CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

One universal element of human culture is language. Humans create languages to be able to communicate with each other. “Language is defined as an arbitrary sound symbol system, which is used by members of a community to work together, interact, and identify themselves” (Kridalaksana, 1993: 21). This shows that language is very important for humans as social beings in daily activities, such as communicating with others. In everyday conversation, it is not enough to only have knowledge of language such as for everyday communication purposes only. However, a variation in language is needed to bring our language more lively. “One such variation is the idiom. Idioms need to be mastered in depth if we want to talk about technique, culture, art, economics, literature, and so on” (Chaer, 1984: 6). One of the characteristics of language is unique. This means, each language has a unique system that does not have to exist in other languages. The idioms of each language also have a semantic peculiarity. Because idioms are closely related to meaning, in this study idioms will be analyzed in terms of semantics. In addition it will be categorized based on the comparison of two vocabulary systems of theory from Robert Lado (1957).

English and Indonesian are not cognate languages because they have their own rules, or both languages are from different origin. Therefore, in this research, the researchers will only to contrast the idioms of the two languages that contain elements of the human body and will be analyzed in terms of their meaning and their relationship with the culture of each language. These idioms will then be categorized into three types of comparisons based on Lado's theory (1957).
A person can express matters or circumstances with idioms in his native language well, but not so with foreign languages. Idiom in a brief definition is a group of words that have a different meaning from the dictionary meaning. Cruse (1986:37) states that “Idiom is an expression whose meaning cannot be accounted for as a compositional function of the meanings when they are not parts of idioms”. That means even though people understand every single word, it will not be that easy to catch what exactly the sentence means. A person cannot translate it directly into their native language because expressions in foreign languages can have different meanings which cause misunderstanding.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher will find the similarities and differences found between English and Indonesian idioms, especially in the use of idioms. For example, English has idiom *right hand*, and Indonesia has the idiom *tangan kanan (right hand)* both of them share the same idiomatic meaning as *confidant or the most trusted person*. Another example, English has idiom *lose face*, and Indonesia has *hilang muka (lose face)* where both idioms also have the same idiomatic meaning as *shame*. The researcher believes that there are more idioms that can be found in both languages.

The two examples above are semantically referring to the same reference. From the first example, the view of western culture and Indonesian culture has the same perception in terms of looking at the right as something positive. The positive thing is that something that is done is related to human activity where most people put the right side. These activities can be seen when someone meets, of course they will stretch their right hand to shake hands as a sign of intimacy to greet each other. This positive characteristic that is determined by the right hand can trigger the similarity of perceptions between the two cultures. It can be concluded *right hand* in English or *tangan kanan* in Indonesian as a symbol of *trust*, and idiom of *right hand* has idiomatic meaning as *trusted*
The second example shows the level of similarity of perceptions in expressing a *lose face* and *hilang muka* which has aidiomatic meaning *asshame*. When someone makes a mistake, the person feels that he or she is known by everyone as someone with his or her mistakes, so that person thinks he or she has lost face in front of a crowd.

English is chosen by the writer as a language that matches Indonesian because there might be some similarities that can be found. Therefore, to see the similarities between English and Indonesian the researcher will use contrastive analysis. Contrastive Analysis is one of the methods that can be used for helping people who learn other language in finding some differences and similarities between source language and target language that usually led to some difficulties in learning process encountered by the learner. According to Fisiak (1981:1) “Contrastive Analysis is a sub discipline of linguistics that deals with the comparison of two or more languages in order to determine both the differences and similarities that hold between them. The object of study from contrastive analysis are elements and linguistic systems as well as cultural background of the first language (L1) and second language (L2).

Idioms related to human body in both languages raised as the topic of this research. It is because there are limited researches related to contrastive analysis of idioms using members of human body in English and Indonesian. Human body is used as the element of idioms because human body is the closest thing with human that can be described and easy to understand by the readers. Besides, there are also the differences between Indonesia and English culture that caused the different meaning of both language idioms. The researcher uses human body as the element of this research because the researcher believes that there are positive and negative perspectives from both language in using this element.
1.2 **Research Question**

As stated above, this study examines idioms. Based on this, the problems in this study can be formulated as follows.

1. What are the similarities between English and Indonesian idiom of human body?

1.3 **Research Objective**

The objective in this study is to describe the similarities between English and Indonesian idioms about human body.

1.4 **Use of Study**

The results of this study provide benefits both theoretically and practically.

1.4.1 **Theoretical Uses**

Theoretical benefits of the results of this study are expected to be useful for linguistic studies in general. This research can be used for helping people who learn other language in finding some differences and similarities between source language and target language that usually led to some difficulties in learning process encountered by the learner.

1.4.2 **Practical Uses**

As for practical benefits, the results of this study are expected so that readers can understand idioms in English and their equivalents in Indonesian. From this equivalent of English and Indonesian idioms, the causes and differences in the choice of words used in the two languages can be known.
1.5 Scope of the Study

This research is intended to conduct contrastive analysis at the level of form and meaning (semantics) contained in expressions or idioms in English and Indonesian, and given the limitations possessed by researchers, this study will be limited to equivalent English and Indonesian idioms that use elements of human body. In order to make this research more directed and more understandable, as well as the limitations of time and the ability of researchers, this study only focused on English and Indonesian idioms whose formation elements use the human body that focuses on body parts which specifically discuss on the parts of head, hand, heart, and leg.