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Idiomatics in Opinion Texts *Republika.com* as a Teaching Material for Class VIII SMP

Nadia Zakiyyah¹⁾, Agus Budi Wahyudi²⁾

¹Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta
email: a310210025@student.ums.ac.id
phone: 085951438253

²Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta
email: abw186@ums.ac.id

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Abstract

This research is motivated by the use of idioms in opinion texts in online news. The objectives of this research are to (1) describe the idiomatic forms in opinions on the *republika.com* newspaper. (2) Describe the utilisation of idiomatic expressions in opinions on *republika.com* as teaching materials for Indonesian language in grade VIII of junior high school. This research employs a qualitative descriptive approach. The object of this research is idiomatic expressions in *republika.com*. The data collection technique in this research uses the note-taking technique. The data validation technique in this research uses semantic validity. The data analysis technique in this research uses referential matching. The results of the study show that (1) the idiomatic forms based on word types include 7 forms of nominal idioms, 7 forms of verbal idioms, and 1 form of adjectival idioms. (2) This research can be utilised as teaching material for opinion texts in grade VIII of junior high school.

Keywords: Idiomatic, Opinion Text, Teaching Materials

Corresponding Author:

Nadia Zakiyyah, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta
Email: a310210025@student.ums.ac.id

Abstrak

Penelitian ini dilatarbelakangi penggunaan idiom pada teks opini dalam pemberitaan online. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk (1) mendeskripsikan bentuk idiomatik dalam opini pada surat kabar republika.com. (2) Mendeskripsikan pemanfaatan idiomatik dalam opini republika.com sebagai bahan ajar bahasa Indonesia kelas VIII SMP. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif. Objek penelitian ini adalah idiomatik dalam republika.com. Teknik pengumpulan data dalam penelitian ini menggunakan teknik simak catat. Teknik validasi data dalam penelitian ini menggunakan validitas semantik. Teknik analisis data dalam penelitian menggunakan padan referensial. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa (1) bentuk idiomatik berdasarkan jenis kata yaitu idiom nomina sebanyak 7 bentuk, idiom verba sebanyak 7 bentuk, dan idiom adjektiva sebanyak 1 bentuk. (2) penelitian ini dapat dimanfaatkan sebagai bahan ajar teks opini di kelas VIII SMP.

Kata kunci: *Idiomatik, Teks Opini, Bahan Ajar*

Introduction

In the current digitalization era, people also receive information through online sites more quickly and accurately. Likewise, with news that has been packaged in online media. This is because a large number of news consumers are active on online media, such as students and adults (Friantary, 2022). Mass media today comprises various types, namely electronic and non-electronic (Nugroho & Sabardila, 2023). News has permeated the world of the internet based on online media (Juwita & Wahyudi, 2018). Online media such as social media allows for the creation of good visualisations as a tool for conveying programmes or public policies, which then captures diverse perceptions of a message content within which discussions and opinions coexist.

Newspapers as a communication medium serve as a means of self-development with various alternative information and insights related to aspects of social life ranging from education, sports, economy, politics, crime, entertainment, culture, and so on (Rochmah, 2022). News presents current information that is happening through print media, broadcasts, the internet, or from person to person (Septiana & Rahmawati, 2021). As a written communication medium, newspapers are closely related to the use of linguistic norms. In this context, readers often encounter various forms of expressions in news narratives, both online and printed, one of which is idioms. In newspapers, the use of idiomatic expressions aims to prevent the narrative from becoming monotonous. Idioms themselves are used to provide figurative meaning or analogies to various current events happening in society (Fadhilasari & Hardiyanti, 2022).

The idiomatic meaning in newspapers understands the meaning and the intention of idioms in the narrative of news read in a newspaper. Therefore, the idiomatic meaning or the true meaning refers to the author's intention and the reader's understanding (Astuti & Nasucha, 2016). Sometimes, a reading contains the use of words in the form of terms or phrases whose meanings cannot be derived from their literal meaning, which can only be found through common usage or viewed from the context of meaning.

