

Identifying Pure Idioms and Semi-literal Idioms Used in George R. R. Martin's "Fire and Blood" Chapters 1 and 2 Based on Chitra Fernando's Theory of Idiomaticity

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Abstract

This study investigates the use of idiomatic expressions in George R. R. Martin's *Fire and Blood*, focusing on Chapters 1 and 2, by identifying and classifying idioms based on Fernando's (1996) theory of idiomaticity. The study aims to determine the types and frequencies of pure and semi-literal idioms used in the narrative, as well as to examine their contextual meaning and narrative function. A mixed-methods approach was used, combining quantitative analysis of idiom frequency with qualitative interpretation of their contextual use, where the qualitative analysis helps explain the quantitative results. The findings reveal 44 idiomatic expressions, with semi-literal idioms predominating (79.55%) and pure idioms accounting for 20.45%. This dominance indicates a stylistic preference for idioms that balance figurative meaning and reader accessibility. Overall, these findings demonstrate the applicability of Fernando's theory to literary texts and contribute to a broader understanding of how idioms function in fantasy narratives, particularly in supporting world-building and theme development.

Keywords: Idioms, Idiomatic Expressions, Chitra Fernando, Pure Idioms, Semi-literal Idioms, *Fire and Blood*, George R. R. Martin.

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INTRODUCTION

Language plays a crucial role in human life, serving not only as a means of communication but also as a tool for expressing ideas, emotions, culture, and identity. English is the most widely spoken language, used by people all around the world to communicate with each other (Juniartawan, 2020). One of the most creative and impactful uses of language can be found in literature. Literary texts often transcend basic communication; they utilize language in rich, layered, and metaphorical ways to convey stories and express human experiences profoundly. Through the manipulation of language, authors can build imaginary worlds, construct believable characters, and convey complex themes. Among the many elements that enrich literary language, idiomatic expressions stand out as particularly significant due to their cultural depth and non-literal nature.

Idiomatic expressions play a crucial role in literary texts, particularly in constructing meaning beyond literal interpretation and enriching narrative style. In fantasy literature, idioms function not only as figurative language but also as tools for world-building, characterization, and thematic development. George R. R. Martin's historical fantasy novel, *Fire and Blood*, makes extensive use of idiomatic expressions to convey the political tensions, cultural values, and historical depth within the fictional world. Understanding these idioms is crucial to effectively interpreting the narrative, as their meanings often cannot be inferred from individual words alone. To systematically analyze this phenomenon, this study applies Chitra Fernando's (1996) theory of idiomatics, which classifies idioms into pure and semi-literal idioms based on their degree of literalness. This framework is particularly suited to *Fire and Blood* because it encompasses both completely non-literal expressions and idioms that retain some literal meaning, allowing for a more in-depth analysis of how idiomatic expressions function in the fantasy genre.

Idioms are expressions of words or phrases with a possible metaphorical meaning understood based on the common usage of the expression, which is separate from its literal meaning. Idiomatic expressions are part of a language that combines words and phrases that cannot be translated literally (Peaty, 1983). She also says that specific idiomatic phrases are more common than others, perhaps easily translated, and have a clear idiomatic meaning. According to Hornby (1995), an idiom is a phrase or expression whose meaning is not directly derived from the meaning of its individual words and must be learned as a whole. According to Seidl and McMordie (1988), an idiom is a grouping of words that has a meaning different from the sum of the meanings of its individual words.

According to Fernando (1996), an idiom is a fixed expression composed of words that typically cannot be altered or rearranged. The meaning of the whole idiom is different from the meanings of the individual words. For example, "kick the bucket" means "to die," and it does not really involve kicking or a bucket. Idioms exist in nearly all languages and show the culture, history, and shared understanding of the people who speak the language. They can be humorous, emotional, ironic, or metaphorical, and their proper understanding often requires familiarity with the social or cultural background in which they are used. Because idioms carry this more profound meaning, they are not only fascinating from a linguistic perspective but also essential for a complete understanding of literary texts.

