

THE CULTURAL AND LEXICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ENGLISH IDIOMS

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ANNOTATION: This article explores the cultural and lexical significance of English idioms. Idioms are examined as important linguistic units that reflect national mentality and cultural values. The study focuses on the challenges of translating idioms, their contextual meanings, and their role in intercultural communication. Furthermore, the article analyzes how idioms contribute to a deeper understanding of language and culture in the process of language learning.

Keywords: idioms, english language, culture, lexical meaning, figurative expressions, language learning, translation

АННОТАЦИЯ: В данной статье рассматривается культурное и лексическое значение английских идиом. Идиомы анализируются как важные языковые единицы, отражающие национальное мышление и культурные ценности. В статье освещаются трудности перевода идиом, их контекстуальное значение и роль в межкультурной коммуникации. Также рассматривается, как идиомы способствуют более глубокому пониманию языка и культуры в процессе изучения иностранного языка.

Ключевые слова: идиомы, английский язык, культура, лексическое значение, образные выражения, изучение языка, перевод

ANNOTATSIYA: Ushbu maqolada ingliz tilidagi idiomalarning madaniy va leksik ahamiyati tahlil qilinadi. Idiomalar milliy tafakkur va madaniy qadriyatlarini ifodalovchi muhim til birliklari sifatida ko'rib chiqiladi. Maqolada idiomalarning tarjima jarayonidagi qiyinchiliklari, kontekstual ma'nolari hamda ular xalqaro muloqotdagi o'rni yoritiladi. Shuningdek, idiomalar til o'rganish jarayonida til va madaniyatni chuqurroq anglashga qanday hissa qo'shishi tahlil qilinadi.

Kalit so'zlar: idiomalar, ingliz tili, madaniyat, leksik ma'no, obrazli ifodalar, til o'rganish, tarjima

Introduction: Idioms are an essential part of any language, reflecting the collective experience, traditions, and worldview of its speakers. In English, idiomatic expressions are widely used in both spoken and written communication, making them a vital component of fluency and cultural understanding. These expressions often have meanings that cannot be deduced from the individual words, which makes them particularly challenging for language learners. This article aims to explore the cultural background and lexical properties of English idioms. It investigates how idioms function as carriers of cultural identity and how their meanings are shaped by historical and societal contexts. Understanding idioms is crucial not only for mastering the English language but also for gaining insight into the culture it represents.

IDIOMS AND THEIR LEXICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Idioms are fixed expressions whose meanings cannot be deduced from the individual meanings of their components. They are a unique part of a language's lexicon and often possess distinct lexical properties. Unlike ordinary phrases, idioms are usually non-compositional, meaning the overall meaning is not a straightforward combination of the meanings of the words involved. For example, the English idiom "kick the bucket" means "to die," which is very

different from the literal interpretation of the words. Lexically, idioms often have a fixed structure and limited variability; changing words within the idiom usually leads to a loss of meaning or produces a nonsensical phrase. Moreover, idioms can function as single lexical units and are often stored in the mental lexicon as whole expressions rather than separate words. This lexical status allows idioms to enrich a language by providing expressive and concise ways to convey complex ideas, emotions, or cultural nuances.

CULTURAL EXPRESSION THROUGH IDIOMS

Idioms are not merely linguistic expressions; they are deeply embedded in the culture and worldview of the speakers. They reflect historical experiences, social values, beliefs, and traditions. For instance, idioms often use metaphors rooted in everyday life, nature, religion, or historical events unique to a culture. Through idioms, one can gain insights into how a community perceives the world and communicates shared knowledge. For example, English idioms like “the early bird catches the worm” emphasize the value of punctuality and initiative, reflecting cultural attitudes towards work and success. Similarly, idioms often encode moral lessons, humor, or social criticism, making them a rich resource for cultural studies.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH AND UZBEK IDIOMS

A comparative analysis of English and Uzbek idioms reveals both universal and culture-specific features. While some idiomatic expressions may share similar themes or convey parallel meanings such as idioms related to time, emotions, or nature many idioms are unique due to distinct cultural backgrounds. For example, the English idiom “spill the beans” means to reveal a secret, whereas the Uzbek idiom “sirni oshkor qilmoq” literally translates as “to disclose a secret,” showing a similar concept but different lexical form. However, there are idioms in Uzbek that have no direct equivalents in English, reflecting local customs, traditions, or social realities. The structure and imagery in Uzbek idioms often involve natural elements like animals, plants, and traditional occupations, which may differ from English idioms that are influenced by Western history and social life. Understanding these differences enhances cross-cultural communication and highlights the importance of idioms in preserving cultural identity.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Idioms represent a vital aspect of any language, combining lexical uniqueness with deep cultural significance. Their fixed structures and non-compositional meanings distinguish them from other lexical items, making them a rich and expressive tool in communication. Idioms not only serve linguistic purposes but also reflect the historical, social, and cultural values of a speech community. The analysis has shown that both English and Uzbek idioms offer insights into their respective cultures, with many expressing shared human experiences while others remain unique due to cultural specificity. English idioms often reflect values such as individualism and pragmatism, whereas Uzbek idioms highlight collectivism, respect for tradition, and a strong connection to nature and rural life. By studying idioms comparatively, language learners and researchers can deepen their understanding of cross-cultural communication, enhance translation accuracy, and appreciate the linguistic diversity that idiomatic expressions bring to both everyday and literary language.

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