



# Analysis of Corpus Research Articles on Indonesian Idioms Based on Animal Names

Kadek Bagus Rusmana<sup>(✉)</sup>, I Putu Kelvin Meiadiaksa Permana,  
and Gerdarus Kevin Sebastian Darsana

Master of Linguistics Program, Warmadewa University, Denpasar, Indonesia  
bagusrusmana18@gmail.com

**Abstract.** This study aims to find out the use, connotative meaning, and types of Indonesian idioms based on animal names. The data in this study were taken from Indonesian-language articles contained in news articles, short stories, and opinions on the internet. This research resulted in three major findings. First, Indonesian idioms are used to refer to people or people and things. If the idiom is used to refer to humans, it can have both negative and positive connotations. On the other hand, if the idiom is used to refer to objects, then the idiom has a neutral connotation. Idioms with negative characters are used to refer to sexual offenders, thieves/corruptors, cunning, disease, poor physical appearance, inferiority, temporary psychological conditions, obscurity, shamelessness, and alternatives. Furthermore, idioms with a positive character are used to refer to superiority. Second, there are only two types of idioms that appear, namely, pure idioms and semi idioms. Finally, neutral idioms are used to refer to names/labels, foods, plants, hairdos, foundations, teenage love, and activities. The use of animal names in idioms referring to humans is caused by the character attached to the animal, while the use of idioms referring to objects is caused by similarities in form.

**Keywords:** Corpus · linguistik · Indonesian Idioms

## 1 Introduction

The language used in a speech community cannot be separated from the culture that exists in that society. This happens because language is a reflection of the culture that exists in that society. Cultural peculiarities in a society that are recorded in lingual forms provide opportunities for the emergence of linguistic phenomena unique to each region. One common but different phenomenon found in every speech community is idioms.

Many nations in this world have idioms. The presence of idioms in a language is strongly influenced by the mindset of the speakers of the language itself. For example, in Indonesian society, which is well-known for being polite, expressions such as *campus chicken* refer to Commercial Sex Worker (PSK) students. This indirectly shows that the Indonesian nation is polite, as can be seen from the speakers who use other terms to soften it because if it is conveyed in a straightforward language, it will sound harsh.

From the examples mentioned above, it can be seen that the concept of the idiom is complex. To understand the meaning, function, or use, one must deeply understand

the concept, like in the campus chicken idiom. The chicken, meaning a two-legged animal, lays eggs and has a beak and a comb. When paired with the word campus will have another meaning, namely, a female student who peddles her body with a specific purpose.

Various studies have shown that the idiomatic system of a language is most likely to be strongly influenced by the speech community of that language. Because according to Wierzbicka (1997), every nation speaks according to how it thinks [1]. Thoughts cannot be transferred from one language to another because every thought depends on its formulated language. That is, the mind is related to where the community lives. Therefore, the number of variations of words in each society differs. This is in line with the opinion that has been put forward by Casas and Campoy (1995: 48) that the Eskimos have many variations of the word for snow, and the Sami language of Northern Scandinavia has many associations with snow deer. Beduin Arabic has many vowels for the camel [2].

Idioms or expressions are language phenomena we can encounter in various speech communities worldwide. The existence of idioms proves that every language has a dynamic character that shows the harmony between the language system and the culture of the people who speak the language. As a language phenomenon, idioms are the fruit of the language speakers' mindset [3]. Therefore, the inspiration taken by the speech community in making idioms will not be far from something around them, such as parts of the human body, names of colours, natural objects, names and body parts of plants, or names of animals [4].

This study aims to determine how to use Indonesian idioms based on animal names, the meaning of Indonesian idioms based on animal names, and what types of idioms are found in Indonesian idioms based on animal names. To the best of the researchers' knowledge, idioms have so far been studied using various approaches, such as in the scientific idiom syntax studied by Gibbs et al. (1997), Parvaresh (2012), Tang (2007), and Keysar et al. (1999). In the scope of idiom language education, it has been studied by Maisa and Karunakaran (2013) and Moein et al. (2014). In the field of anthropolinguistics, idioms have been studied by Medovic (2011). Thus, this research still needs to be done to complement existing research so that a comprehensive understanding of the concept of idioms is obtained.

