Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of Study

Most of the current dictionaries are created based on a corpus which is the actual use of a language in a particular community. According to Atkins and Rundell (2008:53), English corpora designed for use in lexicography have been around since the beginning of the 1980s. Therefore, current dictionaries of English language can be considered the reflection of the English community as they are based on the actual use of the language. In line with this argument, we can study the culture of the English community by analyzing their dictionaries.

One of the English dictionaries that uses a corpus is *the Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms* (ODEI). The latest edition is the third one that was published on July 1, 2010. The third edition contains entries for over 6,000 idioms, including 700 entirely new entries. It based on Oxford's language monitoring programs and the third edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. This edition also provides both American and British idiom variants, so we know the idioms of the different regions in the same meaning, such as the Americans say "all over the lot" while the British say "all over the shop" (ODEI, 2010).

According to Matthews (1997:169), an idiom is a set of expression in which two or more words are syntactically related, but with a meaning like

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that of a single lexical unit. For example, the English idiom ''man's best friend'' means a way or describing a dog. This is because in England it is common for man to have dogs. The similar concept cannot be found in another language for example in Indonesia. It happens because Muslims do not really take care of dogs. It was stated in the history that Prophet Muhammad does love cat so much. Therefore, Muslim would prefer to take care of cats than dogs. That's why the idiom "man's best friend" cannot be translated literally into another language, e.g. into Indonesian language. This shows that idioms are related to the culture in a particular society.

Radford (2004) adds that an idiom is a unitary constituent that the choice of subject, verb, and complement are fixed. This means we cannot change the word, like the example "man's best friend" cannot be change into "woman's best friend" to describe a dog. This means that there are differences between the words associated with man and woman in idioms. If we consider that an idiom is related to a particular culture, we can also says that the words used in the idioms can be analyzed in connection with culture.

As stated earlier, the culture can be seen from a dictionary. In connection with the words used in dictionaries, there are so called culturally bound terms. Kwary and Miller (2013:259) define a culturally bound terms as a cultural entity that is unique to a particular language and culture in a country or has unique meaning in that country among a certain cultural group. In a broader point of view, the word 'man' and 'woman' in the idioms can be seen as culturally bound terms because it is part of an idiom

that is being discussing in this thesis. In the English language, for example, there is the idiom "be man enough" means be brave enough to do something which shows that men are aggressive. In the ODEI, there are only few idioms related to women, and none of them show aggressiveness of the women.

The example above is one of the idioms related only to men. The idioms seem to reflect the opinion understood and affirmed by the society. They create the following set of oppositions, according to Eckert and McConnell-Ginet (2003:35) men are strong, women are weak; men are brave, women are timid; men are aggressive, women are passive; men are sex-driven, women are relationship-driven; men are impassive, women are emotional; men are rational, women are irrational; men are direct, women are indirect; men are competitive, women are cooperative; men are practical, women are nurturing; men are rough, women are gentle.

Those oppositions describes that both of man and woman have a positive and negative masculinity and femininity. Ricciardelli and Williams (1995, as cited in Brannon, 2004:197) suggests the example of positive and negative of masculinity and feminity, as shown in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 Examples of Positive and Negative Femininity and Masculinity (Ricciardelli and Williams, 1995, as cited in Brannon, 2004:197)

Femininity		Masculinity	
Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative

Patient	Timid	Strong	Aggressive
Sensitive	Weak	Confident	Bossy
Devoted	Needs approval	Firm	Sarcastic
Responsible	Dependent	Forceful	Rude
Appreciative	Nervous	Carefree	Feels Superior

As we can see in table 1.1. Examples of Positive and Negative Femininity and Masculinity, both femininity and masculinity have positive and negative categories.

Connel (1995, cited in Eckert and McConnell-Ginet, 2003) states there are two kinds of masculinities: the *physical masculinity* and *technical masculinity*. He describes that the *physical masculinity* is related to the physical power that is associated with the working-class people, while *technical masculinity* belongs to upper-middle class people that is symbolized with scientific and political power. In contrast, women are expected to have a good manner instead of physical strength as men have. This view of gender is common in most of the society all over the world.

Several studies have been conducted concerning gender stereotypes in the dictionary. Arimbi (2013) found that *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary* 3rd edition provide gender stereotypes in the meanings of words characterizing man and woman. In her study, she focuses on words labeled 'approving' and 'disapproving'. For example words for 'approving man' such as 'clean-cut', 'integrity', 'principle', 'sharp', 'unimpeachable', 'urbane', 'wholesome' and 'wise' indicate strong characterization of masculine traits that are heavily related to emotional maturity while words

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such as 'down-to earth 'perspicacity' and 'spontaneous' are more related to only emotional quality, not necessarily maturity. Examples for 'disapproving' labels for man and woman even show a very strong gender hierarchy. The words for man such as 'cocksure', 'ego', 'fussy' in the sentences exemplified have no correlation to moral and sexual connotation while for 'disapproving' woman such as 'fast', 'flighty', 'loose' suggest otherwise. 'Disapproving' category for man refers to character traits while for woman more about ethics on sexual morality. For woman, it is her sexual desire that must be regulated by the words signifying bad woman while for man it is only his characters: an indication of being a bad man. Sexual passivity is highly suggested for woman via these words in order to control woman and maintain man's domination. She believed that sexism as the concept of patriarchy plays an important role to give the meanings of words man and woman. Though the feminist movement has been going more than thirty years, man still dominates woman.