In various fields, such as tourism and hospitality, a Low mastery of idiomatic expressions or English communication skills in general leads to communication

difficulties, as hospitality and tourism employees commonly interact with foreign language users, including native English speakers (Arifudin, 2020). In the filmmaker's field, when dealing with capturing genuine messages from fans and orders, a strategy of translation is needed that helps the filmmaker's aims become clear (Pangestu, 2022). In the field of education, when interpreting idioms, students should have a better understanding of the differences between Indonesian and English. Students should be familiar with and have a good understanding of these categories of information, as idioms play a key role in the post-editing process (Noviani, 2023). Translating idioms is one of the common problems in translation. Comprehending idioms is sometimes the most challenging part of mastering a new language. Sometimes, it is even difficult for native speakers to understand and use idiomatic expressions (Sari, 2022).

To support the study of idioms in literature, various linguistic theories have been developed to explore the complex nature of these expressions. One notable contribution is from Fernando (1996), who introduced a structured framework for understanding idiomaticity. Her theory categorizes idioms into three main types: pure idioms and semi-literal idioms and literal idioms. However, this study specifically concentrates on pure idioms and semi-literal idioms, as defined in Fernando's theory of idiomaticity. Pure idioms are fixed expressions whose meanings cannot be guessed from the meanings of the individual words, such as "spill the beans." Semi-literal idioms, on the other hand, still carry some trace of literal meaning and are slightly easier to interpret, like "break the ice." Fernando's theory also considers the cognitive and communicative roles idioms play, recognizing that idioms are processed mentally in unique ways and are used intentionally for specific effects in communication.

Applying Fernando's theory of idiomaticity to literary texts enables researchers to analyze how authors deliberately use idioms for narrative purposes. This framework allows for a structured approach to identifying idioms and understanding their more profound impact on character development, plot advancement, and thematic expression. It also opens up a pathway to investigate how readers interpret idioms within fictional contexts and how idiomatic meaning contributes to the overall aesthetic and emotional effect of a text. Using a theoretical lens like Fernando's enriches literary analysis by bridging the gap between linguistic structure and literary function.

The fantasy genre, with its rich use of language and world-building, offers a particularly compelling context for studying idioms. In fantasy literature, authors often create new worlds, histories, and cultures, but they still rely on natural language to make these worlds relatable to readers. Idiomatic expressions serve as a bridge between the fictional and the familiar. They help create believable dialogue, convey historical depth, and express values or beliefs that define fictional societies. At the same time, idioms in fantasy are often used metaphorically to reflect real-world social or psychological issues, making them a powerful narrative tool.

The use of idioms in *Fire and Blood* adds depth and realism to the storytelling, particularly in terms of how characters are portrayed and how events unfold. Idioms support the tone of the narrative, reinforce central themes, and reflect the cultural setting of the story. By focusing on the idioms found in Chapters 1 and 2, this study aims to examine how George R. R. Martin utilizes idiomatic expressions to enhance the literary quality of the text. This study employs Fernando's (1996) theory of

idiomaticity to identify and classify the idioms found in the text, focusing on their types, pure idioms and semi-literal idioms and their narrative functions.

This study offers a new perspective by exploring the application of Fernando's idiomaticity theory in a modern fantasy novel. It contributes to a deeper understanding of how idioms function in literature, especially in fictional contexts where language is shaped for imaginative purposes. The use of idioms in such texts is not merely decorative but serves specific functions in storytelling. This research helps readers, students, and scholars appreciate the importance of idiomatic language in shaping character, theme, and narrative voice.

METHODS

Research Design

The research design of this study employs a mixed-methods approach that combines qualitative and quantitative analyses to comprehensively explore the use of idiomatic expressions in George R. R. Martin's "Fire and Blood," utilizing Chitra Fernando's theory of idiomaticity as a guiding framework. Creswell (2002) noted that quantitative research is the process of collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and writing the results of a study. In contrast, qualitative research is an approach to data collection, analysis, and reporting that differs from traditional quantitative methods.