## 2 Method

This research is linguistic research in the field of semantics. This study focuses on the relationship between culture and language and its users because the object of this research is Indonesian idioms based on animal names viewed from a particular perspective. Hancock, et al. 2007) suggest that qualitative research is related to building explanations about social phenomena [5]. Qualitative research aims to help understand the social world around us, why does it happen and how does it happen? Perry (2005: 75) suggests that most qualitative research methods, primarily anthropological and sociological, rely more on verbal descriptions than numbers. The data used in this study is a phenomenon in the community, meaning there is no special treatment for the data.

The data in this study is a self-made corpus. The corpus comes from news articles, short stories, and opinions taken from the internet, totalling 101,997 words. The determination of data focuses on Indonesian idioms based on animal names. This research uses Monoconc software. Romer and Wulff (2010: 10) say that Monoconc is a software that makes it easy to collect text in a corpus and helps to analyze linguistic phenomena and capture interesting aspects of language. The steps taken to collect data have undergone several stages, namely, to record the names of stars in Indonesian based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary. Second, collecting data in the form of articles containing the names of animals from news articles, short stories, opinions, and other Indonesian articles. Third, enter all the data obtained into the monoconc software. Fourth, processing all the data obtained using the Monoconc software. Finally, list sentences containing idioms based on star names that have been processed using monoconc software. Idioms are several adjoining lexemes that have different meanings from their original meanings. Therefore, this research will use a lexical approach to show the difference between the idiom's meaning and the initial meaning of the idiom-forming lexeme. The lexical approach is not too tricky, and a dictionary is an excellent example of the lexical approach; the meaning of each lexeme is described there [6].

Furthermore, to explain the types of idioms found in Indonesian idioms based on animal names, the researcher will use [7]. In his research, Fernando distinguishes idioms into three types: pure, namely, pure idioms, semi-idioms, and literal. Furthermore, the researcher uses Leech (1983) to explain the meaning of idioms [8]. In his research, Leech divides meaning into seven types: conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflective meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning.

On the other hand, this study uses a classification technique. Data that have similar characteristics are placed in one class. This way, the entire data can be divided into several groups or classes [9]. In addition, this study also uses attributive classification techniques. In the attributive classification technique, data is classified based on characteristics that can be described descriptively. For example, Indonesian idioms that have been listed and analyzed for their connotative meanings will be divided into three types, namely, negative, positive and neutral. Furthermore, the meanings of these idioms are analyzed based on their use in society. In this case, these idioms are used to refer to sexual offenders, thieves/corruptors, cunning, disease, poor physical appearance, inferiority, seseat psychological conditions, obscurity, shamelessness, alternatives, superiority, names/labels, food, plants, hairstyles, foundations, teenage love, and activities.

### 3 Result and Discussion

The discussion of idioms cannot be separated from semantics. According to (Palmer, 1976: 1), semantics is the study of meaning. Saeed (2009) adds that semantics is the study of meaning communicated through language [10]. According to Griffiths (2006: 15) semantics does not only study the meaning of words and sentence meanings but also learns about the meaning seen in the context of use. Aminuddin (1988: 15) argues that semantics implies "the study of meaning". The study of meaning is a part of linguistics. Like sound and grammar, the meaning component in this case is also studied at a certain

level. That is, if the sound component is studied at the first level and grammar at the second level, the meaning component is studied at the last level. The relationship between these three components is because language was originally an abstract sound that refers to symbols that have a language order, and language that has forms and relationships that associate meaning. Semantics is considered relevant to the purpose of this study because the study of words or lexemes in linguistic studies cannot be separated from semantics. Semantics looks at the meaning of words associated with context. What is meant by context here is the relationship of the meaning of the word to other meanings and also the relationship of that meaning to society. In other words, semantics looks at meaning objectively.

