Cross-Linguistic Insights into Idiomatic Expressions: A Case of Human Body Idioms in English and Indonesian

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ABSTRACT

Idiomatic expressions are essential parts of natural language use, helping speakers express complex ideas, emotions, and cultural values more effectively. However, they can pose difficulties for language learners due to their figurative nature and cultural dependency. This study aimed at finding out the similarities and differences between English and Indonesian idiomatic expressions. of human body. In this study, the researchers used a qualitative research design. The documentation technique was used to collect the data from primary and secondary data sources related to English and Indonesian Idiomatic expression books and journal. To analyse the data, thematic analysis was applied. The results showed that there were seventeen similarities in terms of nine in meanings and eight in forms, as well as six differences in word choices in terms of three in meanings and three in forms. In conclusion, the similarities between English and Indonesian idiomatic expressions. of human body make no problems for students to learn English and Indonesian idiomatic expressions. Yet, the differences between English and Indonesian idiomatic expressions. of human body make students difficult to learn English and Indonesian idiomatic expressions.

Introduction

Learning language means learning four language skills (i.e. listening, speaking, reading, and writing) and language aspects (i.e. grammar, vocabulary) As one of the important language aspects, vocabulary is crucial to be learnt in order to comprehend and use language (Shirazi & Talebinezhad, 2013, p. 136). It is regarded as the heart of language and also considered as central to language teaching, it is very important for students to master (Susanto, 2017, p. 182). Indeed, vocabulary learning is an important part of foreign language learning and teaching because the meaning of new words is often emphasized, both in books and in the classroom (Alqahtani, 2015, p. 21). Learning vocabulary is a challenge for students, in part because of the wide variety of types of vocabulary that must be learned, including single words, phrases, collocations, and strategic vocabulary, as well as grammatical patterns, idioms, and fixed expressions (Mccarten, 2007, p. 18). When students study vocabulary, they also study expression. One

of the expressions that are often used in English, especially in oral and written communication, is idiom. Idioms are interesting parts of language that are usually defined by certain language expressions that typically contain a nonliteral meaning that can differ significantly from the literal meaning of the term (Ahmadi, 2017, p. 106).

Idiomatic expressions are groups of words whose overall meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words. They are a type of idiom commonly used in spoken and written language to convey meanings in a more vivid, creative, or culturally specific way. These expressions are often metaphorical and cannot be interpreted literally. Naturally, idioms are expressions that have meanings that are usually difficult to guess or understand from the meaning of each word (McCharty & O'Dell, 2013, p. 6). Idioms are linguistic expressions whose overall meaning cannot be predicted from the meaning of their constituent parts and are one of the most difficult areas of foreign language learning for teachers and students (Kovecses & Szabco, 1996, p. 326). Understanding idiom is an crucial a part of mastering language, and using idioms correctly can facilitate the process of communicating using English (Diah & Hatmanto, 2021, p. 241). Maisa and Karunakaran, (2013, p. 119) state that idiom can be considered an integral part of vocabulary learning, the use of idioms can enable students to speak or write fluently. Learning idiomatic expressions is a very important part of the language learning process, many daily conversations are based on idioms, by learning idioms students will become more fluent in English and be able to communicate better (Caro & Edith, 2009, p. 134). It is also mentioned by (Shirazi & Talebinezhad, 2013, p. 135)

As the matter of facts, idiomatic expressions must be learned by foreign language learners to be integrated into the culture of the target language, learners must not only learn the grammatical structure and vocabulary of the target language but also idioms (Alhaysony, 2017, p. 71). The use of idioms by EFL learners can permit them to talk English fluently and naturally (Ayed, 2009, p. 2). Besides, the usage of and information idioms is vital and really crucial for acquiring a better TOEFL or IELTS score (Orfan, 2020, p. 11). It is often included in English or in Indonesian (Ayuningtyas et al., 2018). It means that idioms tend to make it difficult for students to understand their meaning, both idioms in English and Indonesian.

