “and” to link two words in the idiom. In rare cases the conjunction uses the word “or” instead. Second characteristics is that the word order is fixed in this idiom and cannot be change, for example is “give and take” where changing its order can ruin the idiom’s meaning.

##### 3) Characteristics of Proverbs

This idiom’s characteristics contains a life lesson in them. This life lesson can either be in a form of an advice or a warning, making this idiom can be used in either positive or negative situation. For example, “action speaks louder than words” is giving encouragement while “misery loves company” is giving out warning to others.

##### 4) Characteristics of Euphemisms

Idioms who falls under euphemisms has the characteristics of making words sounds softer and toning down unpleasant situations. For example, the idiom “ignorance is a bliss” means that you may be better and happy by not knowing the real facts truth behind a situation.

##### 5) Characteristics of Cliché & Fixed Statements

This idiom has the characteristics of using words that have been used too many times, which makes it unoriginal. In addition to its characteristics, this idiom is used in everyday

lives thus, implying the word “cliché” in its name. The example of this idiom is “think outside the box”.

#### 6) Characteristics of Other Languages

The characteristics of other languages idiom is that they are idioms composed or have languages from other country integrated in them. The example is the idiom “de facto” which means in fact or in reality. Another example of this idiom is “status quo” meaning the present situation.

### METHOD

In this research, the researchers used qualitative method with qualitative descriptive as its design. Where this method itself according to Sugiyono (2013:8) is a research method that are often called naturalistic research method where the research is conducted in the time when certain phenomenon naturally occurred. This means that qualitative research is a method on which examine the phenomenon that happens on natural objects. This is also the most suitable design for this research, due to the researchers intend on analyzing the types of idioms used in the animated series “Gravity Falls” and finding out the dominant idiom.

Furthermore, the researchers used the literature study approach on which this is seen to be the most suitable approach concerning the research of this topic. The technique of data collection in this research is first, finding the video of the animated series of “Gravity Falls” Season 1 Episode 1 & 2 on YouTube and the transcript needed. Next, is analyzing the transcript to find the idiom. The process of analyzing is done with validity-checking using two dictionaries of idiom, which are The Dictionary of American Idioms and Oxford Dictionary of Idiom. Lastly, dividing the idioms found respectively into their types according to O’Dell and McCarthy’s (2010) six types of idioms along with finding out the dominant idiom used in the animated series with the technique of data analysis that was used is by Miles and Huberman (1994).

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The researchers have analyzed and found out the types of idioms from the animated series of “Gravity Falls” Episode 1 called “Tourist Trap” and the Episode 2 named “The Legend of the Gobblewonker” (2012). According to O’Dell and McCarthy’s (2010), there are six types of idioms. While in the animated series, the researchers found only four types of idioms. These idioms are: Binomials (1), Cliché and Fixed Statement (10), and Euphemisms (2).

#### A. Gravity Falls Episode 1 “Tourist Trap”

The idiomatic expression found in the first episode were dominated by the Cliché and Fixed Statements idiom, with the occurrences of (7) times. Followed by Euphemisms (1) time. The detail of these idioms is presented in the table below:

Table 1.1 Episode 1 Idiomatic Expression

No	Idiomatic Expression	Idiom Types	Times
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1.	<p>Ah, summer break - You want cheese on that hon? - Sure, Hank.</p> <p>A time for leisure, recreation, and <b><u>takin' 'er easy</u></b>. Unless you're me.</p> <p>Aaaah!!! It's getting closer! My name is Dipper.</p> <p>The girl about to puke is my sister Mabel. You may be wondering what we're doing in a golf cart fleeing from a creature of unimaginable horror.</p> <p>- Aah! - Aaah! - Look out! - Aahh! Rest assured, there's a perfectly logical explanation.</p> <p>Let's rewind.</p>	Cliché and Fixed Statements	00:00 To 01:23
2.	<p>To stay at our great-uncle's place in the woods.</p> <p>This attic is amazing! Check out all my splinters! Baaa! And there's a goat on my bed.</p> <p>Hey, friend.</p> <p>Oh! Yes, you can keep chewing on my sweater.</p> <p>Ha ha ha ha ha!</p> <p>My sister tended to <b><u>look on the bright side</u></b> of things.</p>	Cliché and Fixed Statements	01:35 To 01:59
3.	<p>But according to this book, Gravity Falls has this secret dark side.</p> <p>Whoa! Shut up! After a certain point, the pages just stop, like the guy who was writing it mysteriously disappeared.</p> <p>Who's that? Well, time to <b><u>spill the beans</u></b>.</p> <p>Broop.</p> <p>Beans.</p> <p>This girl's got a date.</p> <p>Whoo whoo! - Ha ha ha! - Let me get this straight.</p> <p>In the half hour I was gone you already found a boyfriend? What can I say? I guess I'm just irresistible! Oh! Coming!</p>	Cliché and Fixed Statements	06:11 To 06:43

