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REPORT

IDIOM AND ITS USAGE IN ENGLISH

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INTRODUCTION

Learning foreign languages in Uzbekistan has become very important since the first days of the Independence of our country which pays much attention to the rising of education level of people, their intellectual growth. As our President I. A. Karimov said: “Today it’s difficult to revalue the importance of knowing foreign languages for our country, as our people see their great prosperous future in the cooperation with foreign partners.” That’s why knowing foreign languages has become very important today. Under the notion “knowledge” we understand not only practical but theoretical basis too.

Naming a single entity is one of the basic speech acts, included in the class of declaratives. People and places, pets and hurricanes, rock groups and festivities, institutions and commercial products, works of art and shops are given a name. Naming serves to highlight entities that play a role in people's daily life, and to establish and maintain individuality in society. English proper nouns include people's names and surnames (John Smith, Mary Brown), geographical names (Africa, the Thames), names of institutions (the United Nations, the British Museum), places in the city (Central Park, Fifth Avenue), historical and other events (the French Revolution, the Jazz Festival). English proper nouns also include nationalities (Russian, Irishman), weekdays (Tuesday, Saturday), months (January, May) and other notions, objects and places that are capitalized and used as names.

There are many idiomatic expressions that contain proper names. The same as other idioms, they came from people's everyday life, folklore, prose and poetry, myths, fairy tales, fables, songs, slang and other sources. Quite a few idioms with proper names are familiar to people of different nationalities, and it's natural that a student of English wants to know how to say those colorful expressions in English. It should be stressed, though, that idioms with proper names are not used in speech or writing often. For example, we all know such idiomatic expressions as Pyrrhic

victory; as wise as Solomon; Uncle Sam. But how often do we actually use them? Generally, we prefer more neutral phrases in everyday speech. Also, some idioms containing people's names, names of nationalities, cities or countries, may be perceived as offensive stereotypes and clichés, and should be avoided. All this makes the theme of research actual and important among the problems of modern linguistics. It is not less significant than learning grammar, lexis and pronunciation. Moreover, our research work is closely connected with culture of people and explains the origin of a large number of phraseological units and proverbs with proper names. If we examine idioms, the dominant subtype of phraseological units, we observe that they involve elements regarded as relevant for various reasons: body parts, because human beings as natural (and cultural) entities are at the centre of language; natural elements, animals, colours, clothing and food, because they are salient aspects of everyday life; references to the Bible, because it is culturally relevant in Anglo-Saxon society. So, we expect to find a number of PNs because of their great importance in human communication, where they are signs of cultural, linguistic, geographical, ethnic and social identity. Their analysis can offer an insight into the interplay between language and culture in phraseology.

The origin of idioms

Considering the names in idioms and phraseological expressions, we can note a predominance of personal over place names (unsurprisingly, given the anthropocentricity of language); within the former, a predominance of male over female names, and first names over fa1mily names, with a number of hypocorisms. Because it is very important to know about the history of idioms. The very low presence of female names is motivated by socio-cultural factors: in society, men played (and still play) a more active role than women. Among them, we find: Alice in Wonderland, Florence Nightingale, Mrs. Grundy, Aunt Sally, plain Jane, Pandora, (Darby and) Joan, Fanny Adams. They are usually employed to convey a negative or not wholly positive evaluation.

Knowing the meaning of idioms let understand the smallest refinements of the language. However, it is quite difficult to understand the exact meaning of the idiom of the foreign language because it is related with some kind of problems that are named in the further chapter.

1. Historical structure of phraseological expressions with proper names

It is generally agreed among linguists that PNs are a universal linguistic category. Their status and function is a theoretical issue debated by many scholars, whose views are discussed in Carroll (1983), Coates (2006) and Van Langendonck . The topic is complex and controversial, and the account given will be brief and schematic; this means that some aspects will not be considered. PNs constitute a system organized according to criteria varying across cultures, and provide an interpretation of the society of which they are the expression. They are linguistic items fulfilling a referential function, i. e. they refer to single entities existing in the real world. Like deictics, they enable primary identification of their referents; but, unlike deictics, they are not dependent on the immediate situational context . Like nouns, PNs constitute an open class of words and, hence, are lexical rather than grammatical; but, unlike nouns, they lack lexical meaning.