Idiomatic expressions in English and Indonesian tend to have different meanings, especially idioms related to human body. For example, in English idiom 'give me a hand' which means 'help me', but this idiom is translated as *'beri aku tangan'* in Indonesian, and another example is in Indonesian idiom, *'tangan panjang'* which means 'likes to steal other people's property', the idiom translates to 'long hand' in English. It may be difficult for Indonesian students to understand English idioms even though the expressions are similar and it makes them avoid using idioms (Irujo, 1986, p. 287). Some items of idiomatic expressions are not well understood by students, they tend to translate the idiomatic expressions literally (Seran, 2020, p. 89). As mentioned by Wright et al. (1999, p. 10), translating idioms is considered difficult, because idioms cannot be translated word for word. It was difficult to learn and understand idioms because they were confusing (Shirazi & Talebinezhad, 2013, p. 135). Idiomatic expressions are complex and unpredictable (Spears, 2005).

In addition, idiomatic expressions are considered to be among the most challenging and fascinating components of the English language, they are difficult because they have unpredictable meanings (Ahmadi, 2017; Kovecses & Szabco, 1996). It is a collection of

words whose meanings differ from those of the constituent parts (Ball, 2010 & Seidl, 1988). According to Idami et al. (2022, p. 175) "English learners experienced several difficulties in translating idiomatic expressions. Factors that cause these difficulties include students' lack of knowledge about idiomatic expressions, cultural differences between English and Indonesian, students rarely using them in speaking or writing in everyday life, and difficulties in interpreting idiomatic expressions" (p. 175).

On the other side, Ayuningtyas et al. (2018, p. 494) reported that 15% of students' translations were totally inadequate, 23% were inadequate, 10% were adequate, 14% were almost successful, and 38% were successful. The fact that the amount of the inaccurate translation result was more than the accurate translation result indicated that the students experienced difficulties during the translating process. Therefore, it is necessary to find out the similarities between two languages to know the difficulties experienced by students in learning the languages. Since contrastive analysis is used to determine the differences and similarities between two languages (Khairani, 2023, p. 254). Therefore, the researchers believe, the best way to teach idiomatic expressions successfully would be to allow learners to compare idioms in the first and second languages to enable them to discover which idiomatic expressions are identical, which are similar, and which are different. The difficulty can be studied by using a contrastive analysis where it is considered as a language learning strategy used by second language learners to facilitate their language learning, and can be of great help in understanding language errors (Al-kresheh, 2016, p. 331). In addition, the difficulties between the two languages can be predicted by contrastive analysis (Tajareh, 2015, p. 1106). A contrastive analysis is a linguistic comparison of two or more languages' structures to highlight their differences and similarities (Al-kresheh, 2016).

In addition, as two languages are compared and contrasted using a contrastive analysis technique to find their differences and similarities (Khairani, 2023). In addition, contrastive analysis is needed to explain and describe the similarities and differences between the structures within the two languages (Auni & Manan, 2023). It is a systematic study of two languages, the aim of which is to identify their structural differences and similarities (Rustipa, 2011). It refers to analyzing languages by comparing and contrasting distinct facts from the examined languages, by looking at their similarities as well as differences (Koptleuova et al., 2022). The main idea of contrastive analysis is to distinguish zones of difficulty that a specific foreign language will face for local speakers of another language by methodically comparing two languages and cultures (Lennon, n.d.).

Like other experts, Lado (1957, p. 82 as cited in Adelina & Suprayogi, 2020) stated that there may be some different types of contrastive analysis to determining the similarities and differences between two languages, referring to similar and different forms and meanings. Stockwell et al. (1965, as cited in Dost & Bohloulzadeh, 2017) added that there were five steps to make a systematic comparison of any two languages such as: selection, description, comparison, prediction and verification.