The research design of this study encompasses a qualitative and quantitative analysis to comprehensively explore the usage of idiomatic expressions in George R. R. Martin's "Fire and Blood," employing Fernando's theory of idiomaticity as a guiding framework. The study begins by selecting Chapters 1 and 2 of "Fire and Blood" as the primary focus for analysis, allowing for an in-depth examination within a manageable scope. Idiomatic expressions are extracted from these chapters using a combined approach that involves both manual reading and digital tools. To support this process, digital tools were used to assist in locating potential idiomatic expressions, including electronic text search functions and the *Farlex Idioms Dictionary*, which helped verify whether certain word combinations function as idioms. The digital tools were integrated with manual analysis by cross-checking the expressions identified electronically with their contextual usage in the text to ensure accuracy. Through qualitative analysis, the identified idiomatic expressions are studied in their contextual usage within the narrative. At the same time, Fernando's theory (1996: 32) of idiomaticity forms the lens through which the idiomatic expressions are analyzed. The expressions are categorized into pure idioms and semi-literal idioms, following Fernando's framework. This categorization enables a systematic exploration of the interplay between figurative and literal components within each idiom. Additionally, the cognitive processing and communicative functions of the idioms are assessed based on Fernando's theory.

The qualitative findings are interpreted within the broader context of the narrative. The discussion highlights how idiomatic expressions contribute to the socio-cultural fabric, character interactions, and thematic underpinnings of "Fire and Blood." A comparative analysis of pure idioms and semi-literal idioms reveals potential usage patterns, such as their distribution among characters or prevalence in specific narrative contexts. The research evaluates the suitability and effectiveness of

Chitra Fernando's theory in the context of analyzing idiomatic expressions within the fantasy genre, particularly in "Fire and Blood." This evaluation sheds light on how the theory enhances the understanding of idiomaticity within literature, offering insights into character dynamics, world-building, and thematic exploration.

The implications of the study's findings are discussed in terms of their contribution to literary analysis methodologies. The study identifies potential areas for future research, inviting exploration into the application of idiomaticity analysis across different genres, authors, and forms of literature.

Source of the Data

The source of data for this study is George R. R. Martin's "Fire and Blood," specifically Chapters 1 and 2. "Fire and Blood" is a prequel to Martin's acclaimed fantasy series "A Song of Ice and Fire." This choice of source is driven by the narrative's rich world-building, intricate character interactions, and potential for idiomatic expressions within the fantasy setting.

1. "Fire and Blood": Literary Context

"Fire and Blood" provides a historical backdrop, delving into the Targaryen dynasty's rise to power in the fictional world of Westeros. The narrative spans generations, featuring political intrigue, power struggles, and legendary feats. This context offers fertile ground for exploring idiomatic expressions that reflect the socio-cultural dimensions of the fantasy realm.

2. Chapters 1 and 2 Selection

Chapters 1 and 2 are selected for analysis due to their early placement within the book. This choice provides an opportunity to establish foundational insights into the idiomatic expressions present in the narrative. Additionally, a focused analysis of these chapters allows for a manageable scope, ensuring a thorough examination of the identified idioms.

3. Idiom Extraction and Compilation

Idiomatic expressions within Chapters 1 and 2 are extracted using a combination of manual reading and digital tools (Idioms Dictionary by Farlex). By closely reading the text, idioms that deviate from literal meanings are identified. Digital tools aid in the compilation process by facilitating the efficient identification and cataloging of idiomatic expressions.

Object of the Research

The object of this research is to investigate the idiomatic expressions present within Chapters 1 and 2 of Fire and Blood (Martin, 2018). These chapters are the particular sections being examined closely, providing a concentrated lens through which to analyze how idiomatic expressions contribute to the narrative's linguistic and thematic intricacies. Chapters 1 and 2 hold particular significance as they introduce readers to the world of "Fire and Blood" and lay the foundation for the subsequent events and character developments. These chapters encompass character introductions, historical context, and the establishment of early narrative elements, making them an ideal starting point for analyzing idiomatic expressions and their

potential impact on the narrative. The idiomatic expressions present within these chapters form the core focus of analysis. These linguistic constructs, when identified and examined, offer insights into how the author employs figurative language to convey deeper meanings, evoke emotions, and enrich character interactions. Examining both pure idioms and semi-literal idioms is necessary to comprehend their roles in shaping the narrative's texture.

