

Name: Syeda Umul Banin

Id : 16932

**Assignment : Idioms and its role
in English**

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Idioms:- An idiom is a phrase or expression whose meaning can't be understood from the ordinary meanings of the words in it. For example, "Get off my back!" is an idiom meaning "Stop bothering me!" The idiom "You hit the nail on the head" means "You're exactly right."

It is a figure of speech established by usage that has a meaning not necessarily deducible from those of the individual words.

What is an Idiom:- Idioms are a type of figurative language, which means they are not always meant to be taken literally. Idioms express a particular sentiment, but they do not literally mean what the individual words themselves mean.

An idiom is a saying that is specific to a language.

For example, an idiom in English does not translate to an idiom in Spanish.

Idiom Example:-

- The grass is always greener on the other side.

This idiom does not literally mean that the “other side” will always have greener grass. There may not even be a literal “other side” to the subject at hand—or grass for that matter.

The meaning of this idiom is that people think the *other* person, or someone in a *different* situation, has it better, or easier, than they do.

Popular Idiom Example:-

There are thousands of examples of idioms in English alone. Each language has at least an equal amount, so this list is by no means exhaustive.

- Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

- **Origin: The saying has existed for centuries in various forms; main creditor: Margaret Wolfe Hungerford, 1878**

- **Meaning: What looks beautiful to one person may not look beautiful to another.**

- **Don't count your chickens before they hatch.**

- a) **Origin: Samuel Butler poem, 1663**

- b) **Meaning: Do not count on something before it has come to be.**

- **No crying over spilt milk.**

- a) **Origin: unknown**

- b) **Meaning: Do not be upset about something that cannot be changed. OR: Do not be upset about something that is really just a small matter.**

Curiosity killed the cat.

- **Origin: proverb; Ben Jonson play, 1598**

- **Meaning: Being too curious or inquisitive can be dangerous.**

It's raining cats and dogs.

- **Origin: unknown**
- **Meaning: There is a heavy downpour.**

Back to the drawing board.

- **Origin: possibly artist Peter Arno, 1941**
- **Meaning: Time to start over. We need to start from the beginning.**

The hay is in the barn.

- **Origin: unknown**
- **Meaning: The action is complete. It is finished.**

A penny for your thoughts.

- **Origin: perhaps English ruler Penda, c. 640**
- **Meaning: What are you thinking?**

Beat around the bush.

- **Origin: Medieval Period**
- **Meaning: Someone is avoiding the topic**

You can't judge a book by its cover.

- **Origin: mid-19th century**

- **Meaning:** Do not assume you know someone or something by how he or it appears.

That costs an arm and a leg.

- **Origin:** unknown
- **Meaning:** That is very expensive.

Idioms are not always

Grammatical:-

Since idioms are born out of popular usage, they aren't always logical, and they don't always follow traditional grammar patterns.

This is because the phrase itself carries the meaning of the idiom, and not the individual words in the phrase, regardless of each word's grammatical function.

For example,

- This is a life-and-death situation.

Something that is *life-and-death* is extremely important, but that phrase itself is illogical. A situation can't be life *and* death.

Similarly, a phrase like *it's not you, it's me* is technically ungrammatical.

Idioms are not complete thoughts:-

As with any **phrase**, an idiom itself doesn't create a complete sentence. They require additional context to give them meaning.

For example,

- beat around the bush

This idiom is not a complete sentence. It's the idea itself that is the idiom. One might make it into a complete sentence by saying:

- Don't beat around the bush.

-OR-

- He's beating around the bush.

Importance of Idiom:-

An idiom is an expression with a figurative meaning that differs from the literal meaning. We hear idioms every day – both in conversation and in the media. Used correctly, idioms can amplify messages in a way that draws readers in and helps to awaken their senses.

Role of Idiom in

English:- The most widely used

English idioms are considered in the present paper, their role in English language learning is analyzed as well. The significance of idioms in the modern English language is impossible to underestimate since they make a colloquial speech lively and rich. And, without doubt, idioms are actually used by native speakers in their everyday language. Consequently, it is necessary to pay a particular attention to these lexical units studying a foreign language. Furthermore, some ways of learning idioms individually as well as by means of various communicative types of activity under the guidance of a teacher are also considered in the

research.

Keywords: idioms, lexical units, learning process, educational activity

English is considered to be not only the most popular and demandable language in the world but also one of the most beautiful languages. Moreover, the English language is particularly rich in lexis. Without doubt, idioms play a great role in the enrichment of the English language. Idioms represent unique cultural and historical information as well as broaden people's understanding and manipulation of English. Native speakers use idioms to make their speech more colorful and alive. That is why it is definitely important for non-native speakers to learn not only grammar and new lexical units as well as acquire reading, listening and writing skills but also pay attention to idioms in the process of English language learning.