Method

This research employed a qualitative research design used to obtain information regarding the phenomena related to a comprehensive narrative of non-numeric data to gain insight (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). It is used to get the understanding or interpretations of reality that continually change and change over time (Merriam, 2002). It may be a type

of scientific research that looks for answers to a question and provides complex literary descriptions of how individuals experience a specific research issue (Mack et al., 2005).

In this research, the researchers used two kinds of data sources, namely primary and secondary data. In general, data collection methods are divided into two main categories, namely primary data collection methods and secondary data collection methods (Taherdoost, 2022). Primary data was English Idioms, by (Simanjuntak, 1997) and Indonesian Idioms by (Listiorini, 2005)

To collect the data, documentation technique was applied. The researchers used documentation technique. It is a way of collecting data by recording existing data, a large number of facts and data stored in material in the form of documentation.(Syahri, Sulaiman, & Susanti, 2016, p. 81). It is a technique used to obtain data in the form of notes and other documents that are related to this research problem (Samsu, 2021). Having had the data, the researchers then analyzed them through a thematic analysis. It is used to conduct in-depth research on a phenomenon and does not examine the relationship between two or more variables (Syahri et al., 2016). In this context, the researchers did five procedures to analyze the data, in line with reading English and Indonesian idiom books and journal articles of human body, identifying and describing English and Indonesian idioms of human body, figuring out the similarities and differences between English and Indonesian Idioms of Human Body and comparing and contrasting English and Indonesian idioms of human body to draw conclusions.

Results and Discussion

Results of English Idioms of Human Body

In this study, the researchers found out twelve English idioms of human body. To be vivid, Table 1 was presented.

Table 1
English Idioms of Human Body

	English Idioms	Meanings	Instances
1.	Broken heart	Sadness, especially after the end of a love or close relationship	The king died of a broken heart.
2.	Heart and hand	Wholeheartedly	She is thrown herself heart and hand into her studies.
3.	Double-faced	Dishonest	I do not trust her, I think she is double-faced.
4.	Open-handed	Generous	She is an open-handed person.
5.	Light-fingered	Like to steal	His light-fingered father landed to prison.
6.	Long hand	Handwriting	I prefer to write my work down in longhand first.
7.	Light-handed	Wise	You need to be light-handed to handle this case.
8.	Big-headed	Arrogant	Do not compliment him anymore, or he'll get a big-headed.
9.	Half-hearted	Someone whose heart is not really in what they are doing.	The previous owner had made a half-hearted attempt at renovating the place.
10.	Big-hearted	Kind, generous, and caring.	He has a big heart, always donating to charities and helps others.
11.	Blue blood	Having the qualities of being of noble birth	The boy is a person who has blue blood from his mother's line.
12.	Shoulder to shoulder	Mutual help	Let's work shoulder to shoulder to find a way out of this problem.

Table 1 shows twelve English idioms of human body, for instances: *'Broken heart'* means sadness, as in a sentence 'the king died of a broken heart'. *'Heart and hand'* means wholeheartedly, as in a sentence *'she's thrown herself heart and hand into her studies'*. *'Double-faced'* means dishonest, the example in sentence is *'I don't trust her. I think she is double-faced'*. 'Open-handed' means dishonest, as in a sentence *'She is an open-handed person'*. 'Light-fingered' means like to steal, as in a sentence *'His light-fingered father landed to prison'*. 'Big-headed' means like to arrogant, as in a sentence *'Don't compliment him anymore, or he'll get a big-headed'*. 'Half –hearted' means like to someone whose heart is not really in what they are doing, as in a sentence *'The previous owner had made a half-hearted attempt at renovating the place'*.

Afterwards, *'big–hearted'* means like to someone whose kind, generous, and caring, as in a sentence *'He has a big heart, always donating to charities and helps others'*. 'Blue blood' means like having the qualities of being of noble birth, as in a sentence *"The boy is a person who has blue blood from his mother's line'*. 'Shoulder to shoulder' means mutual help, as in a sentence *'Let's work shoulder to shoulder to find a way out of this problem'*.

