



UNDERSTANDING AND USING IDIOMS IN ENGLISH: WHY IT IS IMPORTANT?

Gulvisar Sadriyeva Sodiq qizi

Supervisor

Gulsanam Xasanova Jahongir qizi

Student Uzbekistan State World Languages University Faculty of Philology

Annotation: *What is the idiom? Idioms have different meanings and they open the main point of a notion or sentence. We can demonstrate ourselves by using them and our speech shows rich vocabulary skill. A group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those of the individual words (over the moon, see the light). Idioms are a unique aspect of language that adds colour and personality to speech and writing. Using idioms correctly can help to enhance your communication skills, demonstrate cultural knowledge and improve your language fluency.*

Key words: *Literal language, an unfamiliar expression, speech analyzer, figurative meanings, cultural variations.*

Introduction When you use idioms in your conversations, you convey deeper meaning and you cannot convey through literal language. Idioms can help you express your communication more effectively and compelling. Idioms can help us speak fluently and learn cultural differences in English. Idiomatic meanings make up a very large part of everyday English, be it formal or informal in the register. The main focus of a textbook for foreign speakers, is idiomatic English or rather as the subtitle of the book announces, Understanding and using idioms. The idea to focus on this area of the English language stems from the necessity to sound natural, to use language colourfully and to understand more of what on reads or hears.

EFL should use idioms to be more conversational and effective in speech. Idioms have also different strategies like complex and easy. Easy strategies help new learners for understanding easily the meaning of full emotions, on the other hand, difficult/academic idioms improve your level. Nowadays scientists are collecting various idioms by their level and they are writing about understanding ways, classifying them, and categorizing meanings in their thesis, articles, and books.

Main body.

To be able to use idioms effectively, you need to be able to identify them in context, memorize the most common examples and practice using them in conversations.

The best way to identify idioms is by reading and listening to English media, such as books, newspapers and podcasts. When you come across an unfamiliar



expression, try to understand its non-literal meaning based on the context. For example, imagine someone says, “ I have not had any lunch, I could eat a horse!” Here, you can make a fair guess at the meaning of “I could eat a horse” which is “ I am very hungry “.

Learning idioms can be challenging because of their figurative meanings and cultural variations. One of the most significant challenges when you are an English learner is distinguishing the figurative meaning of idioms from their literal meaning and the only way of doing this is by studying! Research new idioms that you hear and write down both the idiom and its figurative meaning to help you remember which is which. Slowly, as your language skills develop, you will build a contextual understanding of English which will help you to avoid confusion.

Regional variations and cultural differences can also affect the meanings of idiomatic expressions. An idiom commonly used in one country may have a different figurative meaning in another country.

What`s more, idioms are often used in literature, movies and songs, so being familiar with them can enhance your enjoyment and understanding when you are watching a film in English or listening to a song. For example, the expression “hit the sack- which means to go to bed- features in dozens of films and TV shows dialogues. But, if you had never heard this idiom, you would be looking around the scene for the sack that everyone was talking about!

In conclusion, idioms are an essential part of the English language that can enrich your communication, cultural knowledge and language fluency. Learning and using idioms can help you become a more effective communicator and a more knowledgeable and confident English speaker.

Learn idioms in the same way as you would learn other vocabulary. When you read something or watch a movie, you might see or hear a new word or idiom. Use a dictionary or Google to find out what it means.

Ask yourself if it is common or useful. Are you likely to hear it again or want to use it? If you hear an idiom a few times in conversation, then you know it is useful.

If you think it is useful, write it down so you can remember it and review it later.

4. Make sure you pay attention to the context that the idiom is used so you know how to use it correctly.

Do not try to learn too many idioms all at once. You will forget them or mix them up. Just learn one or two at a time.

Conclusion part/Recommendations.

In conclusion, idioms are an integral part of the language that adds colour, depth and cultural richness to our communication. Understanding them allows us to navigate the intricacies of figurative language, appreciating the unique expressions that convey meaning beyond the literal. Whether we ‘break a leg’



or 'let the cat', idiom examples encapsulate the beauty and creativity of human expression, reminding us of the power and versatility of language itself.

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