Method of Collecting the Data

The method of collecting data for this study involves a systematic process that combines manual reading and digital tools to extract and compile idiomatic expressions from Chapters 1 and 2 of George R. R. Martin's "Fire and Blood." This approach ensures a comprehensive and accurate collection of relevant data.

1. Manual Reading

The initial step involves a close and attentive manual reading of Chapters 1 and 2. During this process, the text is examined for linguistic expressions that deviate from literal meanings, indicating the presence of idiomatic expressions. The identified idioms are marked and noted for further analysis.

2. Digital Tools

Digital tools are used to facilitate the organized recognition and documentation of idiomatic phrases. Text analysis software or search functions within digital platforms enable the process of pinpointing instances of idiomatic language usage within the chapters. This approach enhances the efficiency of data collection by capturing a broader range of potential idioms.

3. Compilation and Cataloging

Once the idiomatic expressions are identified through manual reading and digital tools, they are compiled and cataloged into a structured list. Each idiomatic expression is accompanied by its respective contextual sentence or passage within the text. This compilation process ensures a comprehensive dataset that can be used for subsequent qualitative analyses.

4. Validation and Accuracy

To ensure the accuracy of the collected data, cross-referencing is conducted between manual readings and the results of the digital tool. This validation process also includes checking several idiom dictionaries, such as the Farlex Dictionary of Idioms, the American Heritage Dictionary, the McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs, and the Collins Dictionary, to ensure that each idiom's meaning and type are correct. This validation process aims to eliminate potential errors or omissions in the list of idiomatic expressions. Additionally, the context surrounding each idiomatic expression is carefully noted to preserve the nuances of its usage within the narrative.

5. Ethical Considerations

When collecting data from copyrighted materials, such as "Fire and Blood," ethical considerations regarding intellectual property and proper citation are observed. All collected idiomatic expressions are appropriately referenced to their specific chapters and sections.

Research Instrument

In this study, the researcher played a central role in identifying and analyzing idiomatic expressions in George R. R. Martin's *Fire and Blood*, Chapters 1 and 2. The researcher read and examined the text closely to identify idioms and categorize them into pure idioms and semi-literal idioms following Chitra Fernando's (1996) theory of idiomaticity. The researcher also interpreted the contextual meaning of each idiom to ensure accurate categorization.

An observation sheet is used to systematically document and categorize each idiomatic expression found in the novel. The table included essential elements such as the idiom, its location in the text, its contextual meaning, and its classification (pure idiom or semi-literal idiom) according to Fernando's typology. This instrument served to organize and structure the analysis, making it easier to conclude.

The following table is an example of the instrument used to analyze idiomatic expressions in the selected chapters of *Fire and Blood*:

Table 1 Observation Sheet

No	Types of Idiom	Idiom	Utterance	Description
1.	Semi-literal idiom	Take place	Aegon Targaryen's conquest of the Seven Kingdoms did not take place in a single day.	According to the McGraw-Hill Dictionary of American Idioms and Phrasal Verbs, this idiom means "to happen." It is semi-literal because the words "take" and "place" suggest physical action, but in combination, they refer to the occurrence of an event, not a literal action.
2.	Pure idiom	Giving her handand the Storm King would not dishonor his daughter by giving her hand to a bastard.	According to Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, " <i>right hand</i> " refers to someone in a position of honor who is trusted. It is a pure idiom because the meaning cannot be taken literally from the phrase.

Table 3.1 lists the types of idioms and examples of the idiomatic expressions that appear in the novel. The fourth column showed the utterance or sentence containing the idiom, providing the context in which it was used in *Fire and Blood*. The fifth column provided a description, which included the meaning of the idiom, its source (dictionary), and an explanation of why it fits the idiom type according to Fernando's theory.