Indonesian Idioms of Human Body

In this study, the researchers figured out eleven Indonesian idioms of human body. To be clear, Table 2 was described.

Table 2
Indonesian Idioms of Human Body

Indonesian Idioms	Meanings	Instances
1. Patah hati	Sadness, especially after the end of a love or close relationship	Tahun ini saya merasa patah hati karena pasangan saya meninggalkan saya.
2. Bermuka dua	Dishonest	Aku sangat benci orang bermuka dua.
3. Murah hati	Generous	Banyak orang yang menyukainya karena dia ramah dan murah hati.
4. Panjang tangan	Likes to steal	Orang ini dikenal panjang tangan, karena banyak orang yang merasa kehilangan barang.
5. Ringan tangan	Likes to hit	Pamannya adalah orang yang dia benci, karena pamannya ringan tangan.
6. Besar kepala	Arrogant	Sekali saja dia dipuji, anak itu jadi besar kepala.
7. Setengah hati	Someone whose heart is not really in what they are doing.	Dia membersihkan ruangan itu dengan setengah hati.
8. Sepenuh hati	Wholeheartedly	Penjual itu dengan sepenuh hati menyetujui keputusan itu.
9. Berhati besar	Sympathetic, and or high spirits	Dia memang peduli padamu, dia berhati besar.
10. Darah biru	Having the qualities of being of noble birth	Dia merupakan keturunan darah biru.
11. Bahu – membahu	Mutual help	Para relawan saling bahu membahu dalam upaya penyelamatan para korban.

Table 2 shows eleven Indonesian idioms of human body, for instances: *'Patah hati'* means sadness, especially after the end of a love or close relationship, as in a sentence *'tahun ini saya merasa patah hati karena pasangan saya meninggalkan saya'*. *'Bermuka dua'* means dishonest, as in a sentence *'Aku sangat benci orang bermuka dua'*. *'Murah*

hati' means generous, as in a sentence *'Banyak orang yang menyukainya karena dia ramah dan murah hati'*. *'Panjang tangan'* means likes to steal, as in a sentence *'Orang ini dikenal panjang tangan, karena banyak orang yang merasa kehilangan barang'*. *'Ringan tangan'* means likes to hit, as in a sentence *'Pamannya adalah orang yang dia benci, karena pamannya ringan tangan'*. *'Besar kepala'* means arrogant, as in a sentence *'Sekali saja dia dipuji, anak itu jadi besar kepala'*. *'Setengah hati'* means someone whose heart is not really in what they are doing, as in a sentence *'Dia membersihkan ruangan itu dengan setengah hati'*. *'Sepenuh hati'* means wholeheartedly, as in a sentence *'Penjual itu dengan sepenuh hati menyetujui keputusan itu'*. *'Berhati besar'* means sympathetic, as in a sentence *'Dia memang peduli padamu, dia berhati besar'*. *'Darah Biru'* means *having the qualities of being of noble birth*, as in a sentence *'Dia merupakan keturunan darah biru'*. *'Bahu-membahu'* means *mutual help*, as in a sentence *'Para relawan saling bahu membahu dalam upaya penyelamatan para korban'*.

English and Indonesian Idioms of Human Body in Similar Meanings

In this study, the researchers got nine similarities between English and Indonesian idioms of human bodyin term of meanings as stated in Table 3.

Table 3
The Similarities in Meanings.

