

## An Analysis of Idiomatic Expressions used in the Book of Rich Dad Poor Dad

Arsiwela<sup>1</sup>, Tegar Arif Topan<sup>2\*</sup>, Idha Dwi Permatasari<sup>3</sup>, Hana Fauziah<sup>4</sup>  
Gunadarma University, Indonesia

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**Corresponding author\*:**  
[ariftopantegar@gmail.com](mailto:ariftopantegar@gmail.com)

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**Abstract:** This study investigated the idiomatic expressions used in Rich Dad Poor Dad book. The main goals were to find out what these idioms mean, what makes them unique, and how they can help in learning English. The researchers found and analyzed 30 idioms. This study used a qualitative approach. The data came from the idiomatic expressions that were used in the book of Rich Dad Poor Dad. The process had three steps: organizing the data, choosing which idioms to focus on, and carefully reading through them. The researchers used Adam Makkai's theory to classify the idioms. According to this theory, idioms can be either lexemic or sememic. In this study, all the idioms were lexemic. There are five types of lexemic idioms: phrasal verb idioms, tournure idioms, irreversible binomial idioms, phrasal compound idioms, and integrating verb idioms. The study found 2 incorporating idioms, 8 phrasal compound idioms, 1 irreversible binomial idiom, 13 tournure idioms, and 6 phrasal verb idioms.

**Keywords:** Idiomatic expressions, idioms, types of idioms

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## INTRODUCTION

Language is a key part of how humans live and connect with each other. Since people are social, being able to communicate is very important. Language helps people connect, whether they talk out loud or use body language (Yuniar, 2021). Every language has special phrases called idioms, which show how well someone speaks. Understanding and using idioms is especially important when learning a new language (Khoshniyat & Reza Dowlatabadi, 2014). An idiom is a kind of informal expression that means something different from the words used. It can be hard to understand an idiom if you do not know enough words (Thao, 2021). Idioms cannot be translated word by word because doing so would make them lose their original meaning (Abarna et al., 2022). The problem is that the idiom cannot be translated word for word because it might not make sense or lose its meaning if you try to force it into another language (Cooper, 1999). Some idioms are made up of clauses. A clause is a part of speech that is smaller than a full sentence but bigger than a phrase, a word, or a morpheme (Cruse, 2006). These are phrases where the words together mean something different from what they literally say. They are common expressions people use in everyday talk. Often, idioms use metaphors, which means they do not always mean what they seem. They are a way to express ideas, situations, or feelings in a simple and sometimes unclear way.

Some experts agree that idioms are complex. They are phrases, words, or expressions that have fixed word combinations. These combinations do not follow normal word order or grammar rules. Also, the meaning of an idiom isn't always easy to understand or predict from the individual words alone (Hornby, 2015; O'Dell & McCarty, 2017; Walker, 2003). Fromkin and others in 2007 pointed out that it can be hard for people to understand idioms because the meaning of an idiom is not clear just by looking at the individual words. So, it's important for language learners and users to have idiomatic skills because they help

with real communication and being relevant in everyday conversations, as mentioned by Lontas in 2015 on page 621. What is interesting about idioms is that they show important regional and cultural values, and can give us information about the people, traditions, and customs of a place (Baghana et al. 2021, p. 130). Makkai has divided idioms into two types: lexemic and sememic (Anggraini, 2018). This study looked at lexemic idioms. Elfath (2022) groups lexical idioms into five main types: phrasal verb idioms, tourneure idioms, irreversible binomial idioms, phrasal compound idioms, and incorporating verb idioms. (Elfath et al., 2022).

According to Allsop (2009:92), a **phrasal verb idiom** is a verb made up of a main verb and an adjectival or prepositional word. These can have two or three parts, with a verb and an adverb or preposition in each. Most phrasal verbs are created by combining a few common verbs, like go, get, sit, with a few common particles, like away, out, off, up. Many idiomatic expressions, such as "sit down" and "get up," include phrasal verbs, as noted by Allsop (2009:93). **Tourneure idioms**, the most common lexical expressions, are mostly verb-based and usually consist of at least three words. For instance, the phrase "blow a fuse" refers to becoming extremely angry and carries a metaphorical meaning. An example of an idiom with unchangeable **fixed structure** is the irreversible binomial idiom. Usually, a conjunction is used to separate the two words in the phrase. For example, Romeo and Juliet (institutionalized icons of ideal love or symbol of pure love), and sink or swim (to either succeed immediately or succumb to failure).