Table 2 Data Tabulation Form

No	Type of Idiom	Number of Occurrences	Percentage
1.	Pure Idioms	9	20.45%
2.	Semi-Literal Idioms	35	79.55%
	Total	44	100%

In Table 3.2, four columns summarize the frequency and proportion of each type of idiom found in George R. R. Martin's *Fire and Blood* chapters 1 and 2, based on Chitra Fernando's (1996) theory of idiomaticity. The first column displayed the data number, which indicated the sequence of the idiom types listed. The second column identified the type of idiom, specifically categorized into pure idioms and semi-literal idioms. These classifications were used to differentiate between idioms that are entirely non-literal (pure idioms) and those that retain some literal meaning in one or more of their components (semi-literal idioms). The third column showed the number of occurrences for each idiom type, representing how many times each type appeared in the selected chapters of the novel. The fourth column presented the percentage, which was calculated as the proportion of each idiom type relative to the total number of idioms found. This allowed for a clear understanding of which type of idiom was more dominant in the text.

Data Analysis

The analysis of idiomatic expressions in *Fire and Blood* was conducted through a four-stage process: identification, classification, analysis, interpretation, and conclusion. These stages were guided by Chitra Fernando's (1996) theory of idiomaticity, which distinguishes between pure idioms and semi-literal idioms.

Identifying Idiomatic Expressions

The first stage involved a close reading of Chapters 1 and 2 of *Fire and Blood* to identify linguistic expressions that exhibit idiomatic characteristics. Phrases were considered idiomatic if their meanings could not be inferred directly from the literal meanings of their individual components. For example, the expression "*Fire and Blood*" used throughout the narrative to symbolize the Targaryen legacy is interpreted as a **pure idiom**, as its figurative meaning does not align with its literal lexical components. Idioms were flagged manually and through digital tools for further examination.

Classifying Idioms

Following identification, each idiom was classified according to Fernando's typology:

- **Pure Idioms:** Fully conventionalized expressions whose meanings are entirely non-literal and cannot be derived from their individual words. Example: "*spill the beans*" (though not from the text) or "*Fire and Blood*" within the Targaryen context.
- **Semi-Literal Idioms:** Expressions that retain one or more literal components but contain at least one element with a figurative or context-specific meaning. These expressions are often unique to their collocation. For instance, "*wake*

dragons” can be considered a semi-literal idiom in the world of Westeros, as it carries a specific metaphorical connotation grounded in that fictional universe.

Analyzing and Interpreting

In this stage, each idiomatic expression was analyzed in its narrative context. The analysis considered the figurative meaning of the idiom, its placement in the plot, the speaker or character using it, and its relevance to the larger themes or cultural setting of the text. Special attention was given to how idioms reflected socio-political dynamics, emotional tone, and character development. The analysis also drew on the historical and fictional background of the *A Song of Ice and Fire* universe, enhancing the interpretative depth of idiomatic usage.

This interpretive process helped reveal how idioms functioned not only as stylistic devices but also as tools for world-building and cultural immersion in the fantasy genre

Drawing Conclusions

The final step involved synthesizing the results of the classification and interpretation processes to draw meaningful conclusions aligned with the research objectives. This included determining the frequency and distribution of pure and semi-literal idioms, analyzing their thematic significance, and evaluating the effectiveness of Fernando’s framework when applied to a fantasy narrative.

The conclusions derived from this stage were used to address the central research question: how are idioms – specifically pure and semi-literal idioms – used in *Fire and Blood* to enrich the narrative, and how well does Fernando’s theory support their identification and analysis in literary texts?

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

This chapter presents the research results and data findings. It is divided into the following topics: finding the types and finding the meaning of idiomatic expressions. **Research Findings:** In this section, the writer presents the research findings. The findings reveal the types and meanings of idiomatic expressions in “Fire and Blood” by George R. R. Martin. The writer analyzes the meaning based on the movie's script, considering the context of the situation, and uses idioms to interpret idiomatic expressions, drawing on Fernando (1996) to identify their types. The writer also explores the meaning of idioms within the context of the movie's script, utilizing the dictionary as a tool. Suppose the author cannot find the meaning of an idiom in the dictionary. In that case, they will look for it in a trustworthy tool and reliable internet sources, such as the Cambridge Online Dictionary, the Oxford Online Dictionary, Collins English Online Dictionary, or other online dictionaries. The data in these sections is displayed in the form of tables and brief explanations. Then the data can be obtained as follows:

Types of Idioms are Used in Chapters 1 And 2 of Fire and Blood, According to Chitra Fernando's Theory of Idiomaticity

The primary aim of this study was to identify the types of idiomatic expressions found in Chapters 1 and 2 of Fire and Blood by George R. R. Martin, based on Chitra Fernando's (1996) theory of idiomaticity. To achieve this objective, idioms were collected from the text and classified into two categories: pure idioms and semi-literal idioms, as defined by Fernando.