	English Idioms	Indonesian Idioms	Meanings
1.	Broken heart	Patah hati	Sadness, especially after the end of a love or close relationship
2.	Double-faced	Bermuka dua	Dishonest
3.	Big-headed	Besar kepala	Arrogant
4.	Half-hearted	Setengah hati	Someone whose heart is not really in what they are doing.
5.	Light-fingered	Panjang tangan	Like to steal
6.	Open-handed	Murah hati	Generous
7.	Heart and hand	Sepenuh hati	Do something seriously, wholeheartedly
8.	Blue blood	Darah biru	Having the qualities of being of noble birth
9.	Shoulder to shoulder	Bahu - membahu	Mutual help

Table 3 shows nine English and Indonesian idioms of human body in term of similar meanings. The English idiom `broken heart` and the Indonesian idiom `patah hati` have comparable and literal meanings which have no connection to its idiomatic meaning as sadness, especially after the end of a love or close relationship.The English idiom *'doubled-faced'* and the Indonesian idiom *'bermuka dua'* have similar meaning and considered as compound and have lliteral meaning as mouth which has big in measure.

Then, the English idiom *'big-headed'* and the Indonesian idiom *'besar kepala'* have similar form and meanings, and regarded as compound idiom. Both *'big-headed'* and *'besar kepala'* have a literal meaning twhich are unrelated to its idiomatic meaning as an arrogant person.The English idiom *'half-hearted'* and the Indonesian idiom *'setengah hati'* have similar form and meaning and also considered as compound idiom. Both *'half-*

hearted' and *'setengah hati'* have a literal meaning which are unrelated to its idiomatic meaning as someone whose heart is not really in what they are doing. The English idiom *'light-fingered'* and the Indonesian idiom *'panjang tangan'* are considered as compound idiom. The English idiom '*light-fingered'* literally means the fingers that are light or not heavy. However, idiomatically, this means someone who likes stealing. Meanwhile, in Indonesian, someone who likes stealing is called*'panjang tangan'*.

The English idiom *'open-handed'* and the Indonesian idiom*'murah hati'* are seen as compound idiom. The English idiom '*open-handed'* literally means the hand that is open. However, idiomatically, this means someone who is generous. Meanwhile, in Indonesian, someone who is generous called '*murah hati'*.The English idiom *'heart and hand'* and the Indonesian idiom *'sepenuh hati'* in Indonesian idiom, are such binomial idiom. The English idiom *'heart and hand'* which literally means heart and hand. However, idiomatically, this means someone who likes doing something seriously, wholeheartedly. Meanwhile, in Indonesian, someone who likes doing something seriously and wholeheartedly is called*'sepenuh hati'*. The idiom English*'blue blood'* and the Indonesian idiom *'darah biru'* in Indonesian idiom are regarded as compound idiom.The English idiom *'blue blood'* which literally means blue blood. However, idiomatically, this means someone who has the qualities of being of noble birth. Meanwhile, in Indonesian, someone who has the qualities of being of noble birth is called '*darah biru'*.The English idiom *'shoulder to shoulder'* and the Indonesian idiom *'bahu-membahu'* are summarized as compound idiom. The English idiom *'shoulder to shoulder'* which literally means from one shoulder to the other. However, idiomatically, this means mutual help. Meanwhile, in Indonesian, mutual help is called '*bahu-membahu'*.

English and Indonesian Idioms of Human Body in Similar Forms.

In this study, the researchers found out eight similarities between English and Indonesian idioms of human body in word choices in term of form as illustrated in Table 4.

Table 4
The Similarities in Forms

	English Idioms	Indonesian Idioms	Forms
1.	Long hand	Panjang tangan	Long = panjang Hand = tangan
2.	Light-handed	Ringan tangan	Light = ringan Hand = tangan
3.	Big-hearted	Behati besar	Big = besar Heart = hati
4.	Broken heart	Patah hati	Broken = patah Heart = hati
5.	Double-faced	Bermuka dua	Double = dua Face = muka
6.	Big-headed	Besar kepala	Big = besar Head = kepala
7.	Blue blood	Darah biru	Blue = biru Blood = darah
8.	Shoulder to shoulder	Bahu – membahu	Shoulder = bahu To shoulder = membahu