The use of newspaper language is closely linked to the levels of meaning of words. Semantics studies the relationship between words and the concepts or meanings of those words (Milawasari, 2019). One of the objects of semantic investigation is idioms. Idioms are used to convey intentions indirectly, as there are times in readings where words are used in the form of terms or phrases whose meanings cannot be derived from their literal meanings, but can only be understood through common usage or by considering contextual meaning.

The choice of words in journalistic language is used to express an idea or thought as well

as information. One of the diction used in journalistic language is idioms. Words with idiomatic meaning are selected by the editorial team with the consideration that these words not only add variety to the choice of words but also enhance the artistic value of the sentences conveyed. This is because idioms are part of language style. In this study, idioms were chosen because their structural formation is unique and cannot be separated, exchanged in position, or replaced with other words; they often create confusion with compound words or phrases; they have meanings that cannot be traced based on their components; they are closely related to culture, making their understanding of meaning essentially fixed (Gusti, 2021).

Idiomatic expressions are studied more deeply because idioms are part of the meaning of language found in oral or written communication. This research describes the idiomatic forms in opinions from *republika.com*. The *Republika.com* newspaper was chosen because it has a news column that contains all the current hot topics in Indonesia, one of which is educational news. Additionally, the *Republika* newspaper frequently employs idioms that are particularly interesting to investigate, especially in educational news. The use of language in educational news is inseparable from the role of idioms. Idioms are used to express intent indirectly and require specific interpretation.

This research is beneficial for Indonesian language teachers in schools to enhance their knowledge of idioms as a reference for teachers in creating teaching materials that align with learning objectives and student characteristics; it contributes to the development of Indonesian language teaching materials at the junior high school level; this research is recommended as a learning resource that is expected to be useful for students in understanding idioms in opinion texts.

Method

This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach. The research design employed in this study is a literature study. Literature study includes general processes such as systematically identifying theories, discovering literature, and analysing documents that contain information related to the research topic (Hidayat, 2022). The object of this study is idiomatic expressions in *Republika.com*. This includes terms used to discuss educational issues that arise in opinion pieces. The data in this research consists of 50 sentence units containing idioms. The data source for this study is *Republika.com*.

The data collection technique used in this research is the observation and note-taking technique, which is used to observe the use of written language and to record words or sentences that are idiomatic forms. The data validation technique in this study is semantic validity. Semantic validity is conducted to determine the appropriateness of the text's meaning with the chosen context (Kurniawati, 2019). The data analysis technique in the research uses referential mapping. The referential mapping method is used to identify idiomatic expressions in the news.

Result and Discussion

1. The idiomatic form in Opinions on the *Republika.com* newspaper

The form of idioms based on word types can be categorised into three groups (Suhardjono, 2024), namely verbal idioms, nominal idioms, and adjectival idioms. The idiomatic forms based on word types are presented in the diagram below.