Pure idioms are expressions whose meanings cannot be understood from the meanings of their components, while semi-literal idioms retain some degree of literal interpretation. Each identified idiom was examined and categorized according to these classifications. The table below presents the frequency of each type of idiom found in the selected chapters of the novel:

Table 3. Types of Idioms Found in Fire and Blood (Chapters 1 and 2)

No	Type of Idiom	Number of Occurrences	Percentage
1.	Pure Idioms	9	20.45%
2.	Semi-Literal Idioms	35	79.55%
	Total	44	100%

Table 3. presents the frequency of two types of idioms found in Chapters 1 and 2 of Fire and Blood by George R. R. Martin, as categorized by Chitra Fernando's (1996) theory of idiomaticity. These two categories are pure idioms and semi-literal idioms. The findings of this analysis, which account for 79.55% of the total occurrences, indicate that semi-literal idioms are the most frequently used type of idiomatic expression. In contrast, pure idioms account for 20.45% of the identified idioms in the text.

Firstly, pure idioms were found 9 times out of 44 idiomatic expressions. This indicates that 20.45% of the idioms in the selected chapters are pure idioms. These expressions are completely non-literal in meaning and cannot be interpreted based on the individual meanings of their components. Examples include phrases like "spill the beans" or "kick the bucket", though in Martin's context, these are often stylized to suit the fantasy setting. These idioms tend to enhance the emotional tone or convey fixed cultural wisdom within the fictional society.

Secondly, semi-literal idioms dominate the usage, with 35 instances recorded from the total 44 idioms identified. This accounts for 79.55% of the idioms found in the data. Semi-literal idioms still retain some literal trace of meaning and are often easier to interpret. These expressions may include idioms such as "break the ice" or "bend the knee", where part of the literal meaning is still somewhat evident. In the context of Fire and Blood, such idioms help convey both plot action and symbolic meaning, often tied to loyalty, power dynamics, or political hierarchy.

The high frequency of semi-literal idioms suggests that George R. R. Martin favors expressions that maintain a balance between literal interpretation and figurative depth, which supports more precise reader comprehension while still enriching the text's stylistic and thematic dimensions. In conclusion, idioms in Fire and Blood serve as more than mere linguistic decoration; they contribute significantly

to character development, tone setting, and world-building, especially when viewed through the lens of idiomaticity theory.

The Most Common Type of Idiom Used in *Fire and Blood* (Chapters 1 and 2)

In literary works, particularly in genres such as fantasy, idiomatic expressions serve crucial narrative and stylistic functions. This section discusses the most frequently used type of idiom in George R. R. Martin's *Fire and Blood*, specifically in Chapters 1 and 2. The analysis is based on the identification of 44 idiomatic expressions found in the selected chapters, classified according to Chitra Fernando's (1996) theory of idiomaticity, which divides idioms into pure idioms and semi-literal idioms.

The results of the analysis reveal that semi-literal idioms are the most commonly used type, with 35 occurrences out of 44 total idioms (79.55%). This indicates that George R. R. Martin tends to use idiomatic expressions that retain some literal meaning, making them slightly easier to interpret within the context. The high frequency of semi-literal idioms may be attributed to the balance they offer between figurative richness and accessibility, especially in a complex and historically styled narrative like *Fire and Blood*. These idioms help convey character intentions, social hierarchies, and emotional undertones without obscuring the meaning too much.

In contrast, pure idioms appear less frequently, with only nine instances (20.45%). These idioms are completely non-literal and often culturally loaded, such as expressions equivalent to "bite the dust" or "spill the beans." Although they are fewer in number, their presence still contributes to the depth and flavor of the language, especially in dialogue or narrative descriptions that aim to reflect strong cultural or emotional contexts.

