

# Ethnolinguistic in German Idiom With Plant Lexicon

Tri E. Lestari<sup>1\*</sup>, Ajeng D. Kartika<sup>1</sup>, Hespri Septiana<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Faculty of Languages and Arts, Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia*

<sup>\*</sup>*Corresponding author: triedlianilestari@unesa.ac.id*

## ABSTRACT

The purposes of the research is to to explain the culture which is reflected in the German idiom that uses the lexicon of plants. The research uses qualitative research. The data used in this study is the idiom of German dictionary named Duden Redewendungen in 2012, while the data are sentence that contain idioms as shown in the Duden dictionary Redewendungen in 2012. The method used by the writer to analyze this idiom is qualitative. To express the local wisdom contained in German idioms, the author uses the theory put forward by Baginda regarding the 12 local wisdom of German culture. The results of this thesis are as follows: from the twelve local wisdoms of German culture, there are only 6 points that can be described from the use of idioms with plant lexicons, namely independence - which has the idiomatic meaning of leaving one's place of residence; actively working - which has idiomatic meaning pay close attention; brotherhood - with the idiomatic meaning of having someone he likes and keeping him close to him; responsibility - which has the idiomatic meaning of carrying out an unpleasant job; self-actualization - with an idiomatic meaning of change from the smallest thing; self respect -which means idiomatic life in retirement.

**Keywords:** *idioms, plants, phrases*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Basically, every language cannot represent the whole idea of its users. The meaning of each language and the understanding of a language towards certain things must be different, depending on its culture. One of the sciences that gives special attention to the language and culture of a nation is ethnolinguistic. In the beginning, ethnolinguistic or what was previously known as anthropolinguistics was a branch of linguistics that investigated the relationship between language and societies that did not have writing [1]. One form of language that is closely related to the culture of the speakers of the language is idioms.

The use of plant names in idioms that related to culture is what makes the author interested in researching. Here is an example of an analysis of idioms with plant names in them:

- (1) *Äpfel mit Birnen vergleichen* [2]  
 'Comparing apples to pears'  
  
*völlig verschiedene Dinge miteinander  
 vergleichen*

‘Comparing completely different things’  
 (idiomatic meaning)

After seeing the idiom that uses the name of the apple and pear, the culture in the idiom will appear. In essence, the form of comparison in the above idiom is a form of German culture local wisdom, namely "best appearance" [3]. Basically, everyone can compare which one is the best, so that they can show their best appearance. This idiom illustrates the German culture of 'best appearance'.

The data source used in this study is the 26th edition of Duden Redewendungen published by Duden printing in August 2013 in Mannheim, Germany. Duden Redewendung is a dictionary containing more than ten thousand German idioms. Duden itself is the name of a German-language dictionary publisher that has gone global.

It can be said that for now Duden is the most comprehensive dictionary that provides various kinds of dictionaries ranging from lexicons, etymology, synonyms, absorption dictionaries, to dictionaries for certain terms. Duden was originally published by

Konrad Duden in 1880. Duden usually issues a new dictionary every four or five years. This dictionary was updated through research conducted by the Institut für deutsche Sprache (IDS).

The Duden Dictionary is a reference for learning German, both in Germany and outside Germany. In its development, Duden can also be accessed online at the address [www.duden.de](http://www.duden.de).

### **1.1. Related Work**

Previous research on German idioms was found to be an analysis of idioms that use animal names, hand words, colors, sensory organs and comparative idioms that use words of mouth and tongue. From the themes that have been researched and described above, it is necessary to carry out a research related to the use of plant lexicons in German idioms. This research is necessary because the research on idioms that use plant lexicons in German has never been found before. Therefore, the author focuses on researching plant lexicons in German idioms with ethnolinguistic studies.

### **1.2. Purpose**

Theoretically, this research is expected to provide understanding and knowledge to the general public and can be used as additional research treasures in the field of language, especially ethnolinguistic studies. In the world of education, the writer hopes that this research can add scientific insight into what plant names are used as well as cultural factors contained in plant names used in German idioms.

With regard to practical benefits, the results of this study are expected to be useful and can be used as a learning culture for German society and a linguistic description of the structure of idioms in German. In addition, this research is expected to open our glasses regarding the cultural factors that appear in the plant lexicon in German idioms.

## **2. METHOD**

Theoretically, this research is expected to provide understanding and knowledge to the general public and can be used as additional research treasures in the field of language, especially ethnolinguistic studies. In the world of education, the writer hopes that the research "Ethnolinguistic in German Idiom with Plant Lexicon" can add scientific insight into what plant names are

used as well as cultural factors contained in plant names used in German idioms.