4.	<p>Finally, we're alone. Yes Alone. Stan! Stan! Wendy! Wendy! I need to borrow the golf cart so I can save my sister from a zombie! Try not to hit any pedestrians. Dude, it's me, Soos. - This is for the zombies. - Thanks. And this is in case you see a pinata. Uh Thanks? <b><u>Better safe than sorry!</u></b> Mable, now that we've gotten to know each other, there's There's something I should tell you. Oh, Norman! You can tell me anything!</p>	Cliché and Fixed Statements	12:14 To 12:35
5.	<p>There's There's something I should tell you. Oh, Norman! You can tell me anything! Please be a vampire, please be a vampire. All right, just just don't freak out, okay? Just just <b><u>keep an open mind.</u></b> Be cool. Is this weird? Is this too weird? You need to sit down? R-right. I'll explain. So, we're gnomes, first off, get that one out of the way. - Uh - I'm Jeff, and here we have Carson, Steve, Jason and I'm sorry, I always forget your name. Shmebulock.</p>	Cliché and Fixed Statements	12:32 To 13:09
6.	<p>So, we're gnomes, first off, get that one out of the way. - Uh - I'm Jeff, and here we have Carson, Steve, Jason and I'm sorry, I always forget your name. Shmebulock. Shmebulock. Yes! Anyways, <b><u>long story short</u></b>, us gnomes have been lookin' for a new queen. Right, guys? Queen! Queen! Heh! So whaddya say? Will you join us in holy matri-gnome-y? Matri matri mony? Bleahh! Can't talk today. Look I'm sorry, guys, you're really sweet,</p>	Cliché and Fixed Statements	12:57 To 13:47

7.	<p>Uhh what the heck is goin' on here?!          Aah! Dipper! Norman turned out to be a bunch of gnomes! And they're total jerks!          Uhh! Hair! Hair!          Gnomes? Huh. I was <u>way off</u>.          "Gnomes. Little men of the Gravity Falls forest.          "Weaknesses:" unknown.          Oh, come on!          Hey! Hey! Let go of my sister!</p>	Euphemisms	14:21 To 14:52
8.	<p>Come back with our queen! - It's getting closer! Eh! Yahh! Brahh!! Shmebulock!          I'll save you, Dipper! Uh! Ow! Uh! Uh!          Uh! Uh! Uh! Uh!!! - Thanks, Mabel.          - Don't mention it.          Yahh! Look out! Stay back, man! Uhh!          Where's Grunkle Stan? Behold! The world's most distracting object! - Oooh! - Just try to look away you can't! I can't even remember what I was talkin' about.          It's the <u>end of the line</u>, kids.          Mabel, marry us before we do something crazy! There's gotta be a way out of this!</p>	Cliché and Fixed Statements	16:05 To 17:14

### B. Gravity Falls Episode 2 “The Legend of the Gobblewonker”

The idiomatic expression found in this episode were dominated by the Cliché and Fixed Statements idiom, with the occurrences of (3) times. Followed by Euphemisms (1) time and Binomials (1) time. The detail of these idioms found in the episode is presented inside the table below:

Table 1.2 Episode 2 Idiomatic Expression

No	Idiomatic Expression	Idiom Types	Times
1.	<p>Okay, okay, open 'em up.          Ta-da! It's fishin' season! - Fishing? - What are you playing at, old man? You're gonna love it! The whole town's out here! Here, fishy-fishies! Get into the pan.  <u>Say "cheese"</u>.          " Aaaah! Uh, is this good? No!!! I'll show you how a real man fishes! Grr! Aaah!          Ha ha ha ha ha! Hyeah! Uhh! - Dead!          Dead! - Dead! Dead! Get him! Get him!          That's some quality family bonding!</p>	Cliché and Fixed Statements	02:22 To 02:58