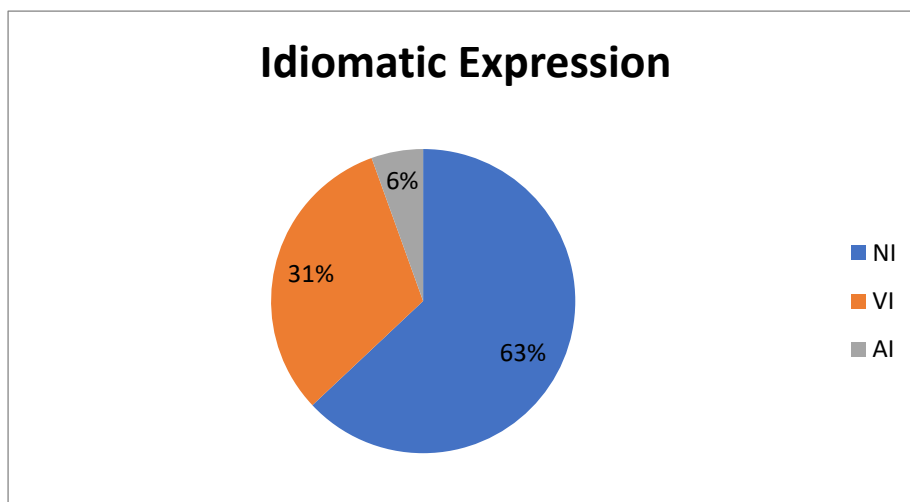


Figure 1. Idiomatic Forms Based on Type

The findings are described in the form of diagrams. Based on the diagrams, the dominant type of word is verbal idioms. The idiomatic forms based on word types in this study include (1) nominal idioms, (2) verbal idioms, and (3) adjectival idioms. Idioms in the form of words are those formed from words or consist of only one morpheme (Gusti 2021). The idiomatic forms based on word types are presented as follows:

a. Noun Idiom

Tabel 1. Noun Idiom

No	Data
1	On 12 May, 25 years ago, blood was spilled and changed history. The nation's flowers fell in Jakarta.

Data 001 identified two nominal idioms, namely 'spilled blood' and 'flowers of the nation'. The idiom 'spilled blood' means death. In the sentence, 'spilled blood' is used as a noun, specifically 'spilled' (verb) + 'blood' (noun). Lexically, the word 'spilled' means to pour out and 'blood' refers to the fluid consisting of plasma, red and white cells that flows in the blood vessels of humans or animals. The idiom 'spilled blood' is not interpreted as the outflow of red and white cells, but rather death. The meaning of the idiom 'spilled blood' in data (001) indicates that the noun is figurative. Therefore, the idiom 'spilled blood' is categorised as a noun class.

Data 001, the flowers of the nation idiomatically represent the hopes of the youth/national heroes. Literally, the word flower means 'the part of a plant that will become fruit' while nation means 'a group of people who share a common ancestry, customs, language, and history, and are self-governing'. The idiom flowers of the nation is not interpreted as part of a plant or a group of people with a common ancestry, but rather as the youth who are considered the hope of the nation. The flowers of the nation are referred to as a nominal idiom because it is a combination of words functioning as a noun (nominal), namely the flower of the nation, and has a meaning that cannot be interpreted literally.

The results and discussion should be presented in the same part, clearly and briefly. The discussion part should contain the benefit of research result, not repeat result part. The research results could be supplemented with tables, figures, or graphs (separate writing terms) to clarify the discussion. Avoid presenting similar data in a separate table. The analysis should answer the gap stated. The qualitative data, e.g. interview results, is discussed in paragraphs. The references contained in the

introduction should not be re-written in the discussion. A comparison to the previous studies should be presented.

Tabel 2. Noun Idiom

No	Data
3)	Papua even became the region with the highest illiteracy rate in Indonesia. (DM/ASI/22/12/23).

Data 003, the idiom 'illiterate' means, according to the Language Development and Coaching Agency (2016), being unable to read and write. This indicates that Papua is one of the areas where students and even the community are unable to read and write, making it number one in Indonesia. Structurally, the grammatical blind (adjective) + letter (noun) literally means unable to read or write, but produces a new meaning as a whole, hence it is called a nominal idiom.

Tabel 3. Noun Idiom

No	Data
12)	Teachers become agents of change, becoming role models in preparing the nation's golden generation, which will determine the country's progress in the future. (DM/KIP/25/11/23).

According to the Language Development and Coaching Agency (2016), the golden generation refers to a group of certain age or birth years predicted to have extraordinary quality and potential. This means that the young generation is expected to have the quality and potential necessary to determine the progress of the nation in the future.

Lexically, 'generation' means 'age group' and still retains its original meaning, but the word 'gold' has changed to mean 'having extraordinary potential.' The idiom 'golden generation' is a combination of a nominal idiom (generation) and an adjective (gold). Therefore, this idiom is classified as a nominal idiom because 'golden generation' includes a noun and its meaning cannot be interpreted literally.