The findings of this study contribute to the existing literature on idiomatic expressions by showing a clear dominance of semi-literal idioms (79.55%) over pure idioms (20.45%) in *Fire and Blood*. This pattern differs from some previous studies conducted on other genres, such as contemporary novels, films, and conversational texts, which often report a higher frequency of pure idioms due to strong idiomatic conventionality and fixed meanings. For example, studies of modern fiction and audiovisual media often find pure idioms to be dominant, as these expressions rely heavily on shared cultural knowledge and are commonly used in everyday dialogue.

In conclusion, the dominance of semi-literal idioms in *Fire and Blood* reflects Martin's strategic use of language that is both vivid and comprehensible, supporting the immersive quality of his world-building. These idioms enrich character interactions and reinforce thematic elements such as loyalty, betrayal, and power dynamics while remaining accessible to readers.

Examples of Each Type of Idiom Used in *Fire and Blood* (Chapters 1 and 2)

1. Pure Idiom

a. Bend the knee

In chapter 1, page 16, the writer found a pure idiom, which is to *bend the knee*. According to the Collins Dictionary, 'bend the knee' has the meaning of submitting. In a contextual sense, this idiom refers to the defenders of Storm's End refusing to surrender.

b. *Carry the day*

In Chapter 1, page 22, the writer found a pure idiom. This idiom is to *carry the day*. According to Collins Dictionary, Carry the day means to win the contest, be triumphant, and prevail. In a contextual sense, this idiom implies that the courage and bravery of the Northern forces would be sufficient to win the battle. The phrase does not relate literally to carrying anything, making it a pure idiom.

2 Semi-literal idiom

a. *Take place*

In Chapter 1, page 3, the writer found a semi-literal idiom. *To take someone's place means to substitute for them or to stand in their stead.*

b. *Took fire*

In Chapter 1, page 14, the writer also found another type of semi-literal idiom. According to the Farlex Dictionary of Idioms (2024), to take fire (redirected from taking fire) means to start burning.

Discussion

The findings of this study align with several previous studies examining idiomatic expressions and their translation strategies. This research revealed that pure idioms were the most frequently found type in George R. R. Martin's *Fire and Blood* (Chapters 1 and 2), followed by semi-idioms and literal idioms. This result differs from Krisandini (2021) study, which analyzed 270 idioms in a novel and found that pure idioms dominated the data (50.9%), followed by semi-idioms (26.4%) and literal idioms (22.7%). Krisandini's (2021) findings highlight the predominance of figurative and fixed idiomatic expressions in literary works. In contrast, the current study suggests that *Fire and Blood* relies more on partially literal idioms that still retain some degree of interpretability. However, the current findings are more in line with Melati's (2024) study, which discovered a more balanced use of idioms in a novel, with 38% pure idioms and 40% semi-literal idioms. Both studies emphasize the significance of semi-idioms in conveying narrative meaning, especially in literary texts that incorporate symbolic and contextual depth. These idioms support storytelling in a way that balances figurative meaning with reader accessibility, a significant feature in genres such as historical fantasy, where clarity and world-building are closely intertwined.

Other researchers have also explored the importance of idiom classification and translation strategies. For example, Kusumastuti (2019), in her study of a movie script, found that pure idioms were the most frequent (63.9%), and that paraphrasing and omission were the dominant translation strategies. Although the distribution of idiom types differs from the present research, there is a point of convergence in terms of strategy: paraphrasing emerged as a widely used and practical approach, particularly when idioms lack direct equivalents in the target language. This consistency across studies reinforces the value of paraphrasing in handling cultural or contextual mismatches in idiomatic translation.

On the other hand, Sakinah's (2019) study found a more balanced distribution among pure (8), semi (4), and literal (6) idioms in the subtitle data from a movie. Although the sample size was limited, her findings suggest that movie subtitles tend to include a wider variety of idiomatic expressions, potentially due to the need for concise and easily understood language that accommodates both spoken dialogue and screen timing. Compared to this, *Fire and Blood*, as a written literary work, allows for longer, more complex idiomatic expressions, even if they tend toward semi-literal forms.

