

### Analysis of Some Idioms with Negative Meanings in English Language

**Khidirova Makhfuza Amirkulovna**

Denau Institute of Entrepreneurship and Pedagogy, teacher

**Eshdavlatova Mastura Jurayevna**

Denau Institute of Entrepreneurship and Pedagogy, student

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#### ABSTRACT

*This article deals with contrastive analysis of some idioms with negative meanings in English language. The important ways and methods of transferring idioms from source language into target one is analyzed in the following article, as well. The phraseological picture of the world occurring in consciousness of one language community does not always coincide with attitude of another community. From this perspective, the idioms which collected for analysis indicate that they can be applied according to cultural context of any society.*

#### INTRODUCTION

Idioms exist in every language. They are expressions, words, or phrases that have a figurative meaning conventionally understood by native speakers. This meaning is different from the literal meaning of the idiom's individual elements. In other words, idioms do not mean exactly what the words say. They have, however, a hidden meaning. For example, if you say "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth», it does not mean a gift. Rather, it means that when someone gives you a gift, do not be ungrateful. Idioms cannot be deduced merely by studying the words in the phrase. If taken literally, you would think that it is a gift horse in your mouth. But after living with a certain group of people for a period of time, you will start to pick up their expressions. English speakers are not unique in their use of idioms. Where there is language, there is figurative language, that is, people are going to play on words and come up with quippy, new expressions anywhere. Similar to various cultures who adopt their own set of idioms, smaller groups of people do the same. Actors, painters, perform, and writers tend to use their own idioms, almost bordering on slang, to encourage each other and forget a unique sense of community. Certainly, a group of people with shared interests will have their own idioms. When it is understood in a broad sense, proverbs and proverbs, stable sentences characteristic of folklore, some forms of communication are also included in the scope of phraseology. But this issue, that is, the issue of

understanding phraseology in a broad sense, is still controversial.

## METHODOLOGY

The main focus of phraseology as a branch of linguistics is to study the nature of phraseology and their categorical features, as well as to determine the laws of use of phraseology in speech. The main tasks or issues of phraseology: to determine the consistency of the phraseological content and, in this regard, to study the sign(s) of phraseology; description of homonymy, synonymy, antonymy, polysemy and variation of phraseology.; identify the specific features of the words used in phraseology and their specific meanings; clarifying the relationship between phraseology and word groups; clarify their syntactic role; study of the formation of new meanings of words within phraseological units and other phraseology develops principles of separation of phraseological units, methods of their study, classification and description in dictionaries. Phraseology as an independent branch of linguistics appeared in Russian linguistics in the 40s of the 20th centuries. Its initial formation was based on the works of Russian scientists A. A. Potebnya, I. I. Sreznevsky, A. A. Shakhmatov, and the issue of studying stable word combinations in a separate linguistics department Phraseology — in the educational and methodological literature of the 20s-40s — Ye.D. Polivanov, S. Abakumov, mentioned in the works of L. A. Bulakhovsky. In Western European and American linguistics, phraseology is not distinguished as a separate branch of linguistics. Uzbek linguistics who have contributed to the development of this field are the followings: A.Isaev, O.Nazarov, Sh.Usmonova, Sh.Nazirova, H.Alimova. By analyzing their works in this article some idioms with negative meaning were collected and analyzed due to the definition given in Merriam Webster Dictionary, Macmillan dictionary, Oxford English dictionary as well as Cambridge dictionary.

## RESULTS

The result of the study of expressions collected for the analysis of the English language showed that many expressions used in the negative mood are used to tell someone something unpleasant or something that should not be done, to give advice and to warn. It can be said that the majority of negative expressions are used to express situations that a person does not want. It has also been found that some idioms are actually used as idioms, but many language users confuse them while using in speech.

## DISCUSSION

As with anything else in life, they will be easier to understand if you listen to the context clues and ask questions when in doubt. You simply cannot be literal when examining an idiom. They tend to make learning a new language difficult, but they are also used in languages all across the globe. Idioms are not only regional; they also vary according to people's interests and social groups.

The best way to understand the meaning of certain idioms is to chat with locals and ask them for clarification if any of their idioms confuse you.