Table 4. Noun Idiom

No	Data
16)	Soft skills are also important abilities that the young generation of Indonesia must possess to realise the Golden Indonesia Vision 2045. (DM/FR/12/2/25)

Data 016, the Indonesian idiom 'emas' means a prosperous, sustainably growing, and inclusive Indonesia. Lexically, Indonesia refers to the island nation in Southeast Asia, while 'emas' means a yellow precious metal; when combined, it signifies a country made of yellow precious metal, but idiomatically it conveys a meaning of a prosperous and advanced Indonesia.

Indonesian gold is a combination of noun + adjective, although the combination of 2 structures, Indonesian gold as a whole is classified as a noun because it refers to a great hope and can serve as both subject and object in a sentence. Therefore, Indonesian gold is classified as a nominal idiom.

Table 5. Noun Idiom

No	Data
20)	The Young Entrepreneurs Association of Gadjah Mada University (Hipmi PT UGM) is organising the PIONEERS 4.0 business competition. This is a platform

for developing participants' capacities in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship based on smart city solutions.

Data 020, the smart city idiom, according to the Language Development and Development Agency (2016), means a city that uses modern technology, such as sensors, electronic devices, and automation systems to collect data, aiming to improve efficiency, reduce costs, and optimise resources.

The term smart city is classified as a noun phrase because it consists of the word city (a noun) + smart (an adjective), even though the combination of noun + adjective in this idiom falls under a noun as it refers to a city with advanced infrastructure, functioning as a single term, that is a noun.

Tabel 6. Noun Idiom

No	Data
32)	At the end of the speech, the Rector delivered a motivating message. "Be agents of change, leaders of the future, and role models for the next generation. (MD/FY/14/12/24)

Data 032, the idiom of igniting spirit, according to the Language Development and Guidance Agency (2016), means to motivate or encourage. The intention of this meaning is the rector's greeting conveying a message to all students to continue to motivate or encourage as agents of change for the next generation.

Lexically, the word 'to burn' means to char and 'spirit' means inner strength (joy, passion). The idiom 'to ignite the spirit' is not interpreted as burning one's strength/joy, but rather as motivating. The idiom 'to ignite the spirit' is classified as a verbal idiom because the word 'to burn' is a verb (V) and a verbal predicate.

Tabel 7. Noun Idiom

No	Data
33)	The younger generation is not only to be spectators of the rapid changes of the times but instead to become pioneers, to be the driving force of innovation based on real solutions for the nation, especially in the context of smart cities. Through Pioneer 4.0, HIPMI PT UGM wants to emphasise that smart cities are not just about technology, but about integration: technology, the spirit of nationalism, and social literacy. (DM/GAP/30/4/25)

Data 033, the idiom of the driving motor means a driving force for change. The intent of this meaning is that the younger generation becomes pioneers in driving a change of innovation for the country in the context of smart cities through pioneer 4.0.

The driving motor idiom has a structure that combines a noun phrase consisting of a noun + noun: driving motor. The meaning of this idiom cannot be interpreted word for word, but it has a collective meaning that cannot be interpreted literally. Therefore, the driving motor idiom is classified as a nominal idiom.

Tabel 8. Noun Idiom

No	Data
47)	In this case, the achievements of the UNM Information Systems programme, which has achieved excellent accreditation, deserve appreciation. However, more than that, what is interesting is how this accreditation serves as a starting point for a greater commitment: to

produce graduates who are not only competent but also visionary.

Data 047, the idiom starting point means the first step in a process. The intention behind this meaning is that UNM's achievement in obtaining superior accreditation is the first step in producing competent graduates. The idiom starting point falls under the category of nominal idioms because the meaning cannot be interpreted literally.

A point has the meaning of a dot (in letters, signs, punctuation, and so on) and a start means the place where a competition (running, car racing) begins, jobs, and so forth. However, the meaning of the starting point has its own idiomatic meaning, which is the first step. The idiom of the starting point forms a cohesive meaning as an object or concept, therefore the idiom of the starting point is classified as a nominal idiom.

b. Verba Idiom

Tabel 9. Verba Idiom

No	Data
5)	The Executive Body of the Student Association (BEM) of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education (FKIP) Muhammadiyah University of Solo (UMS) has spoken out regarding allegations of harassment by a lecturer towards a student. (DM/FR/9/7/24)

Data 005, the idiom 'buka suara' according to the Language Development and Coaching Agency (2016) means to speak or express an opinion about something. Literally, the word 'buka' means to open, while 'suara' means 'sound produced from a human mouth.' The idiom 'buka suara' cannot be interpreted literally as it has a different meaning. The idiom 'buka suara' is an active transitive verb. An active transitive verb is a verb that is always accompanied by an object, which need not always be a noun but can also be a pronoun (Ardhana, 2022).