**Phrasal compound idioms** fall under this category. Even if their distinct parts do not determine their meaning, certain words are combined into one. A phrasal compound phrase that consists of an adjective and a noun, a verb and a noun, or an adverb and a preposition, and is mostly nominal. English idioms have become deeply integrated into all aspects of daily life, often used in noun-verb, adjective-verb, or noun-adjective forms as it is called **incorporating idioms**. In formal language, idioms are commonly employed. For example, the phrase "blood curdling" conveys a sense of intense horror. Idiomatic expressions are vital in everyday conversation and carry meanings that are often not immediately recognized within a speech community. Currently, young people use idioms extensively in their daily communication, incorporating many idiomatic phrases and sentences that have unique connotations. These idiomatic expressions are often used independently, as noted by Pratama and Damara (2018). People frequently share quotes after they read books or watch videos on their social media that include idiomatic headlines, and many incorporate idiomatic expressions in their content, subsequently uploading them to their own platforms. It offers accessible content for those learning English. With the help of such platforms, people especially millennials and Generation Z can find it easier to learn English (Pratiwi & Maghfira, 2022). However, most idiomatic expressions do not have their meanings clearly listed in dictionaries, and understanding these meanings is not common, especially among people who do not use social media much. The statements of this study are: 1) *What is the meaning of idiomatic expressions that are used in the book of Rich Dad Poor Dad?* and 2) *What characteristic of idiomatic expressions are used in the book of Rich Dad Poor Dad?*

People tend to use idioms either in oral or written text that many others do not know the meaning of those words. Each sentence they make has a clear meaning. But most of these idioms are not in regular dictionaries, and not many people, especially those who do not focus on the field of language, understand them. The researchers will explain the idioms that the book of *Rich Dad and Poor Dad* use. This will help the reader understand what idioms are, what makes them special, and how they can be useful in learning English.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used in this study is qualitative. The study looks at what idiomatic expressions mean and their features in English language. The book *Rich Dad Poor Dad* was used as the object for this research. To understand and examine the idiomatic expressions, the researchers used a descriptive qualitative approach. The process of collecting the data followed the steps suggested by Miles et al. (2018). There are two types of tools used in this research: human and non-human. The researchers act as the human tool and is responsible for selecting, collecting, analyzing the data, and summarizing the findings. Dictionaries are also used as a non-human tool. The data was collected using observation, reading, and documentation methods. The process of analyzing the data involves reading, selecting, and examining it.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researchers summarized 30 data of idiomatic expressions found in the book of *Rich Dad Poor Dad*.

**Table 1:** Idiomatic Expressions

No.	Idiomatic Expressions	Page
1	Making money	13
2	Get rich quick	44
3	Money is the carrot	35
4	Chasing the carrot	34
5	Leaning Tower of Suburbia	44
6	Pour a strong foundation	45
7	Keep it simple	46
8	Fear and desire are traps	34
9	House of cards	38
10	Money runs people's lives	35
11	Playing it safe	131
12	If you're going to go broke, go big	131
13	Think big	171
14	Cut the pie in pieces	171
15	Buy the pie, not the slice	171
16	Get rich or die trying	36
17	Bean-counter	36
18	Strong financial foundation	45
19	Slave to money	34
20	Knowledge is power	36
21	Ignorance is bliss	36
22	Burning desire	23
23	Fear of losing money	131
24	Money doesn't grow on trees	140
25	Chicken Little	139
26	Briar patch	37
27	Tar Baby	38
28	Sleeping financial genius	145
29	Every cloud has a silver lining	145
30	Action beats inaction	171

### A. The Meaning of Idiomatic Expressions

The researchers explained the meanings of the idiomatic expressions. To understand what the data meant, the researchers used different methods. The first method used online dictionaries, for examples Google translation, DeepL.com and online Oxford dictionary. The second method was done by the researchers themselves, figuring out and analyzing the idiomatic meaning from the book. Here is the data as a sample that has been studied.

1. Making money means to earn or generate income.
2. Money is the carrot means motivation or illusion that drives people.
3. House of cards means an unstable or risky situation.
4. Playing it safe means avoiding risk, missing opportunity.
5. Think big means having ambitious goals.
6. Cut the pie in pieces means to divide profits or opportunities.
7. Get rich or die trying determined pursuit of wealth.
8. Slave to money means controlled by financial fear.
9. Knowledge is power education leads to control and success.
10. Ignorance is bliss means not knowing can feel easier but is risky.