Another related study is conducted by Tenorio (2000). He research on the lexical items refers to the man and woman based on ten classification, they are: work or labor, physical appearance, behavioral patterns (i.e. sex, lie, potential for destruction), intelligence or lack of intelligence (i.e. skill and cleverness), social role modified, sexual role modified, soc-sex or sex in the public domain (i.e. marital status, sex dependent social roles, economic relations established in sexual terms), social status, modes of address and derogatory sense from CCALD (1987). He found that women only have a

close relationship with the physical appearance, emotion, and sex that it is a traditional pattern of woman in the society, while, men are always related to the work field and strong behavioral patterns (destruction) in CCALD (1987). For example, the larger job such as religious, military or political hierarchy refers to man in word "bishop" and stateman" and also the word "boxer" and "workman" related to the hardness and strength. While, the word "wardrobe mistress" means the job does not involve a great deal of responsibility is referred to woman. It means woman related to the something that is unimportant and under man's domination.

The other study that concerned to the gender stereotyping between man and woman in dictionary is conducted by Ishikawa (2013) entitled: "Gender stereotypes seen in dictionary descriptions published in Japan". She investigates that the descriptions in the dictionary under review created stereotyped images: Japanese husbands work as doctors or professors and cannot come home until late at night. Sons have to graduate university and gain a diploma to obtain a high-status job. Meanwhile, Japanese wives usually stay at home, are skilled at cooking, and wait up for their husbands.

This phenomenon assumes that although several studies have paid attention to gender stereotypes in dictionaries, there is no research in the dictionary of English idioms that are especially associated with the words "man" and "woman". This study tries to examine the existence of the phenomenon of gender stereotypes by analyzing the image of the words "man" and "woman" in idioms found in the *Oxford Dictionary of English*

THE IMAGE OF...

Idiom 3th edition (2010). In this thesis, the image of the words "man" and "woman" is based on the analysis of the collocates. Collocate is a word repeatedly found in the close vicinity of a node word in texts; for example, in English the words *partial, lunar, solar* are collocates of the word *eclipse* (Halliday et al., 2004: 167).

The collocates in English are divided into two categories they are content words and function words. According to Fromkin, Rodman, and Hyams (2003), content words are the words that denote concepts such as objects, actions, attributes, and ideas that we can think about. These words include nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. While function words are the words that do not have clear lexical meanings or obvious concepts associated with them. Function words include conjunctions, prepositions, the articles, and pronouns. The ones is chosen in this thesis are the content words because they carry meaning and denote concepts.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

In order to examine the phenomenon of gender stereotypes in the English idioms, especially in the *Oxford Dictionary of English Idiom*, this thesis formulates the following five research questions:

1. What English idioms use the word "man" only?

2. What English idioms use the word "woman" only?

3. What English idioms use both words "man" and "woman"?

4. Why some idioms only use the word "man", but not the word "woman"?

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5. Why some idioms only use the word "woman", but not the word "man"?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statements of the problems, the objectives of the study are formulated as follows:

1. To determine the English idioms which use the word "man" only.

2. To determine the English idioms which use the word "woman" only.

3. To determine the English idioms which use both the word "man" and "woman".

4. To explain why some idioms only use the word "man", but not the word "woman".

5. To explain why some idioms only use the word "woman", but not the word "man".

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that the study will have both practical and theoretical contributions to the studies of language, particularly those related to the language and gender. Practically, this study will help teachers to use the idioms selectively to avoid gender inequaity and stereotyping. The wider audiences know the meanings of the idioms and the reasons why some idioms are related only to woman and vice versa. Therefore, they can become more aware and wise in understanding male and female roles as they will know that gender stereotyping still exist.

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The theoretical contribution is to increase knowledge in English lexicography, especially in considering the image of male and female in the English idioms of learner's dictionaries. From this study, other researcher may interest for conduct subsequent research, for example, by conducting research on the other dictionary, and to compare the results with the findings in this thesis. The result of the study also contributes to analysis on idioms in semantics field or cultural studies as it is related to the culture.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

Idiom
: An expression whose meaning does not conform to the principle of compositionality, that is, may be unrelated to the meaning of its parts, e.g kick the bucket meaning "to die" (Fromkin et al., 2003, p.581).

Gender
: Gender is a social arrangement, and every individual's gender is built into th social order. (Eckert&Mc Connell-Ginet, 2003, p.13).

Stereotype
: A fixed idea or image that many people of have a particular type of person or thing,

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| | but which is often not true in reality (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary). |
| Lexicography | :The application of linguistic to the writing of dictionaries, taking the outputs of linguistic description and using them to to construct entries for words and other lexical items in dictionaries (Johnson, 2007, p.117). |

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