

THE ISOLATION OF LEXICAL ITEM ‘TEA’ FROM ‘SPILL THE TEA’ AMONG MALAY TWITTER USERS

HAMDİ KHALIS

Kolej Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Selangor
[*hamdikhalis@kuis.edu.my*](mailto:hamdikhalis@kuis.edu.my)

HIBRIYATUL RIFHAN

Kolej Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Selangor
[*hibriyatulrifham@kuis.edu.my*](mailto:hibriyatulrifham@kuis.edu.my)
(Corresponding author)

ABSTRACT

The appropriation of idioms in everyday communication has been a norm among language users. Lately, the use of only a single lexical item in an idiomatic phrase has been widely used especially by social media users. The use of isolated lexical item ‘tea’ from ‘spill the tea’ has been used extensively by Malay Twitter users. This research looks into the contexts that motivate Malay Twitter users to use the isolated lexical item ‘tea’. Thematic analysis was used as the framework of this research in order to strategically identify the context of this phenomenon. There are five categories in which the contexts fall into; 1) revealing oneself own secret, 2) workplace related issue, 3) Celebrity Gossips, 4) revealing another people’s secret, and 5) political discussion. The analysis revealed that most users used the isolated lexical item ‘tea’ when the users wanted to unveil a secret. Besides that, it is worth noting that even on social media, Malay users tend to avoid criticising a threatening issue. The findings of this research can be further applied in analysing the appropriation of idioms among social media users.

Keywords: context study; idioms; lexical item; peculiar meaning; twitter.

ISOLASI ITEM LEKSIKAL ‘TEA’ ‘SPILL THE TEA’ DALAM KALANGAN PENGGUNA TWITTER MELAYU

ABSTRAK

Pengubahsuaian simpulan bahasa dalam komunikasi harian sudah menjadi kebiasaan dalam kalangan pengguna sesuatu bahasa. Kebelakangan ini, penggunaan unit leksikal yang berasingan daripada frasa sintaksis sesuatu simpulan bahasa telah menjadi sesuatu yang biasa bagi pengguna media sosial. Melalui pemerhatian awal pengkaji, penggunaan unit leksikal ‘tea’ daripada simpulan Bahasa ‘spill the tea’ telah digunakan secara meluas oleh pengguna media sosial Twitter berbangsa melayu. Ini merupakan suatu fenomena yang asing kerana simpulan bahasa mestilah digunakan dalam suatu frasa yang tetap bagi ia mencapai maknanya. Analisis tematik digunakan sebagai rangka kajian bagi mengenalpasti konteks-konteks terjadinya fenomena ini, Kajian ini melihat kepada konteks yang menggalakkan pengguna-pengguna twitter menggunakan perkataan ‘tea’ ini. Terdapat lima (5) kategori konteks yang dapat disimpulkan oleh pengkaji, iaitu; 1) mendedahkan rahsia sendiri, 2) masalah di tempat kerja, 3) gossip-gossip selebriti, 4) pendedahan rahsia kenalan, dan 5) perbincangan politik. Analisis menunjukkan kebanyakan pengguna twitter menggunakan perkataan ‘tea’ ini untuk mendedahkan rahsia-rahsia yang sangat peribadi dan

dialami sendiri oleh pengguna akaun. Selain itu, pengguna twitter berbangsa melayu juga jarang mengkritik isu-isu yang mempunyai unsur intimidasi. Penemuan kajian ini dapat digunakan untuk mendalami lebih lagi isu pengubahsuaian simpulan Bahasa dalam kalangan pengguna media sosial.

Kata kunci: kajian konteks; idiom; item leksikal; simpulan bahasa; twitter.