Let us now survey the main linguistic features of PNs in English. Their first feature is the initial-capitalization in writing, whose function is to distinguish a PN from a common noun, e.g. Rosemary vs. rosemary. They are subject to some word formation processes: for example, hypocorisms can be formed from full first names, employing various mechanisms, as illustrated in (1):

(1)

FULL FORM	HYPOCORISM	
John	Johnny	(suffixation)
Joseph	Joe	(shortening)
Richard	Dick	(shortening and phonological modification)

With regard to grammar, names raise various issues. One issue concerns the internal structure of names: they can be mono- or polylexemic, sometimes incorporating the article (e.g. London, John Smith, The Dead Sea); personal names can be preceded by a title (e.g. Mr Smith, Aunt Mary), whose status is rather controversial. A major issue is represented by the different uses of names. In their primary use as referring expressions, PNs can occupy the NP slot, but can also function as vocatives, and occur in close appositional structures. In secondary uses, names can take on the semantic value 'entity called X', and have a plural form, as in (3):

(3) There are few Alfreds in the class.

They can occur with determiners: the article the or a/an, as in (4 a–b); quantifiers, as in (4c); possessives, as in (4d); demonstratives, as in (4e):

(4) (a) I haven't been in touch with the Joneses for ages.
(b) I've never met an Ophelia.
(c) I know three Ann Smiths.
(d) My Jennifer has won the school prize again.
(e) Who's this Penelope who's been sending you emails?

They can be modified by adjectives, restrictive relative clauses or PPs, as in (5), (6), (7), respectively:

(5) He's the famous George.

(6) This is the Paris I prefer to forget.

(7) The London of my childhood was different.

To account for these data, analysts distinguish between the grammatical category 'proper name' having the syntactic status of NP, and the category 'proper noun', having the status of common noun, assigned to the names in (3)–(7). Let us now consider the semantics of PNs, an issue much discussed from Mill onwards. They are diachronically motivated, and a meaningful etymon is found in most cases: e.g. family names derive from elements of common vocabulary referring to parentage (son of Richard > Richardson), or occupation (miller > Miller). But they are synchronically opaque; as stated by Lyons [1:198], "it is widely, though not universally, accepted that proper names do not have sense". Provided that they are elements fulfilling a referential function, how the relation between PN and referent is established can be explained pragmatically. A PN is assigned to a given referent by some social convention, and encyclopedic information is associated with it in long-term memory. In particular, personal names may be attributed to more than one referent, yet, in discourse the encoder refers to a specific referent, situated in a given time and space. In order to understand which referent the encoder is referring to, the decoder must possess a competence of the name system as well as the chunks of encyclopedic knowledge associated with a name to establish a link between PN and referent. Only when the decoder retrieves associated information from his/her knowledge, the 'virtual' referent is actualized, and the PN becomes a 'rigid designator'. Let us now consider:

(8) He saw Philip on the street corner.

The decoder recognizes Philip as a PN, but does not possess the chunk necessary to pair PN and referent. Yet, names can arouse expectations based on encyclopedic knowledge; so Philip is expected to be the first name of a male human being'. Hence the decoder interprets the name as 'male human being', but it might refer to a dog. In short, PNs constitute a class of linguistic items sharing features with both nouns and deictic. Formally, PNs share some grammatical features with common nouns, but differ from them in various respects. Both PNs and deictic lack lexical meaning and have a referential function; but, while the interpretation of deictics depends on the situational context, the interpretation of PNs depends on the linguistic context and encyclopaedic knowledge. In interpreting the PN, the decoder first has to recognise whether its use is referential or figurative, relying on the linguistic context; then, s/he will activate encyclopaedic knowledge or recur to her/his lexical competence, if the item is lexicalised (see below). Finally, PNs refer to a 'fixed' referent, while deictics to a referent that can vary according to the situational context.

Another use of names is central to understand the phenomenon under discussion. PNs, in particular personal names, more rarely place names, are used figuratively as metaphors, similes, hyperboles and antonomasia, either in a creative way (e.g. He is a new Hemingway) or as lexicalized items. In these uses, PNs have a descriptive function: they indicate some salient attribute or property of the referent of the name. They function as nouns, taking on both a denotational and a connotational meaning originated in a selection of salient bits of information extracted from encyclopedic knowledge about a referent. Consider the examples in (9):

(9) (a) She is playing Pollyanna.
(b) The war is becoming a Vietnam.