Tabel 10. Verba Idiom

No	Data
6)	The temporary suspension of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Diponegoro University (Undip), Yan Wisnu Prajoko, has resulted in a lengthy aftermath. (MD/K/13/5/23).

Data 006, the idiom 'tail-end' means something that is ongoing. This refers to the temporary suspension of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Diponegoro University (Undip), which remains a continuing issue to this day. Based on the meaning of the idiom in the word.

The prefix 'ber-' in the word with a tail indicates continuation. Therefore, the idiomatic expression in the long-tailed idiom cannot be explained literally as it would have a different meaning. Thus, this idiom is classified as a verbal idiom because it contains a verb.

Tabel 11. Verba Idiom

No	Data
8)	The Bright Scholarship from Cyber University is aimed at those who have achievements in both academic and non-academic fields such as participating in scientific Olympiads, quizzes, scientific works, excelling in art, sports, martial arts, and Quran memorisation.

According to Data 008, the quiz competition is defined by the Language Development and

Fostering Agency (2016) as a contest of sharp thinking and agility in answering. This aligns with Nasution's (2018) opinion on students' techniques in demonstrating their abilities by answering questions quickly and accurately.

In an idiomatic sense, the meaning of "smart" + "careful" cannot be interpreted one by one but has a meaning as a whole; the idiom "smart and careful" can be used in the form of a verb as this idiom expresses an activity, action, or way of doing something which is a competitive activity. Therefore, this idiom falls under the category of verbal idioms.

Tabel 12. Verba Idiom

No	Data
26)	Education is measured by literacy rates and school participation rates. (MD/I/12/12/23).

Data 026, the idiom 'literacy' according to the Language Development and Guidance Agency (2016) means the ability to read and write. This implies that quality and advanced education can be measured by the percentage of students who can read and write at school. Lexically, the word 'literacy' means not sleeping, and 'letter' refers to a written symbol in scripts that is a member of the alphabet representing the sounds of language. The idiom 'literacy' should not be interpreted as not sleeping, but has the meaning of being able to write and read symbols.

The word 'melek' in the farce functions as a verb (V) and its meaning is not literal; it cannot be translated word for word but has a meaning that forms a single unity. Therefore, 'melek huruf' is classified as a verb idiom.

Tabel 13. Verba Idiom

No	Data
28)	The programme became a valuable experience for both as they dreamed of being able to study abroad.

Data 028, the idiom of seeking knowledge According to the Language Development and Cultivation Agency (2016), it means the pursuit of knowledge. The pursuit of knowledge in Islam is a highly recommended obligation (Gusmaetri et.al, 2024). There are no limits to the place or time in seeking knowledge; what matters most is the sincere intention to acquire knowledge and implement it in daily life (Muhaimin et al., 2023).

Verbs contain the affixes me-, kan-, di-kan. In the idiom to acquire knowledge, there is the affix me-. The prefix me- in the word to acquire means to seek, take, or obtain. The idiom to acquire knowledge is classified as a verbal idiom because its form includes the me- affix. The function of the me- prefix is to form active transitive and intransitive verbs (Hasanah, 2023).

Tabel 14. Verba Idiom

No	Data
29)	The mandatory curriculum in all schools under the Central Leadership of Muhammadiyah (PP Muhammadiyah) is expected to build character while inspiring the younger generation to contribute to the advancement of the Indonesian nation. (MD/ASI/7/3/25)

Data 029, the idiom of building character means to shape a positive attitude. Based on the structure of building (verb) + character (noun). In the idiom of building, there is a prefix me-. Building comes from the root word build which means to stand or establish something. This word can be followed by an object in a sentence and its overall function is an action.