INTRODUCTION

Idioms can be defined as phrases that produce a peculiar or distinctive meaning in which the meaning can only be understood if the exact lexical items are being put together in the exact similar syntax structure. Some early views saw idioms as phrases with abnormal syntax (Katz, 1973). The lexical components of an idiom were not analysed and seen as common phrases, but were rather stored and retrieved as a whole in a single phrase directly from the mental lexicon (Gibbs, 1980; Swinney & Cutler, 1979). The result from this view was that the idiomatic phrases were thought to be syntactically fixed, and its figurative meaning can only be generated from a specific structure of the idiom. According to Erman & Warren (2000), Glucksberg, (1989), and Pollio (1977) idioms refer to phrases which meaning goes beyond what is literally conveyed by the phrase's syntax components, and they are ubiquitous in everyday communication. An idiom must be used as the specific phrase it appears and the lexical item in the phrase cannot be used separately in order to produce the distinctive meaning. On the one hand, the syntax of an idiom is fixed and cannot be changed even if the grammatical constituent of the sentence changes. This notion (syntax of an idiom is fixed and cannot be changed) somehow has been violated by so many people especially on social media. On the other hand, idioms seem to adhere to basic grammatical rules, such as subject and tense agreement; he kicked the bucket (Schmitt, 2005), and some allow syntactic changes, such as passivation; the beans were spilled (Fraser, 1970). To conclude the views presented above, an idiom may sometimes follow basic grammatical rules, however, the syntax of it is not as flexible and can be changed according to the the grammatical constituent as common phrases may be. This pique the researcher's interest as idioms cannot be used as freely as common phrases, let alone being separated and used individually as a word. The use of the lexical item 'tea' away from the idiom 'spill the tea' does not only violate the common view of idiom as a fixed phrase, but rather flouting it.

The origin of the idiom 'spill the tea' is somewhat unclear and it is not academically gazetted. To a certain extent, based on the academic discussion on the Internet it is considered as a slang instead of an idiom by some academician. The researcher believes that 'spill the tea' is an idiom that has gone through the process of evolution driven by the change of culture and way of communicating through time. To support this argument, the researcher will lay the chronology of the evolution of this idiom.

'Spill the tea' originally comes from the idiom 'spill the beans'. According to the Cambridge Online Dictionary (2019), 'spill the beans' means to let secret information becomes known. It is believed that the origin of the idiom comes from Ancient Greek in which during that time beans were used as an instrument to represent votes. A white bean means a positive vote and a black bean means negative vote. Bear in mind that a vote may last for a few days as voters are allowed to go back to think first. So, an act of spilling the beans out of the casting bowl early would mean to pour out the secret (the result of the vote) early. However, this idiom was not surfaced until late late 20th century. In the researcher's opinion, it is best if we focus on the origin from the

20th century rather than the one from ancient Greek. According to Martin (2019), the phrase 'spill the tea' was first found in *The Stevens Point Journal*, June 1908 issue.

"Tawney, when he came to congress, wasn't welcomed within the big tent. He had to wait around on the outside. Then the blacksmith [Jim Tawney] got busy. He just walked off the reservation, taking enough insurgent Republicans with him to spill the beans for the big five."

According to the excerpt taken from the journal above, 'spill the beans' means to disrupt the stability that exists by talking out of turn in congress. This is the closer meaning to what the phrase means today.

From 'spill the beans' to 'spill the tea'

It appears that the isolated lexical item 'tea' was not originally spelled or came from the drink (tea). It is well known that this phrase originated from drag culture (Drag queen is mostly a male artist/performer that dresses as female during their performance with the intention to entertain). One of the earliest prints that used T or Tea was from an interview from a drag queen, Lady Chablis;

"Your T?"

"Yeah, my T. My thing, my business, what's goin' on in my life."

— Lady Chablis quoted in *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, John Berendt, 1994

In this interview, Lady Chablis meant T as 'Truth'. Which mean the truth about herself that she is, during that time a transgender. It appears that the word may also be spelled as 'tea' that has a double-edged meaning which may refer to oneself hidden truth or gossip (someone else's hidden truth).

Straight life must be so boring. Because everyone conforms. These gay kids carry on. ... They give you a dance and great tea [gossip].