Here are some most popular idioms with a negative meaning used in everyday language.

1) Can't stand (someone or something). *I can't stand* him. To hate or dislike someone or something very much and is used to say that you do not like someone or something at all, or that you think that something is extremely unpleasant can't bear

*Kingadir yoki nimagadir chidab turolmaslik, yoqtirmaslik, nafratlanmoq.*(Uzbek)

Example: I can't stand doing homework at all.

The situation of using this expression depends on the personal situation of the person. That is, as it is known from the used dictionaries, if this expression grammatically requires a gerund after itself and expresses the inability to bear to perform an action, it is not difficult to understand that a person has no desire to perform any task. Also, if the structure of *stand+someone* is observed,

we understand that a person cannot tolerate, that its presence disturbs the speaker.

2) Don't judge a book by its cover. It is used for saying that you should not form an opinion about someone or something only from their appearance. *Tashqi ko 'rinishiga qarab baho bermang*. This expression means that you should not rush to make conclusions based on their appearance while judging people. In terms of usage, this phrase can be included in the group of phrases used for *warning* when the phrases are divided into meaningful groups. Example: *To my mind, people don't judge a person by its cover*.

3) Don't count your chickens before they hatch. According to the Macmillan dictionary, the idiom is used for telling someone not to make plans that depend on the success of something until they are certain that it is successful. *Ishonchingiz komil bo'lmaguncha ishonmang*. Example: *I have a friend who always counts her chickens before they hatch*. This expression is generally used to give advice to someone. It can be said that before starting a work, it is used that a person should not draw conclusions until one is sure that its conclusion will be successful.

4) Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Do not put all your resources in one possibility. *Bor yo'g'ini bir narsaga sarf qilmoq*. Example: *My mother avoids putting all her eggs in one basket*. It is based on the metaphor of a bird that places all its eggs in one nest, which is risky because if something happens to that nest, all the eggs will be lost. This metaphor is used to *caution* against putting all your resources into one thing, which is risky because if that thing fails, you will lose everything.

5) Never bite the hand that feeds you. Don't hurt anyone that help you. According to the definition given in Cambridge dictionary, it means to act badly towards the person who is helping or has helped you. *Sizga yordam bergan insonni ranjitmang*. Example: *My father never bites the hand that feeds him*. This phrase is often used without the word never, and refers to treating someone rudely or unkindly in return for a favor. But when this phrase is used to indicate that this attitude should not be shown, the word "never" is added to it, suggesting that one should be polite or grateful for the help given.

6) Not have a clue. According to the definition of Cambridge dictionary, the idiom means "to have no knowledge about something, or to be unable to remember something". *Biror bir narsa haqida fikrga ega bo'lmaslik yoki bilmaslik*. Example: *Sevara does not have a clue about what she should say to Sayyora*. This phrase, which is often given as 'I don't have a clue', doesn't at first sight appear to be idiomatic at all and hardly deserving of investigation. After all, a clue is an insight or idea that points us towards a solution.

This phrase confuses some individuals since it doesn't appear to be idiomatic in nature. The origin of this idiom, however, can be traced back to the different meanings that the word clue, which was also spelled clew, once had. A clew is a ball that is formed from coiled worms, apparently, or string, and dates back to 897 AD, and has been used in literature dating back to Greek myths such as Theseus and the Minotaur. According to this legend, the only way Theseus was able to escape the maze that led him to the Minotaur was the clew, or ball of string that afforded him safe and reliable passage out of the maze. With that definition and meaning in mind, to not have a clue is to remain ignorant and know very little about how to proceed with one situation or another.<sup>1</sup>

## CONCLUSION

We can conclude that present day any language cannot be considered full of value without idiomatic usage, as the use of phraseological units is the first sign of a certain language developing. Idiomatic sentences enrich vocabulary as well as the correct acquisition of them signals that the speaker knows the language on the level of a native speaker. A great way to

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theidioms.com/not-have-a-clue/>

improve your understanding of the English culture, people and history is to study English idioms, proverbs and sayings. By memorizing them, you will not only learn some common English sayings; you will also help your brain to become better at forming good English sentences.

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