From the corpus of 101,997 words, which have been identified, there are 60 Indonesian idioms based on animal names. The details of animal names used in Indonesian idioms are as follows; chicken (5 pieces), pig (2 pieces), rhino (1 piece), squirrel (1 piece), duck (1 piece), bulus (1 piece), crocodile (7 pieces), bird (1 piece), banteng (1 piece), worms (1 piece), sheep (1 piece), elephant (3 pieces), octopus (1 piece), tiger (1 piece), snapper (1 piece), goat (3 pieces), kangaroo (1 piece), centipedes (1 piece), snails (1 piece), cat (3 pieces), horse (4 pieces), fleas (5 pieces), butterflies (1 piece), leeches (1 piece), tiger (2 pieces), monkey (1 piece), cow (1 piece), lion (1 piece), anchovies (1 piece), rat (4 pieces), Shrimp (1 piece).

These animal names are used in idioms to refer to people and things. There are 44 idioms used to refer to humans, while 16 idioms used to refer to objects. Idioms used to refer to humans include, *buta ayam*, *tidurtidur ayam*, *ayam kampus*, *ceker ayam2*, *babi ngepet*, *(mem)babi-butu*, *muka badak*, *bajing loncat*, *akal bulus*, *buaya buntung*, *buaya darat*, *buaya keroncong*, *air mata buaya*, *kabar burung*, *cacing kepanasan*, *adu domba*, *gajah bengkak*, *gurita cikeas*, *harimau malaya*, *kelas kakap*, *kambing congek*, *kambing hitam*, *kutu loncat*, *kutu buku 1*, *kutu buku2*, *kutu kupret*, *mati kutu*, *kupukupu malam*, *lintah darat*, *macan asia*, *macan ompong*, *cinta monyet*, *politik dagang sapi*, *raja singa*, *kelas teri*, *tikus kantor*, *tikur berdasi*, *tikus berjas*, *jalan tikus*, *dan otak udang*. Sedangkan idiom yang digunakan untuk merujuk kepada benda antara lain, *ceker ayam1*, *ceker ayam2*, *cocor bebek*, *lidah buaya*, *roti buaya*, *partai banteng*, *kuping gajah1*, *kuping gajah2*, *kambing guling*, *negeri kanguru*, *kepeng kelabang*, *umis kucing*, *lidah kucing*, *nasi kucing*, *ekor kuda*, *kuda lumping*, *dan kuda kuda*.

From the idioms above, there are two sets of words that can have literal meanings, such as *kucing garong* and *ekor kuda* as shown in the example below.

- a. The word *kucing garong* can be interpreted as a cat who has no master and lives from looting “stealing”.
- b. Moreover, he seems to have the power of ten horses who tirelessly run, and continue to run without stopping before reaching the finish line. Fernando (1994) divides idioms into three types, namely, pure idioms, semi idioms, and literal idioms [11]. Pure idioms are also called opaque or ‘blurry’. For example, to spill the beans. In this idiom, to spill the beans does not mean ‘throw the beans’, but ‘spit out the secret’. Semi-idioms are said to have one or more than one literal constituent and one nonliteral constituent. Therefore, this type of idiom is called partially opaque. An example is foot the bill which means ‘pay’ or ‘pay’. The word ‘pay’ here is a semi-idiom. Furthermore, literal idioms look literal and therefore can be interpreted

**Table 1.** konotasi idiom

No.	Konotasi Idiom	Jumlah
1	Negatif	39
2	Positif	3
3	Netral	18
	Jumlah	60

with their basic meaning. For example, of course, in any case, for certain. In this type, the idiom is seen as a standard form and is not used metaphorically.

Based on the division of idiom types that have been described previously, the idioms mentioned above can have negative, positive, and neutral connotations. However, in this study, these idioms have more negative connotations, as illustrated in Table 1.