— "Nate" quoted in *One of the Children: An Ethnography of Identity and Gay Black Men*, William G. Hawkeswood, 1991

At this point, this phenomenon has spread far beyond drag culture and has already been widely used by the majority of people, especially Internet users. The phrase 'spill the tea' is being used as an invitation to spread gossip whether privately with friends or publicly with everyone on the particular social media site. According to Siti Salasiha & Saiful Bahri (2013), people who are being connected by the Internet have their own folklore and thus creates a new style of language. This study describes the usage of a particular lexical item 'tea' in the idiom 'spill the tea'. The particular lexical item has been used as isolation from the idiomatic phrase. This is a concern because idioms are only supposed to be used as a phrase as only in that phrasal form it will produce the peculiar meaning intended in the process of communication. Through observation, it seems that twitter users understand the meaning 'tea' in isolation without the presence of the whole idiomatic phrase.

The use of the phrase 'spill the tea' also has spread among Malay twitter users. It is being used in the same manner and carries the same meaning. Twitter is a popular social media site where users can share updates, news, links to other websites, pictures, videos, and information. In this social media site, users are allowed to post a 'tweet'. A tweet is basically a textual digital post limited to 280 characters per tweet. In 2019, twitter has 336 million monthly active users with 500 million tweets posted every single day (websitehostingrating.com). This shows a huge number of interaction that happens on twitter. An issue arises with the negativity that comes with the phrase 'spill the tea'. Statistics show that one in five users (19 percent) have lost contact with somebody because of something that they said online (Marlyna Maaros & Liyana Rosli, 2017).

The primary concern of this research is to identify the context in which the isolated lexical item of an idiom 'spill the tea' being used in everyday conversation between Malay twitter users.

In any communication process, context is the most important aspect that may determine the real meaning of a message conveyed. Thus, this research attempts to describe the context behind the use of isolated lexical item 'tea' in the tweets retrieved from the Malay users.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Idioms vs Metaphors

Common view of linguists is interpretation of idioms involves certain level of metaphors (Nurnberg et al, 1994) Langacker (2008) and Hudson (2007). However, there is also a contradicting view in which the interpretation of idioms does not involve metaphorical process. According to Ciriaco (2019), idioms do not involve metaphorical expression process as idioms are being used as memorised chunks. Taken from the arguments from both views, this research holds the view that to a certain small extent, idioms involve metaphorical interpretation process. Metaphor is depicted as the element that is not being explicitly pointed out in the use of language. It is also known as a direct comparison that uses words such as 'like' and etc. used by a language user to show the creativity of one's mind (Hawa Mahfuzah Rusidin & Zulkifley Hamid, 2015). Metaphors are not only the maple syrup on pancakes of language. Not just the details that make songs and poetry beautiful. Metaphors are the flour used to make the pancake. Metaphors are a way of thinking and a way of shaping the thought of others. We use metaphors even in our daily interaction. It is so common to the extent that we do not even realize the words and phrases that we use actually belong to another subject domain. Metaphors play with the figurative meaning of the term rather than literal.

Despite the contradicting view of whether idioms involve metaphorical interpretation, the researcher believes that idioms only require the metaphorical interpretation process in the early period of the formation of a particular idiom. However, due to the 'reality shift' from one period of time to another, the reality of the world changes. People from the year 1800 would not understand the phrase 'mobile phone'. Most people in 2019 do not know how to light up a fire by using a rock and a twig. Due to this, in the latter existence of an idiom, it is remembered as chunk. According to Za'ba (1965), idioms can be defined as brief phrases that are commonly used by the speaker of a language, in which are rhythmic in its sound, on point in its notion to be used as comparisons, fables, and lessons (Hishamudin Isam & Mashetoh Abd Motalib, 2015). Idioms are being passed down through verbal communication, and this is a fast-paced process. The passed down idioms were not actually being explained of its origin. Thus, it encourages the idioms to be remembered as chunks. To sum it all up, both arguments have their truths. At first, an idiom was constructed through a metaphorical interpretation process. However, over time it was being passed down as chunks.