In (9a), Pollyanna, referring to the chief character in the novel Pollyanna (1913) by E. Porter, denotes a person constantly or excessively

optimistic. In (9b), Vietnam, referring to the country where US troops intervened, takes on the meaning 'disastrous military intervention'. The metaphorical use of PNs reflects cultural specificities that can pose problems in translation [4:356]. As we shall see in the next sections, names show their more complex properties and their culture-specific features in phraseology. Since it abounds in cultural information, Russian scholars argue that linguo-cultural analysis is best suited for this area of language.

2. Idioms using food

Idiom – an expression with a meaning that cannot be guessed from the meanings of the individual words. An idiom typical of the natural way in which someone speaks or writes when they are using their own language. Idiom – a group of words that has a special meaning that is different from the ordinary meaning of each separate word. Idiom – a form of expression, grammatical construction, phrase, etc., peculiar to a person or language; a phrase which is understood by speakers of a particular language despite its meaning's not being predictable from that of the separate words. According to the results we made conclusions that religion, food, drink and mass media influence people's language the most. Idioms with these names are quite popular and very often used in spoken language. For example, idioms based on food characters:

"Acquire a taste for"- to develop a liking for some kind of food or drink or something else;

"As black as skillet"- very black;

"As busy as popcorn on a skillet"- very active;

"As cool as cucumber"- to be calm, to be not nervous or anxious;

"As easy as apple pie"- very easy;

"As easy as duck soup"- very easy;

"As hungry as bear"- very hungry;

"As thick as pea soup" – very thick;

"Back to the salt mines"- to go back to work;

“Bad apple”- bad person;

“Bad egg”- bad person;

“Bear fruit”- to yield or give results;

“Big cheese”- an important person;

“Can not stomach”- to dislike or hate someone or something;

“Carrot and stick”- the reward for someone to do what you want or the punishment if they do not do what you want;

“Couch potato”- someone who spends a lot of time on a couch watching television;

“Cry over spilled milk”- to cry or complain about something that has already happened;

“Dine out”- to eat a meal at a restaurant;

“Down the hatch”- swallow something (used for drink);

“Eat like a horse”- to eat a large amount of food;

“Feed one’s face”- to eat;

“Fruits of one’s labor”- the results of one’s work;

“Go bananas”- to become highly excited, to behave in a crazy way;

“Gravy train”- a job or some work that pays more than it is worth;

“Hard nut to crack”- a difficult person or thing to deal with or get to know;

“Have a pick-me-up”- to eat or drink something stimulating;

“Have a sweet tooth”- to have a desire to eat sweet foods;

“Have bigger fish to fry”- to have more important things to do;

“Icing on the cake”- something that makes a good situation or activity even better;

“In one’s salad days”- in one’s youth;

3. The structure of Idioms

As it was said in our previous chapter, idioms are not mixed in form. One part of the phrase can be let out, for example, *somebody has been around the block (a few minutes)* can be said without the words *a few times*, although the meaning

remains the same. This technique is also used for idioms which have become clichйs and are therefore often shortened, such as *you can lead a horse to water (but you can't make him drink).* Some idioms can have any word inserted, depending on what the speaker is describing. For example, in the idiom *the of somebody's dreams* the underline space indicates that the range of nouns, adjectives, etc which could be inserted is unlimited.

In addition to that, the main idiom can have several less popular versions. For example, *sell like hot cakes (go like hot cakes).* It shows that idioms are not frozen units. In internal structure of idioms there also could be found some changes. Let us begin with the most minimal way in which an idiom can be altered from its base form: morphology:

I.I will take them to task for their indolence.

I am taking them to task for their indolence.

I took them to task for their indolence.

I have taken them to task for their indolence.

II. George and Simon have their ups and downs.

George and Simon are having their ups and downs.

George and Simon had their ups and downs.

In these example sets, we are analyzing the idioms *take* NP *to task* and *have one's ups and downs* to be the listed forms of the idioms in the 1-st and 2-nd. These examples clearly show that the verb tense can be changed in the internal structure of the idiom. We can make a conclusion that those idioms which were classified as "completely frozen" exhibit this kind of behavior (*trip the light fantastic* vs. *tripping the light fantastic* vs. *tripped the light fantastic*) (M. Everaert: 1995:45).

