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LEXICAL RELATIONS IN JOE BIDEN'S SPEECH ABOUT PLAN TO LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUGS COST: SEMANTICS STUDY

Sefina Putri Miharsa¹

Universitas Widyatama

Heri Heryono²

Universitas Widyatama

Sefina.putri@widyatama.ac.id1

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ABSTRACT:

The purpose of this research is to analyze the types of lexical relations and the types of meanings of lexical relations that appear in Joe Biden's Speech about the plan to reduce prescription drug prices. The method used in this research is qualitative method. The results of this research show that there are eight types of lexical relations and three types of semantic meanings; the types of lexical relations show that from 30 data that have been analyzed, eight synonym data (26.7%), ten antonym data (33.3%), three meronym data (10%), two polysemy data (6.7%), two hyponym data (6.7%), two member-collection data (6.7%), two portion-mass data (6.7%), and one homonym data (3.3%). Meanwhile, the types of semantic meanings found from 60 data that have been analyzed are 51 data of literal meaning (85%), 5 data of semi-idiomatic meaning (8.3%), and 4 data of fully idiomatic meaning (6.7%). Therefore, it can be concluded that the type of lexical relations that appears the most is antonyms at 33.3% and that the most common type of meaning is literal meaning, which is 85%.

Keywords: Lexical relations, Semantics, Speech

INTRODUCTION

In this analysis, the researcher focuses on Joe Biden's presidential speech to be used as a data source because Joe Biden is the 46th president of the United States, and the content of Joe Biden's Speech contains many lexical relations that can be analyzed. The data source I obtained when compared to other presidential speeches, Joe Biden's Speech contains many lexical relations and semantic meanings, so I chose Joe Biden's presidential speech as the data source. The process of making a speech is carried out with lengthy discussions between Joe Biden and the team because it must consider linguistic aspects such as lexical

choices and sentence structures used in achieving goals (Nainggolan, et.al, 2021). Therefore, the author is interested in analyzing more deeply the lexical relations based on Saeed's (2003) theory and the meanings contained in Joe Biden's Speech based on Downing's (2006) theory in order to better understand what he said. The data source used is the text of the speech taken from the official rev.com website. This site contains political information, including transcripts of Joe Biden's speeches. In his speech, Biden discusses a plan to lower prescription drug costs.

Speech is a skill in communication that is voiced and has the power to influence others, and has a direct impact on listeners formed by public figures because they have an important role in society (Nuzulia and Wulandari, 2020). One of the public figures is the president. The president's speech has a tremendous influence on communication because the president is the leader of a country, so what he talks about is the form of communication he uses. The president's speech also affects culture and language because the way the president delivers the speech, the language used, intonation, and gestures can affect the existing culture. If there is a change or development that occurs in a culture, the president will also convey it through speeches, and the language used by the president in delivering speeches is also very influential on language. Speeches by influential people, such as the president, often include specific purposes, such as conveying an opinion or overview, as well as important events (Mandarani, 2020). The general domain in analyzing critical discourse includes public speeches where the speaker tries to get the best response from the audience (Wahyuningsih, 2018).

The president's speech is an official speech that has a great impact on listeners. The reason for choosing the president's speech to analyze is because the president is a respected person in a country, so every word is very much noticed by many people, including those from other countries, so the president's speech is very concerned about the accuracy of information, clarity of perspective and language packaging that can affect many people. According to Adetunji in his journal, the president's speech is seen as elected representatives of the country whose words have a semantic burden on the nation, especially on the ethos and soul of the nation (Mandarani and Fakhruddin, 2020). Therefore, presidential speeches are suitable for analysis.

This research discusses lexical relations and meaning in speech in semantic studies. The purpose and benefit of the research is to gain insight into the linguistic processes involved in text understanding, so this research is important in order to provide a comprehensive overview of the analysis of lexical relation types and also to understand the type of meaning contained in each word in the speech. Meanwhile, the renewal of this research with previous research is the analysis of the meaning of each type of lexical relation, making it easier to understand the meaning of the speech as a whole.

Therefore, the research questions of this study are formulated, namely the types of lexical relations appeared in Joe Biden's Speech about the plan to lower prescription drugs cost and the meaning types of lexical relations appeared in Joe Biden's Speech about the plan to lower prescription drugs cost. In addition, it is hoped that it can add insight to the readers of this journal regarding lexical relations and meaning in semantics so that it can be used as a reference for conducting other research on semantics.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This study discusses the theories used in the research, which include the definition of semantics and meaning types, lexical, lexical relations and types of lexical relations, and the last speech.

