



THE ROLE OF EXPRESSING EMOTIONS FIGURATIVELY : IDIOMS

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Abstract:

Figurative language such as metaphors and idioms have been considered to be one of the essentials points of literal language counting some essential factors which provide the allurements of lexicon of a language. The purpose of this article is to highlight some significant aspects and importance of „ frozen patterns” in English and Uzbek languages.

Keywords:

Idioms, significant aspects, metaphorical, invariable, categorization, Longman’s Dictionary, Jargon, Archaisms.



Different kinds of idiomatic expressions can be encountered in daily life that are usually used during in-person conversations, in means of mass-media such as magazines, social networks and newspapers. On top of this, figurative language has been extensively used in literature sphere of English language including poetry, fiction, novels. Knowledge of multi-word expressions is an important aspect of language proficiency that so far we have known surprisingly little about. Generally, most linguists define idioms as words or phrases that aren’t meant to be taken literally. According to Cambridge dictionary, an idiom is a group of words in a fixed order that have a particular meaning that is different from the meanings of each word on its own. The phenomenon of idiomaticity constitutes a common factor in all living languages and its appreciation is considered the cornerstone of learning and mastering any given language. Further, Baker rightly points out that idioms are “frozen patterns of a language which allows little or no variation in form and often carry meanings which can not be deduced from their individual components” [1;23]. For example, “See eye to eye” means agreeing with someone not looking at someones’ eyes, “Call it a day” defines stop working on something not naming a day[3]. There are a large number of Idioms and they are used very commonly in all languages. Just in English language it is estimated to be at least 25,000 idiomatic. here is a short list of the most common idioms of English speakers:

Idiom	Meaning	Usage
A blessing in disguise	a good thing that seemed bad at first	as part of a sentence
A dime a dozen	Something common	as part of a sentence
Beat around the bush	Avoid saying what you mean, usually because it is uncomfortable	as part of a sentence
Better late than never	Better to arrive late than not to come at all	by itself
Break a leg	Good luck	by itself
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[3]By learning carefully the ideas of outstanding linguists above, we can say that frozen patterns or simply „idioms” are considerable part of any active language contributing significant value in its linguistic base. Moreover, it should be mentioned idiom comprehension also carries high weight in any foreign language in order to prevent some misunderstandings in the process of learning or using the language. Take an example, when someone says “ I am under the weather,” a person who does not know about the true meaning of this idiom may think that person is staying under the rain, but actually it has nothing to do with weather patterns, but rather that person is feeling quite ill. There some main features of idioms in five points as follows:

1. Idioms are all in all metaphorical and cannot be understood directly.
2. They should not be taken literally; in the sense that their meanings are not the outcome of the individual meanings of their constituent words taken collectively.
3. Their syntactic form is usually fixed and cannot be changed or described as ungrammatical.
4. Their meanings are also invariable.
5. They are mainly cultural and informal [2;204].

Clearer but looser categorization of idioms is introduced by Longman’s Dictionary of English Idioms. Twelve types are distinguished:

(a) Traditional idioms: are the well-known, most popular idioms, that are almost full sentences, only a subject to be provided: e.g. ‘spill the beans’.

(b) Idioms in which actions stand for emotions or feelings: Cultural idioms of actions in appearance, but emotions or feelings by cultural implication; e.g. ‘throw up one’s arms/hands’ (culturally, the action here is a sign of annoyance, not of happiness).

(c) Pairs of words: idioms in which two words are joined by and/or, many of which cannot be reversed: e.g. ‘cats and dogs’; ‘spick and span’, ‘hammer and tongs’, etc.

(d) Allusions: words or phrases of special cultural significance and reference: e.g. ‘Westminster’ (the British Parliament and Government); ‘catch 22’.

(e) Sayings: informal popular sayings and metaphorical proverbs in complete sentences: e.g. ‘There’s always (a) next time’; ‘A rolling stone gathers no moss’. (f) Typical conversational phrases: fixed conversational phrases whose meanings are not literal: ‘How do you do?’; ‘Now you’re talking!’.

(g) Similes: these are popular and cultural phrases with ‘as ... as’ structure, or the use of like: e.g. ‘as quick as a flash’; ‘work like a horse’. 206 Hasan Ghazala

(h) Archaisms: old phrases that are not in frequent use now: e.g. ‘to and fro’; ‘kith and kin’.

(i) Jargon: phrases or words confined to special and technical use: e.g. ‘paraphernalia’ (i.e. procedure).

(j) Foreign phrases: French or other foreign idiomatic phrases that are in popular use: e.g. the French phrase ‘bête noire’ (black beast), used to describe a bad person.

(k) Common phrases and terms: phrases that are common in use but do not present a metaphorical problem: e.g. ‘on strike’; ‘fish and chips’; etc.

(l) Phrasal verbs: Combinations of verbs and one or two adverbial particles or prepositions that cannot be understood literally: e.g. 'look up'; 'read through'; 'watch out'; etc [2;205].

It should be stated that some idioms also have a well-formed literal meaning (e.g., *break the ice*, *Pull someone's leg*), when these kind of idioms used, the reader/listener has to decide between competing interpretations favoring the one contextually relevant and inhibiting already processed and actually irrelevant information associated to individual word meanings. For example, idiomatically "pull someone's leg" means to tell someone something that is not true as a way of joking with the person[4], but, on contrary, if an idiom-comprised-words are translated literally, they can also express true meaning.

The main reasons of using idioms are to beautify the lexicon of a language and avoid repeating the same words many times. In addition they can amplify messages in a way that draws readers in and helps to awaken their senses. Some scientists consider that without idiomatic language would be very bland and unexciting" (John and Smithback, 1991, preface). Hence, their importance in any language "cannot be doubted [in view of the fact that their] ubiquity makes them anything but a marginal phenomenon" (Wallace, 1968, p. 112)[1;24].

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