Table 4 shows eight English and Indonesian idioms of human body. The English idiom *'long hand'* and the Indonesian idiom *'panjang tangan'* have the same form and considered as compound idiom. The English idiom '*Long hand'* derives from the word *'long'* which means *'panjang',* and *'hand'* which means *'tangan'*. The English idiom *'light-handed'* and the Indonesian idiom *'ringan tangan'* have the same form and also considered as compound idiom. The English idiom '*Light-handed'* derives from the word *'light'* which means *'ringan',* and *'hand'* which means *'tangan'* The English idiom *'big-hearted'* and the Indonesian idiom *'berhati besar'*" have the same form and regarded as compound idiom. The English idiom '*Big-hearted'* derives from the word *'big'* which means *'besar',* and '*heart'* which means *'hati'.*

The English idiom *'Broken heart'* and the Indonesian idiom *'patah hati'* have the same form and also regarded as compound idiom. The English idiom '*Broken* derives from the word *'broken'* which means *'patah',* and '*heart'* which means *'hati'.* The English idiom *'Doubled-faced* and the Indonesian Idiom *'bermuka dua* have the same form (and seen as compound idiom. The English idiom *'Doubled-faced* derives from the word *'double''* which means *'dua',* and '*face'* which means *'wajah'.*

The English idiom *'big-headed'* and the Indonesian idiom *'berhati besar'* have the same form and categorized as compound idiom. *'*The English idiom *Big-headed'* derives from the word *'big'* which means *'besar',* and '*head'* which means *'kepala'.*

The English idiom *'blue blood'* and the Indonesian idiom *'darah biru'* have the same form and called as compound idiom. *'*The English idiom *Blue blood'* derives from the word *'blue'* which means *'biru',* and '*blood'* which means *'darah'.*

The English idiom *'shoulder to shoulder'* and the Indonesian idiom *'bahu-membahu'* have the same form and also classified as compound idiom. The English idiom *'Shoulder to shoulder'* derives from the word *'shoulder'* which means *'bahu',* and '*to shoulders'* which means *'membahu'.*

English and Indonesian Idioms of Human Body in Different Meanings

In this study, the researchers obtained three differences between English and Indonesian idioms of human body in meanings as deciphered in Table 5.

Table 5
The Differences in Meanings

English Idioms	Meanings	Indonesian Idioms	Meanings
1. Long hand	Handwriting	Panjang tangan	Like to steal
2. Light-handed	Wise	Ringan tangan	Likes to hit
3. Big-hearted	Kind	Behati besar	Sympathetic, and or high spirits

Table 5 shows three English and Indonesian idioms of human body in different meanings. The English idiom *'long hand'* and the Indonesian idiom '*panjang tangan'* have different meaning. The English idiom *'long hand'* translated into '*panjang tangan'* in Indonesian has a literal meaning that the long hand . Yet, idiomatically, *'long hand'* means handwriting and *'panjang tangan'* means as thief or a person who likes stealing.

The English idiom *'light-handed'* and the Indonesian idiom *'ringan tangan'* have different meaning. The English idiom *'light-handed'* translated into *'ringan tangan'* in Indonesian has a literal meaning that the light hand. The English idiom *'Light-handed'* has idiomatic meaning as wise, *'ringan tangan'* has a meaning as someone who likes hitting. The English idiom *'big-hearted'* and the Indonesian idiom *'besar* have different meaning. The English idiom *'big-hearted'* translated into *berhati besar* in Indonesian has a literal meaning as the big heart. *'*

English and Indonesian Idioms of Human Body in Different Forms

In this study, the researchers found out three differences between English and Indonesian idioms of human body in word choices in forms as seen in Table 6.