Semantics

Semantics is the study of meaning. Yule stated in his book that semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences (Ma'yuuf and Nheir, 2021). According to Saeed in his book, semantics is a study that discusses the meaning communicated by language (Ningrum, 2021). Based on this definition, it can be said that semantics is one of the important branches of linguistics that deals with the interpretation and meaning of words, sentence structures, and symbols. Semantics is essential for learning English, especially written and spoken comprehension (Apandi et al., 2020). According to Downing in his book, Semantically, meaning is divided into three types, namely, literal meaning, semiidiomatic meaning, and fully idiomatic meaning (Simatupang and Adzani, 2019). Downing stated in his book that literal meaning is the dictionary meaning or original meaning of a word, semi-idiomatic is a meaning that usually has one literal meaning and one figurative meaning; in semi-idiomatic lexical verbs retain their literal or metaphorical meaning, and the last is fully idiomatic, which is a combination of words as a whole that is not easily summarized but can be inferred from its context (Merialfianti and Simatupang, 2023).

Lexical

On the other hand, the field of linguistic meaning is an area dedicated to studying linguistic meaning and interpreting expressions in a language system. Types of semantics are distinguished based on the level or part of the language studied, namely the lexicon, which is called lexical semantics. The study of semantics that examines the relationship of a word's meaning to other words is called lexical semantics (Septiria, 2022). Lexical semantics deals with lexical meaning; the field that studies lexical semantics is lexicology. The lexemes of a language are investigated by linguistic semantic meaning, which is called lexical meaning. Lexical semantics is a subfield of semantics that only discusses the meaning of words in relation to other words (Septiria, 2022).

Lexical Relations

Saeed stated in his book that lexical relations show how the meanings of words relate to each other; it is the study of the mutual relationship between lexical concepts and how the lexicon is organized (Ma'yuuf and Nheir, 2021). A lexeme may simultaneously exist in these relations; therefore, it may be more accurate to view the lexicon as a network rather than a list of words as in a published dictionary. Yule stated in his book that the meaning of a word is also determined by its relationship with other words, not only by the characteristics of its components (Setianingrum et al., 2021). In lexical relations, it studies the relationships between words, how vocabularies are organized, and how the meanings of lexical items interact with each other (Siregar et al., 2021). The term lexical means relation, which is the meaning derived from various relationships that exist in a word or lexeme. The meaning of the word forms a pattern of relationships or semantic lexical relations. Lexical relations describe the relationships that occur between words and their meanings. Lexical relations is a branch of semantics whose language focuses on the meaning of words (Syarifuddin & Hasyim, 2020).

According to Saeed in his book, the types of lexical relations are homonym, polysemy, synonymy, opposites (antonymy), hyponymy, meronymy, member-collection, and portion-mass (Siregar et al., 2021).

1. Homonymy

Homonyms are words that have the same spelling and pronunciation but different meanings (Ariska et al., 2020). The type of meaning that refers to two different referents is called homonymy (Apandi et al., 2020). Generally, only the term homonym is used, and we can distinguish different types depending on their syntactic behavior and spelling. According to Saeed, in his book Pronunciation Variation, not all speakers have the same homonyms. For example, a homonym is the word 'circular.' This can mean both "taking the form of a circle" and "a store advertisement." Another example is the word 'well,' which can mean "in good health "and "a source of water in the ground."

2. Polysemy

The term "polysemy" refers to a word that has many interrelated meanings. In language, polysemy of form is the relationship between a language form and its set of meanings and senses (Guntar, 2022). In semantic and lexical analysis, polysemy is used to describe a word with multiple meanings (Siregar et al., 2021). According to Vicente, polysemy is a term that means that one word has a variety of different but related meanings (Al-qadi and Naser, 2022). For example, when it is said that the mother still has a blood

relationship with Budi (blood means brotherly relationship). His hands were covered in blood after being hit (blood means blood in the body).