Social Media

The context of this study is based on the conversation that happened on social media. Studies on social media contents have increased recently, as quite a huge number of descriptive studies have been published. Even with this fact, the study of social media is still under development, generally new, and many problems need to be addressed. Generally, on social media platforms, people are identified by their full name, profile picture, and their personal information. In order to build their positive image, a study showed that social media users tend to post more about their achievements, success, and significant milestones rather than their failure and hardships (Day, 2013). Despite that, social media are still looming with hate speech and struggle over public opinion especially

on Twitter. Azi Lev-On (2019), stated that studies demonstrate that social media function as platforms of struggle over public opinion. For example, a high-profile local issue can be made known worldwide, thus, producing opinions from the mass Internet audience. High-profile events such as elections, security, or economic crises can lead to the proliferation of hate speech (Oksanen, Hawdon, Holkeri, Näsi, & Räsänen, 2014). To put this research into perspective, a personal issue being made public by the Twitter users were conveyed through hate speech using the word 'tea' that contains negative connotation.

From another perspective, social media has been an integral part of our daily life as a society. We are able to interact with anyone from all around the world in a matter of seconds in the form of voice calls, text messaging, textual posts, and image sharing. This enables us to share and receive information quicker than ever thus; creates a whole new community of the Internet. This research is conducted in order to investigate the use of the isolated lexical item of 'tea' in idiom 'spill the tea'. The occurrences of the use of the isolated lexical item of an idiom in everyday conversation are rare. However, through early observation this phenomenon happens regularly during the interaction process on twitter. This sparks the interest of the researcher to conduct this kind of research to look into the different communication process happened on twitter.

METHODOLOGY

In this chapter, a brief explanation of how data were collected for the research and the methodology in analysing the collected data is presented. The types of data gathered for this study were Twitter posts (tweets) that contain the lexical item 'tea'. During the data collecting process, the researcher had to carefully screen the tweets that fit in the criteria. The researcher had to go through each particular tweet in order to identify whether the lexical item 'tea' was the one that came from the idiom 'spill the tea'. Tweet replies and Internet search regarding the issues discussed in each tweet were analysed in order to determine whether the tweets fit in the category.

The researcher was able to extract 97 tweets which contained the lexical item 'tea' which were then compiled into a Microsoft Word document for further analysis. The replies and Internet search results were also being put together with each particular tweet. To protect the confidentiality of the users, their username was not included during the data collection process. The tweets gathered were from May 2017 to May 2018. The reason why this particular period of time was selected is because of the high occurrences of related events (celebrity gossips & social media famous news) happened.

The tweets gathered were between the period of May 2018 until May 2017. The search has been refined to cover Petaling Jaya/Klang Valley area. Besides that, this research only deals with malay twitter users who were identified by looking at the names and the accounts' profile picture. Finally, the tweets were analysed through contextual analysis in the effort of categorizing the types of the context surrounding the use of isolated lexical item of the idiom 'spill the tea'.

Thematic Analysis

Thematic analysis is a method for identifying, analysing, and reporting patterns within data (Braun & Clarke, 2006) the researcher conducted a thematic analysis (TA), from the steps described by Braun and Clarke (2006). The method is data-driven and inductive qualitative method is used to identify, analyse, interpret, and report themes of pattern in the data-set gathered. There are seven phases in analysing the tweets gathered through thematic analysis; Phase one (familiarization): the researcher read the text several times and took notes. This is to ensure the research to be familiar

with the data. Phase two (generating initial codes): Code 1-7 were used to tag the data that fell under the context category.

Phase three (searching for themes): The codes from phase two were transferred into a spreadsheet and similarities across codes were further discussed for potential themes. The researcher found that a few from the 7 codes in the previous step should be merged together into 5 codes. Phase four (reviewing themes): to ensure the similarity and suitability of themes produced, some revisions and arrangements between the data and the codes were done, and the themes were being renamed to produced these five (5) themes; 1) revealing oneself own secret, 2) workplace related issue, 3) Celebrity Gossips, 4) revealing another people's secret, and 5) political discussion. Phase six (producing the report): descriptive text that represents the data analysed were written. Phase seven (producing the report): the final phase was to write a summary of each theme and support the findings with the tweets represent the particular theme.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

There are 97 tweets that were considered qualified to be taken as the data for this study. The Tweets were then being analysed in terms of the lexical item 'tea' falls into the 'tea as a drink' category and 'spill the tea' category. There were 47 tweets that fell under 'tea as a drink' category which were not analysed anymore from this point. On the other hand, there are 50 tweets that fell under 'spill the tea' category. The 'spill the tea' category edged out the other category only by three tweets. However, this does not necessarily tell us the whole picture of the occurrences of using 'tea' as the isolated lexical item. This is because there are twitter accounts that are in 'private' mode and cannot be taken into consideration through 'public' searches.