The differences between this study and prior research underscore the importance of genre and medium in idiom usage. Whereas idioms in contemporary novels or film scripts often lean toward entirely figurative, fixed expressions, *Fire and Blood* uses idioms that are more context-driven and semi-transparent, aligning with the elaborate narrative style typical of epic fantasy literature. Furthermore, this study contributes to the academic conversation by applying Fernando's (1996) theory of idiomaticity, which categorizes idioms into pure, semi, and literal types. This framework proves helpful in examining idioms across genres and offers a systematic approach to analyzing how idiomatic language functions in literary discourse.

In conclusion, this study offers a unique perspective by emphasizing the dominance of semi-literal idioms in *Fire and Blood*, in contrast to the pure idiom dominance seen in studies by Krisandini (2021), Kusumastuti (2019), and Sakinah (2019). At the same time, it aligns more closely with the balanced findings of Melati (2024). This variation highlights how textual function, authorial style, and genre conventions significantly influence the types of idioms employed. It also highlights the need for translators and researchers to consider these contextual factors when analyzing or translating idiomatic expressions in literary texts.

CONCLUSION

As mentioned in Chapter I, this study aimed to identify and classify the types of idioms found in Chapters 1 and 2 of *Fire and Blood* by George R. R. Martin using Chitra Fernando's (1996) classification of idiomatic expressions. The results revealed two types of idioms: pure idioms and semi-literal idioms. A total of 44 idiomatic expressions were found, with semi-literal idioms being the most dominant, occurring 35 times (79.55%), while pure idioms occurred 9 times (20.45%). From these results, it can be concluded that *Fire and Blood*, a novel written in a high-fantasy historical style, tends to favor semi-literal idioms. This suggests that the author uses figurative language that still retains some literal meaning to maintain clarity and narrative flow. Compared with previous studies, this finding aligns with Melati and Muamaroh (2023), who also reported a dominance of semi-idioms in literary texts. However, it differs from Krisandini and Sutrisno (2021) and Kusumastuti (2019), who found pure idioms to be more dominant, likely due to the more casual or conversational tone of the works they analyzed.

The results of the data analysis in this study indicate that further academic actions are required and should be followed up on. Thus, it is recommended that future researchers be more observant and precise when identifying and categorizing idioms, especially between pure idioms and semi-literal idioms. According to the

findings of this research, semi-literal idioms occurred more frequently, which may indicate a preference in the author's style or the narrative's historical tone. However, some idiomatic expressions may be complex to classify due to overlapping features, so careful contextual interpretation is necessary to ensure accuracy in categorization.

Next, it is suggested that future researchers in the same or similar topic carefully select theories that fit their focus of analysis. While this study examines other frameworks that employ Chitra Fernando's (1996) classification, these may also help analyze idioms from different linguistic or stylistic perspectives. Researchers are also encouraged to explore idiom usage in various literary genres beyond fantasy, such as in modern fiction, romance, thriller, or even nonfiction texts, to observe how idiomatic language differs across genres and contexts. This study offers insights into how semi-literal idioms facilitate reader engagement in a literary genre involving complex world-building. The frequent use of idioms allows authors to convey abstract concepts such as power, conflict, and legacy in a way that remains accessible to readers unfamiliar with the fictional setting.

Additionally, it is expected and recommended that students who are interested in studying idiomatic expressions deepen their understanding by reading a wider variety of literary works and practicing idiom identification across different authors and writing styles. This will help them recognize the flexibility and nuances of idiomatic expressions and develop stronger skills in analyzing figurative language.

Finally, it is recommended that educators incorporate more idiomatic analysis into language and literature instruction. Teachers can use excerpts from novels like *Fire and Blood* to provide authentic examples of idioms in use, helping students practice distinguishing types of idioms and understanding their meanings in context. Classroom discussions should also highlight how idioms function within the narrative to enhance storytelling, character development, and tone. This approach can build students' interpretive skills and appreciation for the richness of figurative language in literature.

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