3. Synonym

Synonyms indicate the similarity in meaning of different forms, a word form that has the same or similar meaning as another word (Ningrum, 2021). A word that has the same or almost the same meaning as another word in a language is called synonymy (Sidabutar, 2021). A synonym is a word that has a similar meaning to another word. Synonyms are terms that have the same or similar meaning (Nuraini et al., 2024). For example, the words 'start' and 'begin' have the same meaning or are used as synonyms. However, Start can be used as both a verb and a noun, whereas begin can only be used as a verb.

4. Antonymy

The term "antonym" refers to words that mean "opposite" (Ningrum, 2021). This word is useful to identify several different types of relationships under the general label of opposition. An antonym is a word that has the opposite meaning but refers to another word (Nuzulia and Wulandari, 2020). In antonyms, the notions are opposite with respect to their meaning features, such as dark/light, big/small, female/male, fast/slow, buy/sell, future/past, and happy/sad.

5. Hyponymy

A hyponym is the meaning of one form that belongs to a superordinate purpose. Hyponyms also refer to sets or groups of words that belong to a higher word condition; the term hyponym refers to a lower word (Ilahiyah, 2020). The meaning of one form includes the meaning of another form, which is the definition of a hyponym (Septiria, 2022). The more general term is called a superordinate or hypernym. Multiple vocabularies are linked by the inclusion system, and the resulting semantic network forms a hierarchical taxonomy. A hyponym is a word that has the meaning of another word and also a type of inclusion relationship between word groupings (Ma'yuuf and Nheir, 2021). For example, 'jasmine' is the hyponym of 'flower,' and 'purple' is the hyponym of color.

6. Meronymy

The term "meronymy" refers to a part-whole relationship between lexical components (Guntar, 2022). Meronymy describes a hierarchical classification in a taxonomy-like lexicon. The words identified as meronyms are lexical, where it is conceptually possible to segment an item in countless ways, but only a few divisions are encoded in the vocabulary of a language. When a word describes a word or another, it can be referred to as a meronym

(Norasiah, 2020). For example, 'wheel' is a meronym of 'bicycle,' and 'paper' is a meronym of 'book.'

7. Member-collection

The term commonly used for a collection of units and the word belonging to a unit is known as "member collocations" (Ningrum, 2021), such as crow – murder, star – galaxy, etc.

8. Portion-mass

The word "portion-mass" refers to the relationship between units of mass measurement or mass division (Norasiah, 2020). For example, drop or liquid, a count noun, is added to a mass noun, making the resulting noun phrase a count noun.

Speech

The data source is speech. Speech is a skill in communication that has the ability to influence others and has a direct impact on the audience because it is shaped by public figures who play an important role in the general public (Nuzulia and Wulandari, 2020). In this research, the data source used is political speeches. This explains that human activity requires language, which also has a significant impact on linguistic frameworks that indicate and convey meaning to others (Nuzulia and Wulandari, 2020). The activity of conveying thoughts and ideas to the audience is a speech activity that is often carried out by influential figures.

METHODS

This is qualitative research. Qualitative research is a type of research that focuses on understanding phenomena or problems through the collection and analysis of descriptive data. The object of this research is the lexical relations types contained in Joe Biden's Speech and the meaning that arises from the lexical relations. The data used as the object of this research is taken from the speech script uploaded on the rev.com website. The study technique is designed to answer the research questions and meet the objectives of the research. In this study, the writer tries to analyze the lexical relations in Joe Biden's Speech About Plan to Lower Prescription Drugs Cost.

The steps to analyze the data in this study are as follows: First, the necessary components of the findings of the available sources are determined. Second, formulating the problem to be studied and determining the research topic. Third, determining the sources from books, articles, and journals that can help understand the materials related to the problem under study. Fourth, selecting the speech through the rev.com website that will be the source of the analyzed data; in this step, the researcher only looks for the content of the speech and reads to collect the speech and make it easier to combine and classify the types of lexical relations that exist in the speech. Lastly, after the

relevant information is found, the researcher classifies the types of lexical relations relevant to the research question and the types of semantic meaning in the sentence at the lexical level.

FINDING

The research findings found based on the analysis of the types of lexical relations contained in the text of Joe Biden's Speech about the plan to lower prescription drug costs are seven types of lexical relations, including synonyms, antonyms, meronyms, polysemy, hyponyms, member-collection, and portionmas. Meanwhile, the research findings found in the speech are based on the analysis of the types of meaning of lexical relations that appear in Joe Biden's speech, which are literal meaning, semi-idiomatic meaning, and fully idiomatic meaning.