The 50 tweets that contained idiom isolated lexical item can be categorized into five categories of context. These contexts are the motivations that escalate twitter users to use the isolated idiom lexical item 'tea' in their tweets. Those contexts are; 1) revealing oneself own secret, 2) workplace related issue, 3) Celebrity Gossips, 4) revealing another people's secret, and 5) political discussion. before we dive deeper into the analysis, it is necessary for the researcher to briefly describe each and every category of the context. The first context is 'revealing oneself own secret' which means the owner of the account himself or herself made it known to the account's followers of his/her secret. The second context is 'workplace related issue'. This is when users use the lexical item 'tea' while writing about dissatisfaction at his/her workplace. The third context is 'celebrity gossip' which the users went to social media discussing the secret of a well-known figure in society. Last but not least, the fourth context is 'another people's secret' in which the situation is when users use the tweets to reveal the secrets of the people related to them. Lastly, the fifth context is 'political discussion' where users were talking about political issues. The tweets are being categorized into these five groups and more detail analysis are presented in the following paragraphs.

Context 1: Revealing his/her own secret.

There are a few instances in which Malay Twitter users use the isolated idiom lexical item 'tea' to reveal his/her secret to their account followers. The secret usually about the relationship issue between the account owners and their partner.

EXCERPT 1. Context 1 tweet

- Original tweet: Ini tea paling syok untuk dinikmati tatkala hari ini. Bodoh sial cara dia denied tu. Taktau ke dia dah totally busted.
- Translated tweet: this is the best tea to be enjoyed today. The way he denied is so stupid. Didn't they know that they are already busted?

The above excerpt shows the user shared her relationship problem through her twitter account by saying that her partner who had been cheating on her was busted. However, when asked, the partner denied it. Revealing his/her own relationship issue is the most common motivation that leads to users to use isolated lexical item 'tea' in describing the secret.

EXCERPT 2. Context 1 tweet

- Original tweet: And guess what? My Ex decided to broke up with me on the same week, after knowing Im bout to extend my stays. The audacity of him being selfish, like I MISS MY MOM YOU FREAK, issit so hard to understand me? Lmao. That's it. That's the tea. Ehek

The tweet above tells the same story as another user use the isolated lexical item 'tea' referring to her relationship issue. The difference between the EXCERPT 2 compared to EXCERPT 1 is in EXCERPT 2 the user claimed that her partner was inconsiderate as he ditched the relationship because the user decided to stay longer with her mother at her hometown.

EXCERPT 3. Context 1 tweet

- Original tweet User 1: Why do I feel like I am being judged all the time by Mueez? What have I done? ??
User 2: He must saw something u have done. I need the tea ??
User 1: Mueez will serve you hot tea. ??
(Mueez is a cat)

EXCERPT 3 represents something a little different from the previous excerpts. In x.3 the user was talking about his cat (Mueez) in which the cat looked at him funny. To put it into perspective his pet has always been with him and knows a lot about him. Even his secret. So when the cat was looking at him funny, he thought that maybe his cat is judging him. The 2nd user went on to say that he needed to know the secret and referring to the secret as 'tea'.

This majority of tweets in this category is about the users' revealing his/her relationship issue. Almost 90% of the number of tweets are about the users' relationship issue. The rest of the tweets are about personal opinion, advice, and jokes.

Category 2: Workplace Issue.

There were not many occurrences where people use 'tea' to refer to their workplace issue (the reason will be discussed in the next chapter). Out of the 50 tweets gathered, there are only two tweets that fell under this category.