### B. Characteristic of Idiom

Table 2. Characteristic of Idiomatic Expressions

No.	Idioms	Characteristic of Idioms
1	Making money	Phrasal compound idiom
2	Get rich quick	Phrasal verb idiom
3	Money is the carrot	Tournure idiom
4	Chasing the carrot	Phrasal verb idiom
5	Leaning Tower of Suburbia	Tournure idiom
6	Pour a strong foundation	Phrasal verb idiom
7	Keep it simple	Tournure idiom
8	Fear and desire are traps	Tournure idiom
9	House of cards	Phrasal compound idiom
10	Money runs people's lives	Tournure idiom
11	Playing it safe	Phrasal verb idiom
12	If you're going to go broke, go big	Tournure idiom
13	Think big	Phrasal verb idiom
14	Cut the pie in pieces	Phrasal verb idiom
15	Buy the pie, not the slice	Tournure idiom
16	Get rich or die trying	Irreversible binomial idiom
17	Bean-counter	Phrasal compound idiom
18	Strong financial foundation	Phrasal compound idiom
19	Slave to money	Tournure idiom
20	Knowledge is power	Tournure idiom
21	Ignorance is bliss	Tournure idiom
22	Burning desire	Phrasal compound idiom
23	Fear of losing money	Phrasal compound idiom
24	Money doesn't grow on trees	Tournure idiom
25	Chicken Little	Incorporating idiom
26	Briar patch	Phrasal compound idiom

27	Tar Baby	Incorporating idiom
28	Sleeping financial genius	Phrasal compound idiom
29	Every cloud has a silver lining	Tournure idiom
30	Action beats inaction	Tournure idiom

### C. The Contribution of Idiomatic Expressions for English Learning

In this part, the researchers will look at how using idiomatic expressions can make English lessons better. Idioms offer these advantages in learning English:

#### 1. Cultural Relevance

Idioms show the culture behind a language.

When students learn these expressions, they get a better understanding of the culture, humor, and ways people talk in English-speaking countries.

#### 2. Flexibility and Sincerity

Using idioms allows learners to speak more naturally and confidently, making their conversations feel more real and less like they are just following rules.

#### 3. Stronger Vocabulary

Learning idioms helps students learn more words and improves their overall language skills.

#### 4. Listening and comprehension

Idioms are often used in spoken language, so teaching them to students helps them understand everyday conversations in movies, TV shows, and other media.

#### 5. Critical analysis

Critical thinking is needed to understand the meanings behind idiomatic expressions, which helps improve the ability to read and understand context.

#### 6. Oral and written communication

Using idioms correctly can improve both spoken and written language skills, making expressions more interesting and impressive.

#### 7. Social inclusion

Knowing idioms helps non-native speakers communicate better with native speakers and fit in more easily in social and work situations.

#### 8. Promoting expression and creativity

Idioms encourage students to use language in creative ways and express their ideas more effectively and giving their communication depth.

#### 9. Display of Syntax and Grammar

Idiomatic expressions can highlight different ways sentences are built and how grammar works, helping to fully understand the usual ways language is used.

#### 10. Stimulation and Participation

Learning funny and interesting idioms keeps students interested in learning more about the finer points of the language.

The researchers will separate the features from the idioms found in the next step after looking at the idiomatic statements. The researchers found 30 lexical idioms, which are also called idiomatic expressions. These kinds of idioms include phrasal verbs, tournure idioms, irreversible binomials, phrasal compound idioms, and integrating verbs. Some idiomatic expressions include up to 13 tournure idioms, 2 incorporating idioms, 8 phrasal compound idioms, 6 phrasal verb idioms, and only 1 irreversible binomial idiom.

The idioms found by the researchers have a total of 30 characteristics. In the end, the author will talk about how these idioms can help with learning English. Ten idiomatic

expressions have been suggested for English education. Some of the qualities include cultural relevance, flexibility and sincerity, stronger vocabulary, listening and comprehension, critical analysis, oral and written communications, social inclusion, promoting creation and creativity, display of syntax and grammar, stimulation and participation.

## CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the researchers will go over the main points after looking at idiomatic expressions. These points came from the information shared in the chapter of result and discussion.

First, the researchers looked at the meaning of idiomatic expressions. To do this, they collected data from the book of *Rich Dad Poor Dad*. The researchers found 30 idiomatic expressions from the book. Then, these idioms were explained using dictionaries and online translation web and checked, classified and also analyzed by the researchers.

Next, the researchers looked at the different types of idioms found. All 30 idioms were grouped as lexemic idioms. These idioms have features like phrasal verb idioms, tourneur idioms, irreversible binomials, phrasal compound idioms, and incorporating idioms.

Finally, the researchers talked about how idiomatic expressions help in learning English. There are ten main ways they help. These include showing cultural meaning, making language sound natural, adding more vocabulary, improving listening and understanding, helping with thinking, making both speaking and writing better, helping people fit into society, encouraging creativity and self-expression, using correct grammar and sentence structure, and making learning more active and involved.

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