DISCUSSION

Synonym

Data 1

"I was doing a town hall meeting in Northern Virginia last year, and a **woman** stood up, a very sophisticated **lady**, and she said, "I have two girls."

(Source: Rev.com, 13:46)

The data above is included in the type of lexical relation, namely synonyms. The word *woman* is synonymous with the word *lady*, which both have the same meaning, namely describing the female gender, and the words *woman* and *lady* both describe females who are entering the adult phase and not teenagers. The context in which the speaker uses this synonym is when describing a town hall meeting in Northern Virginia. Joe Biden describes the word *woman* in his speech as an ordinary female, whereas when he mentions *a lady* who is *sophisticated*, he describes it as an honorable woman because he is the one who said it was one of the people he respected. Later in the speech, the lady mentioned that she has two daughters, which indicates that she is an adult woman who has had children.

The word *woman* in the lexical level in the dictionary means to indicate the female gender that has reached adulthood. As explained above, the word *woman* is not used to show respect; there is no attachment of only ordinary females of a certain age, so the word *woman* is included in the literal type of meaning. Meanwhile, the word *lady* in the text falls into the semi-idiomatic type of meaning because when the speaker mentions the word *lady*, it indicates an adult female who is respectable or has a high social class. Then, when the

speaker speaks again and mentions the word lady accompanied by sophisticated, the female being discussed in this context becomes a different image. In this sentence, the speaker says the word *woman* first, then the word *lady*, followed by the word *sophisticated*, so there is a change in value from ordinary female to honorable female to show that the person is honorable. Based on the meaning of the two synonyms, it can be concluded that the word *woman* belongs to the literal type of meaning, and the word *lady* belongs to the semi-idiomatic type of meaning.

Antonym

Data 2

"I said they ought to pay a **minimum** of 15%. (Source: Rev.com, 23:57)

"...we're capping out-of-pocket drug expenses for seniors on Medicare at a **maximum** of \$2,000 a year..."

(Source: Rev.com, 15:44)

This data is included in the type of antonym. Antonyms are defined as opposite words that have opposite meanings. In Joe Biden's speech, the word *minimum* is antonymous to the word *maximum*. Joe Biden uses the word *minimum* in the text to describe the least amount of taxes that must be paid. Whereas he uses the word *maximum* to describe the most, in the text, it is about limiting drug costs. In the context of the speech, the speaker is using words that are antonyms to talk about two things that have different meanings. As in the example above, the opposite word of the word *minimum* is *maximum*, which has a different meaning.

At the lexical level, the word *maximum* has the meaning of most. Thus, in accordance with the meaning of the word *maximum* in the sentence, it has a meaning, namely, something whose size refers to the highest point or peak. Meanwhile, the word *minimum* literally means the lowest; according to the context in the sentence, the word *minimum* is used for the minimum payment. Therefore, when viewed from the meaning contained in the word in the sentence of Joe Biden's speech text, the words *minimum* and *maximum* here use the actual meaning so that they are included in the literal meaning.

Meronym

Data 3

"...two of the best **members of the Congress**..."

(Source: Rev.com, 4:19)

And we have the attorney general here, too.

(Source: Rev.com, 4:31)

The data above belongs to the classification of Meronym. The word *member of Congress* is a general term, and *the attorney general* is a specific member or part of Congress, which represents a meronymy relationship. In this case, *member of Congress* refers to a broad category of legislators who participate in the lawmaking process, and the *attorney general* refers to a specific official who has a specialized role in a legal position. Both terms have a professional and institutional context, with the term *member of congress* referring to the legislative framework and the *attorney general* operating within the legal and executive spheres. The meronymy relationship between *member of congress* and *attorney general* is used as a linguistic tool in conveying concepts related to government structure, legal roles, and political functions.

On the lexical level, the words *member of Congress* and *attorney general* in the text belong to the literal meaning type. The word *member of Congress* in the sentence means a person who holds a position in the legislative body of the government. Meanwhile, the word *attorney general* in the sentence means a special official who handles legal matters. These terms can be understood literally in political and legal discussions. *Members of Congress* and *attorneys General* have roles and functions within the broader political and legal framework according to their literal meanings.