EXCERPT 4. Context 2 tweet

Original tweet	User 1: Takooodddd tgk following uolls User 2: Sapa lagi kau stalk nyah User 1: Orang2 industry kita je babe aiiyooo adewww User 2: Spill da tea sis User 1: Puasa nyah, tak nak la tumpah kan air teh eh
Translated tweet	User 1: I got scared when i see the people 'you' follow. User 2: Did you stalk anybody else? User 1: Only the people in our 'industry' aiiyooo adewww User 2: Spill da tea sis. User 1: I'm fasting girl. I do not want to spill the tea

The excerpt shows the use of isolated lexical item 'tea' to refer to a workplace issue. User 1 was writing about how he was terrified of the people in his industry after doing some checking on their social media accounts. User 2 in the excerpt asked user 1 to tell him the secret. The secret about people in the industry was referred to as 'tea' by user 2. A rare occurrence happened in the final line of the conversational thread where user 1 translates the isolated lexical item 'tea' into his first language (teh).

EXCERPT 5. Context 2 tweet

Original tweet	User 1: Aiii...nak hantar sekeping surat pun kene wakil ramai2 ke? siap duduk hotel dan flight..kata nak jimat. Tak nampak relevannya kenapa yg lain tu perlu ikut. User 2: Pm tepi pls ?? User 1: Lemme spill the tea
Translated tweet	User 1: Aiii...Is it necessary for all of them to send the letter? They even stay in a hotel and went there by plane..said that they want to cut cost. Can't see the reason why all of them has to go. User 2: What's the tea? PM me please ?? User 1: Let me spill the tea

EXCERPT 5 is the last tweet to fall under the workplace issue category. User 1 was criticising his colleagues in which they went to send a letter. The user thinks that it is unnecessary for all of them to go and went on to say that their notion of wanting to cut the operational cost was not shown in their action. User 2 then use the isolated lexical item 'tea' to refer to the situation happened in user 1's workplace.

Category 3: Celebrity Gossip.

The third category of the motivation of the users to use the isolated lexical item 'tea' is celebrity gossip. The origin of the idiom 'spill the tea' was closely related to the unveiling of the secrets of well-known figures.

EXCERPT 6. Context 3 tweet

Original tweet 1	Me reading aliff aziz's tea this morning *pretends to be shocked gif*
Original tweet 2	Oooohhhh new tea has been spilled!! Syafiq Kylez you're cancelled!! So cancelled!!!

The excerpt above shows the gossip of Aliff Aziz (a well-known male actor in Malaysia) that has been referred to as tea by a twitter user. This issue had been discussed widely by Malaysians especially on social media. The excerpt shows that the user was not shocked to see that the subject (Aliff Aziz) to keep cheating on his wife.

The user was shocked when she learned that the subject cheated on his wife again. Still within the local context, the second excerpt in was about another well-known Malaysian actor Syafiq Kyle. Recently, Syafiq Kyle was hit by a controversial leaked media which impacted his image. The Twitter user use the word 'tea' to refer to the leaked media.

EXCERPT 7. Context 3 tweet

Original tweet Okay but based on the tea with tati westbrook, essentially 2 years back tati was the one who wanted to help jc to make it into the industry, essentially she helped build his career and have been nothing but kind,supportive and help to jc in buidling his brand and business, (1)

The second excerpt in this category shows the same context of the use of isolated lexical item 'tea'. However, this context involves internationally-known celebrities. Tati Westbrook, and James Charles (JC) are world-famous YouTube celebrity. The disagreement that they had were because of one was feeling betrayed by the other. The Twitter user use the isolated lexical item 'tea' to describe the secret being kept by Tati Westbrook about she was the one to help James Charles in his career. Because of the differences they had latter of their career, Tati felt betrayed.

Context 4: Revealing Another People's Secret.

EXCERPT 8. Context 4 tweet

Original tweet User 1: riak betul cara cakap macam hebat sangat ??
User 2: is that tea i smell
User 1: which tea you smelled?
User 2: this tea, that needs to be spilt
User 3: sis lemme get a sip of it too

Translated tweet User 1: Who do you think you are so cocky ??
User 2: is that tea i smell
User 1: which tea you smelled?
User 2: this tea, that needs to be spilt
User 3: sis lemme get a sip of it too

The excerpt above shows how a Twitter user used isolated lexical item 'tea' to refer to bad information of a personally-known person. User 1 tweeted that her friend was talking too cocky for his/her own good. Then the 2nd and 3rd users encouraged her to reveal the secret about the person that they personally know by using the isolated lexical item 'tea'.