This work is focused on considering the most popular English idioms and their role for non-native speakers as a part of mastering the English language. Let us consider a definition of the term «idiom». According to Oxford dictionary, an idiom refers to a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words. In

other words, an idiom is an expression, whose meaning cannot be deduced from the literal definitions, but refers to a figurative meaning that is known only through common use. Idioms are often used in all types of languages, colloquial and formal, spoken and written; they are a part of business English, education and the media. It is necessary to consider the origin of the most widely used idioms. There is a great variety of idioms which come from the vocabulary concerning different topics such as:

x work and jobs: to put in for (to make an official request for smth.), a blue collar worker (a working class person who performs manual labor), a white collar worker (a person belonging to the ranks of office and professional workers whose jobs generally do not involve manual labor), a slave driver (a cruel employer who demands excessive work from the employees), to burn oneself out (to work too hard), to work for peanuts (to work for practically no money at all), to carry the can (to take the blame or responsibility for something that is wrong or has not succeeded), a golden handshake (a large sum of money which is given to someone when they leave a company, especially if they are forced to leave) and etc.;

x animals: the black sheep of the family (a disreputable or disgraced member of a family), to take the bull by the horns (to confront a problem head-on and deal with it openly), as awkward as a cow on roller skates (very clumsy), as crooked as a dog's hind leg (very dishonest), to have ants in one's pants (to be unable to sit still or remain calm out of nervousness or excitement), eager beaver (a person who is excited about doing certain work), to let the cat out of the bag (to reveal a secret) etc.;

x rural life and transport: to strike while the iron is hot (to take advantage of favorable conditions), to put the cart before the horse (to do things in the wrong order), to miss the boat (to fail to take advantage of an opportunity), to paddle one's own canoe (to do what smth. without help or interference from anyone), to drive up the wall (to do something that greatly annoys or irritates all the people around), to hit the road (to begin a journey) etc.; **x the world of entertainment: to make a clown of yourself (to make yourself appear foolish or stupid), to be in the limelight (to be the centre of attention), a museum piece (something that is very**

old-fashioned and should no longer be used), a show stopper (an event that provokes such a strong reaction that it stops whatever's happening) etc.; x feelings and emotions: to bare one's heart (or soul) to someone (to reveal one's innermost thoughts and feelings to someone), to bent out of shape (to become annoyed or upset about something that is usually not important), to come apart at the seams (to be extremely upset or under severe mental stress), to get hot under the collar (to feel annoyed, indignant or embarrassed), to lick one's wounds (to try to recover one's confidence or spirits after a defeat, failure or disappointment) etc.

Actually it is almost impossible to consider all the existing idioms because the English language possesses thousands and thousands of idiomatic expressions. Surely, some of them are old-fashioned and not used in live communication any more. But there are more than one hundred idioms which can be referred to the so-called often-used 51 lexical units. Consequently, idioms should become an integral part of foreign language acquisition for the non-native speakers who are really eager to apply their language skills and knowledge in

practice communicating with native speakers.

Let us consider the importance of idioms in the learning process from the viewpoint of future prospects for the learners. Nowadays young people have many opportunities to take part in various students' exchange programs, undertake a traineeship in the English-speaking countries and even make a successful career abroad. So they should possess good communication skills to avoid misunderstandings and a language barrier. But in reality, most of the people who have already had experience of studying and working abroad, confirm that they have faced some serious problems in communicating with native speakers due to idioms. The truth is that they did not simply understand the meaning of unknown idioms which were widely used by native speakers in their everyday speech. As a result, most of the non-native speakers make a conclusion that learning idioms is one of the most important issues in the process of English language acquisition. Since the native speakers use idioms all the time in all the situations, foreign students being abroad often feel confused and frustrated because they do not understand their interlocutors. So, a large

number of idioms and their high frequency in the communication make them a vital aspect of English language learning. The next issue of the present paper is considering the ways of learning idioms. To begin with, there are a lot of relevant dictionaries which provide the learners with various often-used idioms. Then, idioms can be learned through the films, sports and news programs, by means of modern Internet technologies. And, the learners can acquire idioms in the English language lessons using different activities such as dialogues and role plays. Let us consider them in more detail. The appropriate dialogues can provide the learners with the situations to practice ordinary routine conversation so the students have good practice with principal communication skills in context. First of all it is necessary to look through some new idioms, then examine some examples and read the relevant dialogues containing the idioms under consideration. The students should analyze the correct use of them, to see how the idioms are practiced in speech. The next step is to act out the similar dialogues to reinforce the acquired skills. In general, dialogues and role plays are definitely helpful learning activities for the learners of various ages and levels of proficiency as they

do not only help the students learn new idioms and expand their vocabulary but also dialogues are an efficient way of oral practice in general. As a result dialogues offer learners the opportunities to act out everyday life situations and practice communication skills before they enter the real English language environment. And finally the acquired knowledge concerning some particular idioms must be consolidated through the written exercises based on the meaning of the idioms. The learners are supposed to complete the final tasks individually to show their teacher the results of the learning process. There is a great variety of activities which can be used to consolidate using the learned idioms in practice. Dealing with the matching tasks, learners have to match the idioms with their meanings or even with mother tongue equivalents. Working with the paraphrasing tasks, students should rewrite the given sentence by means of the relevant idiom keeping the main idea of the original sentence. And of course students can make up their own sentences or even a whole story using the idioms they have recently learnt. In conclusion it should be mentioned that non-native speakers, who learn idioms, can be involved in the real English language environment.

Everyone is able to speak natural English but it is idioms in the language that give it a bright, conversational and creative feeling.

Consequently, if non-native speakers want to speak English fluently, they have to learn idioms to improve their communication skills and feel confident talking to native speakers.

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