Polysemy

Data 4

"I'll lay out my **budget** on March the 9th."

(Source: Rev.com, 19:56)

"Show me your **budget**"

(Source: Rev.com, 20:06)

This data is included in the classification of lexical relation types, namely polysemy. Polysemy is a lexeme that has more than one meaning and all of them are widely related. The word *budget* in the text is used in two different contexts. The word *budget* is contained in the sentence "I'll lay out my budget on March the 9th." In this context, the word budget is used in the sense of a financial plan presented by an individual or as an indicator of value, and is used in a financial context. Whereas in the sentence "Show me your budget" found in the text the term budget still has a financial connotation but is slightly different, in this context it refers to a tangible representation of a financial plan display used to

show priorities when discussing government actions. The polysemy in the word *budget* here concerns the concept of shared finances, but is different regarding the actual planning and presentation in the report provided.

From the analysis above we can see that the word *budget* has two meanings. In the sentence "I'll lay out my budget on March the 9th" has a literal meaning. In this context, the word budget has a literal meaning which refers to a detailed financial plan or proposal that the speaker wants to present. The term is used in conveying the idea of outlining specific financial allocations. On the other hand, the sentence "Show me your budget" has a semi-idiomatic meaning. In this context, while the word budget still retains its literal meaning as a financial plan, there is a semi-idiomatic layer added. The phrase "Show me your budget" is more than just a request for financial details; it implies a deeper examination of the values, priorities, and decision-making reflected in the budget. The term budget exhibits a literal meaning in a direct financial context and a semi-idiomatic meaning when used in a broader sense to express values and priorities.

Hyponym Data 5

"**Doctors** let you live" (Source: Rev.com, 03:20)

"Healthcare workers that put their lives on the line"

(Source: Rev.com, 04:59)

From the speech above, it can be seen that the type of lexical relation found in this data is a hyponym. Hyponymy is a relationship between two words where the meaning of one word covers the other word, so it is used in conveying a specific part of a broader category. The word *doctors* are a hyponym of the more general term *healthcare workers*. *Healthcare workers* is an umbrella term that covers a wide range of healthcare roles, and *doctors* are one such role. *Doctors* thus provides a more specific description of the category in the context of broader healthcare roles. Not all *healthcare workers* are physicians, but physicians belong to a specialized subgroup within the broader healthcare field. In this case, doctors are included in the category *healthcare workers*, which implies a relationship of inclusion.

At the lexical level, the word *doctor* in the sentence of this text has a literal meaning, namely in relation to the dictionary definitions of the terms, *doctor* literally refers to a person with an academic degree and a license to practice who is authorized to examine, diagnose, and treat patients for diseases. Similarly, the

word *healthcare workers* in this sentence have a literal meaning encompassing a wider group authorized and involved in the provision of services in the field of health either directly such as doctors and nurses or indirectly such as laboratory technicians, pharmacists, or medical waste handlers. Therefore, in this data, both sentences belong to the type of literal meaning.

Member – collection

Data 6

"I knew a lot of good Republicans who represented this state as **senators**." (Source: Rev.com, 09:07)

"And Dina Titus and Steve Horsford, two of the best **members of the Congress** that I've ever worked with."

(Source: Rev.com, 04:19)

This data belongs to the member - collection type. Member - collection is a collected unit that represents membership in a collection. Member - collection is also a relationship between the word for a group of units in a unit and the term commonly used for a collection of units. The data above shows the word *senator* is a member of the collection *members of Congress*. Each senator is a member of a larger group known as *Congress*, which illustrates the member-collection relationship. A member-collection relationship involves an individual entity being part of a larger group or collection, thus called congress.

The word *senator* as a *member of the congress* in the classification of types of meaning belongs to the literal type of meaning. The literal meaning of the word *senator* refers to an elected official representing his state in the United States Congress who is responsible for and plays a role in congress. While literally the word *member of the congress* in the sentence indicates a broader group that includes *senators* and representatives elected to legislative positions that have political authority and meaning. Therefore, the word *senators* belong to the literal type of meaning and the word *members of the congress* belongs to the literal type of meaning.

Portion - Mass

Data 7

"How was I able to have these new programs and still **cut the deficit \$1.7 trillion** the last two years?"

(Source: Rev.com, 23:57)

"... after busting their necks their whole lives, they have a little bit left over."