EXCERPT 9. Context 4 tweet

Original tweet User 1: I like this tea
User 2: another season of curang 64335088, ooooh the tea is hot
User 1: disebabkan sekarang tengah musim alif aziz so i nak spill the tea boyfriend kawan i curang pergi vacation dekat genting ??????

Translated tweet User 1: I like this tea

User 2: another season unfaithfulness 64335088, oooh the tea is hot

User 1: Because it is the season of Aliff Aziz, so i want to spill the of my friend's boyfriend cheated on her by going to Genting for a vacation ??????

EXCERPT 9 represents another tweet that uses the isolated lexical item 'tea' with the motivation of revealing other people's secret. User 1 tweeted that she liked the secret that she knew. Then user 2 encourages her by saying that 'the tea is hot'. Then user 1 revealed her intention of using the isolated lexical item 'tea' that is to uncover the secret about her friend's partner.

Category 5: Political Discussion.

EXCERPT 10. Context 5 tweet

Original tweet	The tea is scalding today (Bekas ahli Majlis Syura Ulama PAS, Zaharudin Muhammad mendedahkan lima nama pemimpin PAS yang terbabit dengan 'kartel dedak' dengan menerima wang berjuta-juta ringgit daripada UMNO.)
Translated tweet	The tea is scalding today (The former member of PAS Islamic Scholar Group, Zaharuddin Muhammad unveiled the names of five PAS leaders that were involved with the million ringgit corruption received from UMNO)

The final excerpt presented in this chapter in EXCERPT 10 shows the use of the isolated lexical item 'tea' referring to a secret unveiled in the local political scene. The secret was that a former member of PAS alleged that some of the PAS leaders had received corruption from UMNO.

To conclude this chapter, there are five (5) categories in which Malay Twitter users would use the idiom isolated lexical item 'tea'. Those categories are 1) revealing oneself own secret, 2) workplace related issue, 3) Celebrity Gossips, 4) revealing another people's secret, and 5) political discussion. It is worth to take note that the most occurrences of this phenomenon happened when users wanted to unveil their own secret or the secret of someone that they personally have known. This is because the information provided by the users are more authentic as they went through it first-hand. This can be compared to the third category (celebrity gossip) in which only came third. The experience of reporting the gossip of celebrity is not personalised as most users did not know the celebrities personally. Another interesting finding would be that there were not so many people wanted to unveil the issues and secrets of their workplace, as well as their political opinion. This is because these two are a heavy and serious issue, thus users usually avoid to criticise and commenting on this matter publicly.

CONCLUSION

To sum it all up, Malay Twitter users used a lot of idiom isolated lexical item 'tea' in their twitter posts to refer to secrets that they wanted to unveil. There were even a few rare and unique occurrences where users manipulated the lexical structure of the idiomatic phrase or translated the isolated lexical item 'tea' into his/her first language. There are a few types of context that encourage Malay Twitter users to use the lexical item 'tea' in their tweets, but the most significant contexts are when users wanted to unveil the secret of their own or someone they personally know. This research will open many doors towards future research on how social media users manipulate

the language to suit their needs in communicating on the Internet. New research on the syntax of idioms can be conducted to observe the evolution of these idioms through the passing of time.

There are also a few limitations that can be taken into consideration for future research. The first one is by doing the cross-checking of this phenomenon with gender factor, different cultural background, and on Twitter users from other races. The second limitation is the tweets gathered for this research are only limited to the Twitter accounts that are public. The researcher believes if we can get the permission of retrieving data from private Twitter accounts, the findings will represent the phenomenon more accurately.

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Biodata Penulis:

Hamdi Khalis, lecturers at Centre for Core studies of International Islamic University College of Selangor. Both writers have been working together on multiple research on Corpus Linguistics specialize in Corpus in Language Learning and Sentiment Analysis on Social Media.

Hibriyatul Rifhan, junior lecturers at Centre for Core studies of International Islamic University College of Selangor. Both writers have been working together on multiple research on Corpus Linguistics specialize in Corpus in Language Learning and Sentiment Analysis on Social Media.