With regard to practical benefits, the results of this study are expected to be useful and can be used as a learning culture for German society and a linguistic description of the structure of idioms in German. In addition, the research "Ethnolinguistic in German Idiom with Plant Lexicon" is expected to open our glasses regarding cultural factors that appear in plant lexicons in German idioms.

This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive analysis method. In collecting the data, the writer used the observation method. The listening method is used to listen to language usage. The term listening here is not only related to the use of spoken language, but the use of written language [4]. The basic technique in this method is the technique of sorting the determining elements or PUP. In accordance with the type of determinant that will be sorted or separated or divided into various elements, the sorting power is called "referential sorting power" [5]. In presenting data from analysis results in the form of has is analyzing, interpreting, and concluding, the author uses informal methods [5]. The data source used in this study is the 26th edition of Duden Redewendungen published by Duden printing in August 2013 in Mannheim, Germany.

In this research, the writer will explain and describe what plant names appear in German idioms, such as apples (example 1) which are classified as fruits. After knowing the plant lexicon used in idioms, the author will see the idiomatic meaning contained therein. From the idiomatic meaning contained, the author will classify the meaning into German cultural local wisdom.

Twelve local wisdoms of German culture are divided into [3]:

- (1) freedom
- (2) ownership
- (3) democracy
- (4) responsibility
- (5) independence
- (6) achievements
- (7) humanity

- (8) brotherhood
- (9) work hard
- (10) Self-actualization
- (11) Self respect
- (12) Best appearance

'Hang on someone like a burdock'

*jemanden sehr gern haben und sich ständig in seiner Nähe aufhalten*  
(idiomatic meaning)

'Having someone you like and keeping him close'.

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From the twelve local wisdoms in Germany, the author gets eleven points of German cultural wisdom contained in German idioms that use plant lexicons, however, on this occasion the author will only describe seven of the eleven examples found. The culture contained in the German idiom is seen based on the idiomatic meaning that each idiom carries. From the idiomatic meaning, it will refer to the local wisdom of German culture.

#### 3.1 Work Hard

Being punctual is one of German culture that shows persistence at work and is reflected in the following idiom [2]:

- (2) *Gummi geben*  
'Give rubber'

*schnell losfahren* (idiomatic meaning)  
'Hurry up and go'

The idiom shows the use of the lexicon of rubber plants. Being on time is an apt description of German people. They are rarely late. For them on time has many advantages, apart from being more focused at work, being on time shows the quality of themselves that they really value their time. The idiom above has an idiomatic meaning, which is 'to leave quickly'. This shows that they are always rushing to go to work or school. Nobody casually walks on the street when it's time to go to work or school. They always try to arrive on time and avoid delays.

#### 3.2 Brotherhood

Other idioms that can describe the local wisdom of German culture, are in the following examples [2]:

- (3) *an jemandem hängen wie eine Klette*

Quick to get long with other people, or quick to believe is not the type of German society. However, German society has another positive value in relation to fellow human beings. When you are familiar with Germans you will feel many different things.

The idiom 3 shows the use of the lexicon of burdock plants, and it is reflected that when they like someone (their spouse) they will not let their loved one far away, they will keep them close to their side. Germans prefer to be with their loved ones and want to always spend time together, so they will keep their loved ones around. One example that often happens is when they like someone, they will invite the person they like to live with them or *zusammenleben*, even though they are not in a marriage bond. Other things that are reflected in German life are [2]:

- (4) *zusammenhängen / zusammenkleben wie die Kletten*  
'Hanging over each other like burdock'

*eng verbunden / unzertrennlich sein*  
'Closely related / inseparable' (idiomatic meaning)

From the idiom 4, it can be seen that in maintaining their relationship, they tend to be inseparable. They will try to get to know more deeply and continue to communicate. This is done reciprocally or mutually, where both parties do not want to be separated from one another. This is also true of their relationship with their partner. Germans are known to be loyal to their partners.

#### 3.3 Responsibility

The next local wisdom contained in the idiom with plant lexicons is the value of responsibility. Either where, responsibility is very important, not everyone can work at exactly what they want or not everyone can work with people they like. Even so, there are things that Germans can still do if this happens [2]:

- (5) *die Kastanien aus dem Feuer holen*  
'Take chestnut out of the fire'

*eine unangenehme Aufgabe* (idiomatic meaning)  
'Doing an unpleasant job'.

From the 5 data the idiom shows the use of the lexicon of chestnut plants and we can see what culture is seen in the German idiom that uses the plant lexicon, namely that the Germans will continue to do work even though the work is not fun for them. They feel that in a job there are many responsibilities that must be maintained and carried out regardless of the form.