From Table 1, it can be seen that Indonesian idioms based on animal names have more negative connotations, with a total of 39 idioms. Second, there are 3 idioms with positive connotations. Finally, there are 18 idioms with neutral connotations.

Indonesian idioms are used to refer to people or people and things. If the idiom is used to refer to humans, it can have both negative and positive connotations. An example of an idiom that has a positive connotation appears in the crocodile keroncong idiom which refers to the king of keroncong music, while an example of an idiom with a negative connotation appears in the crocodile land idiom which refers to a man who likes to play with women. The idioms mentioned above can have negative, positive, and neutral connotations. In this study, idioms with negative connotations appeared 39 times, idioms with positive connotations appeared 3 times, while idioms with neutral connotations appeared 19 times. The results showed that Indonesian idioms based on animal names had more negative connotations.

Furthermore, there are only two types of idioms that appear in Indonesian idioms based on animal names, namely pure idioms and semi idioms. In this case, pure idioms appear 51 times while semi idioms appear 12 times. In other words, there are more pure idioms than semi idioms. Idioms based on animal names are used to refer to negative, positive, or neutral characters. The results of the study show that idioms based on animal names are more often used to refer to negative characters. Idioms with negative characters are used to refer to sexual offenders, thieves/corruptors, cunning, disease, poor physical appearance, inferiority, temporary psychological conditions, obscurity, shamelessness, and alternatives. Furthermore, idioms with a positive character are used to refer to superiority. Finally, neutral idioms are used to refer to names/labels, foods, plants, hairdos, foundations, teenage love, and activities. The results showed that idioms based on star names were mostly used to refer to negative characters.

The use of animals in the idiom seems to refer to the nature, physical appearance, and habitat of the animal. Animals used to refer to negative characters tend to have poor character, physical appearance, and habitat. As in the idiom rat office which refers to thieves/corruptors, rats are used in this idiom because rats seem to be assumed to have

a greedy nature and a dirty habitat. On the other hand, the stars used to refer to positive characters tend to be savage or powerful. As in the idiom of the Asian tiger which refers to the leading country in the Asian region, the tiger is used in this idiom because the tiger seems to have a fierce or powerful nature. On the other hand, animals that are used to refer to neutral characters tend to have physical appearances that resemble the idiom. As in the cocor duck idiom which refers to the name of a plant, duck is used in this idiom because the flowers on the cocor duck plant have a shape that resembles the beak of a duck.

## 4 Conclusion

This study yielded three major findings. First, Indonesian idioms based on animal names are used to refer to people and objects. The results of the analysis show that if the animal is used to refer to humans, then the idiom can have negative or positive connotations. For example, the land crocodile which refers to men who like to play with women and the keroncong crocodile which refers to the king of keroncong music. On the other hand, when the idiom is used to refer to objects, it is related to physical appearance and form. For example, crocodile bread which refers to bread that looks like a crocodile's body. Second, there are only two types of idioms that appear in Indonesian idioms based on animal names, namely pure idioms and semi idioms. In this case, pure idioms appear 51 times, while semi idioms appear 12 times.

In other words, there are more pure idioms than semi idioms. Third, idioms based on animal names are used to refer to negative, positive, or neutral characters. The results of the study show that idioms based on animal names are more often used to refer to negative characters. Idioms with negative characters are used to refer to sexual offenders, thieves/corruptors, cunning, disease, poor physical appearance bad, inferiority, momentary psychological state, obscurity, shamelessness, and alternatives. Furthermore, idioms with a positive character are used to refer to superiority. Finally, neutral idioms are used to refer to names/labels, foods, plants, hairdos, foundations, teenage love, and activities. The results showed that idioms based on star names were mostly used to refer to negative characters. However, people's perspective influences the choice of star names in idioms. In Indonesian idioms, the choice of the name of the star is based on the physical appearance and character attached to the animal.

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