Table 6
The Differences in Forms

	English Idioms	Indonesian Idioms	Forms
1.	Light-fingered	Panjang tangan	Light ≠ panjang
			Finger ≠ tangan
2.	Open-handed	Murah hati	Open ≠ murah
			Hand ≠ hati
3.	Heart and hand	Sepenuh hati	Heart ≠ sepenuh
			Hand ≠ hati

Table 6 shows three English and Indonesian idioms of human body in different forms. The English idiom *'light-fingered'* and the Indonesia idiom *'panjang* have different form. The English idiom *'Light-fingered'* derives from the word *'light'* which means *'ringan', not 'panjang'* and *'finger'* which means *'jari'* not *'tangan'*. The English idiom *'open-handed'* and the Indonesian idiom *'murah hati'* have different form. The English idiom *Open-handed'* derives from the word *'open'* which means *'buka', not 'murah'* and *'hand'* which means *'tangan'* not *'hati'*. The English idiom *'heart and hand'* and the Indonesian idiom *'sepenuh hati'* have different form. The English idiom *'Heart and hand'* derives from the word *'heart'* which means *'hati', not 'sepenuh'* and *'hand'* which means *'tangan'* not *'hati'*.

Discussion

The findings highlight that idiomatic expressions in English and Indonesian often differ significantly in both meaning and usage, particularly those involving parts of the human body. For example, the English idiom *"give me a hand"*, which conveys the idea of offering assistance, does not retain its figurative meaning when translated directly into Indonesian as *"beri aku tangan"*. Conversely, the Indonesian idiom *"tangan panjang"*, referring to someone prone to stealing, if translated literally into English as *"long hand"*, loses its intended cultural significance. These disparities demonstrate that idiomatic expressions are not only linguistically distinct but are also deeply rooted in cultural context.

This divergence poses a considerable challenge for Indonesian learners of English. Many students tend to interpret idiomatic expressions literally, leading to miscomprehension and avoidance in both spoken and written communication (Seran, 2020 & Irujo, 1986). As noted by Wright et al. (1999), idioms cannot be translated word-for-word due to their figurative meanings, and this contributes to their perceived complexity

and opacity (Shirazi & Talebinezhad, 2013). Spears (2005) further emphasizes that idioms are inherently unpredictable in meaning, making them difficult to master for non-native speakers. The combination of linguistic ambiguity and cultural specificity renders idioms one of the most demanding elements in language acquisition (Ahmadi, 2017 & Kovecses & Szabco, 1996).

Moreover, empirical studies suggest that students frequently encounter substantial difficulties when translating idiomatic expressions. Ayuningtyas et al. (2018) report that only 38% of student translations were considered successful, while the remaining outcomes ranged from slightly accurate to completely incorrect. These findings are consistent with those of Idami et al. (2022), who attribute the difficulty to several factors, including limited exposure to idioms, insufficient knowledge, and the influence of differing cultural frameworks. This underlines the necessity of implementing instructional approaches that support the comprehension of idioms in cross-linguistic settings.

One such approach is Contrastive Analysis (CA), which provides a framework for identifying both the similarities and differences between the source and target languages. CA allows learners to recognize which idiomatic expressions are equivalent, which are partially similar, and which are entirely different, thus aiding their comprehension and retention (Khairani, 2023). As Al-kresheh (2016) and Tajareh (2015) argue, contrastive analysis is instrumental not only in detecting potential learning barriers but also in explaining.

Conclusion

The conclusions presented based on the findings that have been analyzed previously. In this study, the researchers found out seventeen similarities and six differences in word choices in forms and meanings. The similarities have something to do with nine idioms of similar meanings, eight idioms in similar forms, three idioms in different meanings and three idioms in different forms.

The similarities between English and Indonesian idioms make no problems for students to learn English and Indonesian idioms. Yet, the differences between English and Indonesian Idioms of human body make them feel difficult to learn. The differences found also have contribution to teaching English as foreign language (TEFL) as teaching guidance for teachers to advance teaching material and supporting resources for teaching words and expressions in terms of idioms, and it should be point out not all differences cause problems, and not all problems arise due to differences.

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