(Source: Rev.com, 20:25)

In this data is included in the type of lexical relations, namely portion mass. Portion - mass is a relationship that occurs between the noun mass and the standard unit of measurement of its division. Portion mass describes a unit, a count noun that is added to a mass noun to produce a count noun. In the data, the phrase *cut the deficit \$1.7 trillion* as mass and the phrase *a little bit left over* as portion. The phrase *cut the deficit \$1.7 trillion* as a mass because it means making large financial adjustments. The word *trillion* indicates a large amount, which indicates a significant reduction in a country's financial shortfall. Whereas the phrase *a little bit left over* shows a smaller portion, thus indicating financial relief for individuals. It also signifies the amount of funds or resources left over after expenses or allocations have been made.

In the phrase *cut the deficit \$1.7 trillion*, the literal meaning refers to a substantial reduction in the financial shortfall by \$1.7 trillion. This interpretation gives a clear meaning of reducing the deficit by a large amount of money. Then the phrase *a little bit left over* in literal meaning shows the amount or small portion left over. In this case, it shows the amount or small portion left over from the American budget. Therefore, when viewed from the meaning contained in this data, the phrases *cut the deficit \$1.7 trillion* and *a little bit left over* only use the actual meaning so they are included in the literal meaning.

Homonym

Data 8

"The good news is that Eli Lilly, the biggest insulin maker in the United States of America, announced that they're **going** to answer my call and they're going to make this insulin available to everyone in America for \$35."

(Source: Rev.com, 14:17)

"They're used to **going** to the doc, but they're not used to the doc going into a tough area to take care of them."

(Source: Rev.com, 04:59)

This data is included in the Homonym lexical relation type. Homonymy is a relationship between words that have the same form but are not related. Homonyms can have different categories but the same spelling. Homonyms can be homophones, which are two words that have the same pronunciation but different meanings and writing. In this data, the word *going* in the sentence "The good news is that Eli Lilly, the biggest insulin maker in the United States of America, announced that they're going to answer my call and they're going to

make this insulin available to everyone in America for \$35" is used as an auxiliary verb that shows future action and in the second sentence "They're used to going to the doc, but they're not used to the doc going into a tough area to take care of them" is used as a present participle that shows ongoing action or habit in the second sentence. Therefore, the word going in both sentences is included in homonyms because they have the same spelling but different categories and meanings.

Based on the analysis of the word *going* in the first sentence "The good news is that Eli Lilly, the biggest insulin maker in the United States of America, announced that they're going to answer my call and they're going to make this insulin available to everyone in America for \$35" belongs to the fully idiomatic type of meaning. Because the word going in this sentence does not use a literal meaning but represents a part of the future tense that shows an action or plan that will occur in the future. It is used as an auxiliary verb to express Eli Lilly's intention in the future to answer calls and provide insulin. Whereas in the second sentence "They're used to going to the doc, but they're not used to the doc going into a tough area to take care of them" the word going in this sentence uses the literal meaning of a verb that shows action. Therefore, it can be concluded that the word going in the first sentence belongs to the fully idiomatic type of meaning and the word going in the second sentence belongs to the literal type of meaning.

CONCLUSION

In this study, it can be concluded that based on the data analysis, there are eight types of lexical relations as found in the theory used. The types of lexical relations are synonym, antonym, meronym, polysemy, hyponym, membercollection, portion-mass, and homonym. There are 30 data found and analyzed, namely, synonym as much as 8 data (26.7%), antonym as much as 10 data (33.3%), meronym as much as 3 data (10%), polysemy as much as 2 data (6.7%), hyponym as much as 2 data (6.7%), member-collection as much as 2 data (6.7%), portion-mass as much as 2 data (6.7%), and homonym as much as 1 data (3.3%). It can be concluded that the type of lexical relations that appear a lot or dominant is antonym. It shows that there are many opposite words used in the speech text. Meanwhile, there are three types of meaning, namely literal meaning, semiidiomatic meaning, and fully idiomatic. In the analysis, there are 51 data (85%) of literal meaning, 5 data (8.3%) of semi-idiomatic meaning, and 4 data (6.7%) of fully idiomatic meaning, that the dominant type of meaning that appears in this study is literal meaning. This happens because the use of words in the text refers more to the dictionary meaning or the actual meaning.

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