### 3.4 Self-Actualization

Self-actualization is a form of self-improvement in order to become a better individual. This culture is very good, considering that no human is perfect. German society also takes forms of effort in self-actualization, it can be seen from the following idiom [2]:

- (6) *etwas auf dem Kien haben*  
'Have something out of pine'

*in seinem Fach gut Bescheid wissen*  
(idiomatic meaning)  
'Knows the field well'

The idiomatic meaning in idiom 6 is "to know the field well". The idiom shows the use of the lexicon of pine tree and this idiomatic meaning is a form of self-actualization, because by knowing the field well, a person will be able to develop all the potential that is in him. Thus people who work can work and can fill each other in parts of work according to their respective interests and expertise.

### 3.5 Independence

German culture is very self-reliant, and this can also be seen from the idiom that uses the plum lexicon:

- (7) *Sieben Zwetschken packen*  
'Pack seven plums'

*Einen Aufenthaltsort verlassen* (meaning idiomatic)  
'Leaving a place to live'

From the data above, we can see a German culture, namely a child leaving his place of residence. On average, they leave their homes at the age of 18. They must leave the house, live independently, and provide for their own needs. Usually parents provide a place to live for their 18 year old child, either a mini apartment or something else for living.

For the views of parents in Germany, this form of independence certainly has various positive values, such as they become more appreciative of life, do not always rely on other people, are required to be able to manage their own finances, either obtained from their parents or their own sweat. With so many of them working part time while attending school to be able to support their daily needs. It can spread to other things, when they get married, they will be more careful in spending their money. By living alone since the age of 18 there are many things a child can do or choose, from a side job to *zusammenleben* "living together" with a partner or partner. From various opportunities to choose, they can learn from experience, because experience is the best teacher.

### 3.6. Self Respect

Everyone has their own way of respecting themselves. Everyone has their own way of being happy. That is what German society shows as in the following idiom [2]:

- (8) *Seinen Kohl bauen*  
'Build the cabbage'

*Zurückgezogen* (idiomatic meaning)  
'Life in retirement'

From the idiom 7, the idiom shows the use of the lexicon of cabbage and it means that when they stop working, they will enjoy their time in that period. In retirement, they usually have prepared something to welcome that time, someone has bought a house that is used as a house for old age. This is so that they enjoy the remaining old age. It shows that they value themselves very much in preparation for their old age. They don't want to burden their children or the rest of their family when they retire.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Related to the cultural factors contained in the German idiom, there is culture in life and behavior. In German cultural wisdom there are twelve points, but what the idiom with the plant lexicon contains is only 6 points, namely independence - which has the idiomatic meaning of leaving one's place of residence; actively working - which has idiomatic meaning pay close attention; brotherhood - with the idiomatic meaning of having someone he likes and keeping him close to him; responsibility - which has the idiomatic meaning of carrying out an unpleasant job; self-actualization - with an idiomatic meaning of change from the smallest thing; self respect -which means idiomatic life in retirement. The idiom data that reflects the local wisdom of German culture describe the culture that exists in the plant lexicon in the German idiom.

The research concerning Ethnolinguistics is considered important because it helps to find out the cultural meaning contained in a language. This research is also relevant when combined with methods from various other fields of science. The research above has many deficiencies, both from the data source and the scope of its discussion. This research is a research on plant lexicon in German idioms with ethnolinguistic studies. Future discussions will be even more interesting if the coverage area is expanded and other forms of construction are sought. Researchers suggest examining other types of living things, emotions, or tools that exist in everyday life and so on.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] H. Kridalaksana, “ Kamus Linguistik”. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama, 2008, pp.59.
- [2] W. Wolfgang and S. Werner, Duden Redewendungen. German: Dudenverlag, 2002, pp. 54-912.
- [3] P. Baginda, “ Muatan Kearifan Lokal dalam Pembelajaran Bahasa Jerman”, *Allemania* Vol.1, No.2, 2012, pp. 130-141.
- [4] Mahsun, “ Metode Penelitian Bahasa”. Yogyakarta: Duta Wacana University Press, 2005.
- [5] Sudaryanto, “ Metode dan Aneka Teknik Analisis Bahasa”. Yogyakarta: Sanata Dharma University Press, 2015, pp. 15. “ Metode dan Aneka Teknik Analisis Bahasa: Pengantar Penelitian”, *Wahana Kebudayaan secara Linguistik*. Yogyakarta: Duta Wacana University Press, 1963, pp. 62-63.