2.	<p>I seen it! I seen it again! Hoo hoo hoo!  The Gravity Falls gobblewonker! Come quick before he scramdoodles away! Ha ha hoo-ah! Aw.  He's doing a happy jig.  No!!! It's a jig of grave danger! - Hey!  Hey! - Aaah! Now, what did I tell you about scaring my customers? This is your last warning, dad.  But I got proof this time, by gummity!  Behold! It's gobbledywonker what done did it! It had a long neck like a gee-raffe, and wrinkly skin like like this gentleman right here.  - Huh? It chopped my boat up <u>to smithereens!</u> It shim-shammed over to scuttlebutt island! Ya gotta believe me!!!</p>	Cliché and Fixed Statements	03:30	To 04:18
3.	<p>Mabel, did you hear what that old dude said? "Aw, donkey spittle!" The other thing about the monster.  If we can snag a photo of it, we could split the prize fifty-fifty.  That's two fifties! Imagine what you could do with five hundred dollars! Not so <u>high and mighty</u> anymore.  - Ohh.  - Aha-ha ha ha ha! Hey, boys.  You can look But you can't touch.  Squeak! Squeak! Squeak! Squeak!  Squeak squeak Awesome!</p>	Binomials	04:37	To 05:17
4.	<p>Traitors! I'll find my own fishin' buddies.  Ah! There's my new pals!  Now that we're alone, rosanna, there's a <u>burning question</u> which my heart longs to ask of you.  - Oh, Reginald! - Hey! Wanna hear a joke? Here goes.  My ex-wife still misses me, but her aim is gettin' better! Her aim is gettin' better! Ya see, it's it's funny because marriage is terrible.  What?!</p>	Cliché and Fixed Statements	08:56	To 09:36

5.	<p>Guys, imagine what would happen if we got that picture! Tonight, we're here with adventure-seeker Dipper pines who bravely photographed the elusive gobblewonker.</p> <p>Tell me, Dipper, what's the secret to your success? Well, I run away from nothing Nothing except for when I ran away from my annoying Grunkle Stan who I ditched in order to pursue that lake monster.</p> <p>How right you were to do so.</p> <p>He looked like a real <u>piece of work</u>.</p> <p>I don't often do this, but I feel the need to give you an award</p>	Euphemisms	10:58 To 11:30
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### 1. Gravity Falls Episode 1 “Tourist Trap” Discussion”

In the animated series of “Gravity Falls” especially in Episode 1, there are 8 idiomatic expression found, with 7 (seven) of the idiomatic expression occurred in the animated series falls under the cliché and fixed statement while 1 (one) of the idiomatic expression occurred is a euphemism. This means the idioms found and used in the Episode 1 of Gravity Falls namely “Tourist Trap” is dominated by the cliché and fixed statements idiom with the total used of this idiom was as much as seven. The detail is below:

Table 1.3 Episode 1 Discussion

No	Idiomatic Expression	Types
1.	Taking it easy	Cliché and Fixed Statements
2.	Look on the bright side	Cliché and Fixed Statements
3.	Spill the beans	Cliché and Fixed Statements
4.	Better safe than sorry	Cliché and Fixed Statements
5.	Keep an open mind	Cliché and Fixed Statements
6.	Long story short	Cliché and Fixed Statements
7.	End of the line	Euphemisms
8.	Way off	Cliché and Fixed Statements

### 2. Gravity Falls Episode 1 “Tourist Trap” Discussion”

In The second episode of the animated series of Gravity Falls is entitled “The Legend of the Gobblewonker”. The idiomatic expression found in this episode were dominated by the Cliché and Fixed Statements idiom, with the occurrences of (3) times. Followed by Euphemisms (1) time and Binomials (1) time. The detail of these idioms found in the episode are presented below:

Table 1.4 Episode 2 Discussion

No	Idiomatic Expression	Types
1.	Say “cheese”	Cliché and Fixed Statements
2.	To smithereens	Cliché and Fixed Statements
3.	Burning question	Cliché and Fixed Statements
4.	Piece of work	Euphemisms
5.	High and mighty	Binomials

## CONCLUSION

Based on the result in the findings and discussion stage in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that from the animated series of “Gravity Falls” that:

1. There were 13 idiomatic expression found. Where in the first episode of the series, 7 of them were identified as cliché and fixed statements and 1 was identified as euphemisms. While in the second episode of the series, 3 idiomatic expression was identified as cliché and fixed statements, 1 was binomials while the other 1 was a euphemism.
2. Furthermore, amongst the 4 (four) types of idiom that appeared in the animated series of “Gravity Falls”, one idiom type stand out the most. This idiom type is the cliché and fixed statements, which occurred 7 (seven) times in the first episode called “Tourist Trap” and occurred 3 (three) times in the second episode called “The Legend of the Gobblewonker”. This means, the dominant idiom in the animated series is the cliché and fixed statements, with the total occurrences of 10 (ten) times throughout the first and second episode of the “Gravity Falls”.

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