Tabel 15. Verba Idiom

No	Data
30)	Students of Nusa Mandiri University (UNM) have once again achieved success in the field of entrepreneurship by being selected as one of the recipients of assistance. (MD/GA/4/5/24).

Data 030, the idiom 'carving out achievements' means obtaining or reaching a success in a field, whether formal or informal. Lexically, the word 'carving' means to scratch (draw, sculpt, etc.) to create a picture (drawing, etc.) on wood (stone, metal, etc.), and 'achievement' means the result that has been attained (from what has been done, worked on, etc.). However, 'carving out achievements' has its own meaning, which is reaching a success.

Verbs have affixes me-, kan-, di-kan. In the idiom 'to carve', there is the affix me(N). The me(N) affix includes active verbs. Active verbs are marked by the affixation of me-, me(N), or ber- and verb forms that denote action (Susanti, A., & Markhamah, M. 2013). The prefix me(N) in the word 'to carve' means to scratch. The idiom 'to carve achievements' is considered a verb idiom because it takes the form of an active verb with the affix me-. Its meaning cannot be interpreted literally and must be understood as a whole.

Tabel 16. Verba Idiom

No	Data
45)	UBSI students stepped in to assist residents in filling out their tax return forms. (MD/DM/28/3/25).

Data 045, the idiom 'to intervene', according to the Language Development and Guidance Agency (2016), means to take action to resolve something, to interfere (in a matter, etc.), and to assist (the poor, etc.). The intention behind this meaning is to act swiftly to help citizens with their tax return forms.

The idiom 'to intervene' functions as a verb as it conveys an action or deed because the term implies direct involvement or action. The meaning of 'to intervene' cannot be interpreted literally as it has a different idiomatic meaning.

c. Adjective Idiom

Tabel 17. Adjective Idiom

No	Data
19)	We invite all Muslims, especially Nahdiyyin members, not to be provoked. Let us address this issue with a cool head.

Data 019, the idiom 'cool head' according to the Language Development and Training Agency (2016), means calm and patient. Lexically, the word 'head' refers to the part of the body above the neck (in humans and some types of animals it is the place for the brain, the centre of the nervous system, and several sensory centres), and the word 'cool' means having a low temperature.

The idiom 'cool head' is classified as an adverbial idiom because it serves as an explanation, answering the questions of why and how. Therefore, data 019 is classified as an adverbial idiom and overall explains the explanation.

Based on research that has been conducted, this study is utilised as teaching material for Indonesian language in Year VII of junior high school. The curriculum for the Indonesian language subject includes learning about opinion texts. The learning of opinion texts in the freedom

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curriculum for Year VIII is detailed in Phase D, reading and viewing elements, stating that "Students understand information in the form of ideas, thoughts, views, directions, or messages from opinion texts to find the explicit and implicit meanings." The research results are taken from several idiomatic forms found in online news from republika.com.

The idiomatic forms used in opinion texts on republika.com have been analysed and are suitable for use as teaching materials for eighth-grade students in junior high school. In addition, students are expected to achieve the learning indicators and objectives, namely, they should be able to identify idiomatic forms in news opinions. The following is the application of idiomatic forms in opinion texts from republika.com as teaching materials for phase D, focusing on reading and viewing.

Conclusion

Based on national news published on Republika.com between May 2023 and 8 May 2025, 51 idiomatic forms were found, classified according to word types consisting of nominal idioms, verbal idioms, and adjectival idioms. The diversity of idiomatic forms reflects the richness of language in news texts. The use of idiomatic forms is incorporated into the teaching materials for Indonesian language learning in grade VIII of junior high school, particularly within the Merdeka curriculum in phase D of reading and listening elements. The idiomatic forms in Republika.com's opinion pieces are relevant to assist students in identifying the meanings of the idioms contained in the opinion texts. This simultaneously trains students to interpret meanings critically. Thus, idiomatic forms can serve as effective teaching tools for developing reading literacy skills and understanding implied meanings in opinion texts.

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