It has been widely noted that the individual words in an idiom cannot be replaced by synonyms and still retain the idiomatic reading of the phrase. This is what qualifies them as fixed forms. In most non-idiomatic discourse, a speaker can use synonymy to create a new sentence with the same semantic meaning. That means that changing a word from the idiom with its synonym we will not get the

synonymic idiom. In spite of that, idioms can be synonymous among themselves. For example:

John kicked the bucket.

John kicked the pail.

One thing that is readily noticeable about idioms is that many seem to resist undergoing transformations that similar non-idiomatic constructions can readily undergo while retaining the same sense. For example:

John kicked the bucket.

The bucket was kicked by John.

In spite of that sentence is transformed its meaning remains the same.

All these changes can be found in all categories of idioms.

Idioms are usually rather informal and include the element of personal comment on the situation. They are sometimes humorous or ironic. As with any informal 'commenting' single word, be careful how you use them. Never use them just to sound 'fluent' or 'good at English'. In a formal situation with a person you do not know, don't say," How do you do, Mrs. Watson. Do take the weight of your feet. Instead say 'Do sit down' or 'have a seat'. Idioms are numerous and they occur frequently in all languages. There are estimated to be at least 25,000 idiomatic expressions in the English language. The ultimate roof of the term idiom is the Greek lexeme idioms, meaning "own, private, peculiar" In different dictionaries there could be found quite a lot different explaining what an idiom is. There are some of the definitions: an idiom is an expression whose meaning is not predictable from the usual meanings of its constituent elements or from the general grammatical rules of a language and that is not a constituent of a larger expression of like characteristics. The following sentences contain idioms:

a. She is pulling my leg - to pull someone's leg means: to tease them by telling them something untrue.

b. She took me to the cleaners - to take someone to the cleaners means: to cause them to lose a lot of money.

c. When will you drop them a line? - to drop someone a line means: to phone or send a note to someone.

d. You should keep an eye out for that - to keep an eye out for something means: to watch for it.

e. I can't keep my head above water - to keep one's head above water means: to manage a situation.

Each of the word combinations has at least two meanings: a literal meaning and a figurative meaning. Pulling someone's leg means either that you literally grab their leg or yank it, or figuratively, it means that you tease them by telling them a fictitious story. Such expressions that are typical for a language can appear as words, combinations of words, phrases, entire clauses, and entire sentences. Idiomatic expressions in the form of entire sentences are called proverbs if they refer to a universal truth e.g:

The early bird gets the worm.

Break a leg. Waste not, want not.

The devil is in the details.

Proverbs such as these have figurative meaning. When one says "The devil is in the details", one is not expressing a belief in demons, but rather one means that things may look good on the surface, but upon scrutiny, problems are revealed. In linguistics, idioms are usually presumed to be figures of speech contradicting the principle of compositionality. This principle states that the meaning of a whole should be constructed from the meanings of the parts that make up the whole. In other words, one should be in a position to understand the whole if one understands the meanings of each of the parts that makes up the whole. The following example is widely employed to illustrate the point: Fred kicked the bucket. Understood compositionally, Fred has literally kicked an actual, physical bucket. The much more likely idiomatic reading, however, is non-compositional: Fred is understood

to have died. Arriving at the idiomatic reading from the literal reading is unlikely for most speakers. What this means is that the idiomatic reading is, rather, stored as a single lexical item that is now largely independent of the literal reading. Idioms can be grouped in a variety of ways. Grammatical, by meaning, by verb or other key word. Grammatical: get the wrong end of the stick-(verb+ object).By meaning: he’s as draft as a brush-(very stupid silly). By verb or other key word- I don’t see why you have to make a meal out of everything-(exaggerate the importance of everything).It‘s important when using idioms to know just how flexible their grammar is. Some are more fixed than others. For instance: barking up the wrong tree (be mistaken) is always used in continuous, not simple form, e.g. I think you are bucking up the wrong tree.

Communicative features of idioms

Modern linguists are not going to deny that plenty of those English idioms originating in bygone days when a horse was the main means of transportation are still very relevant these days. For instance, the idiom "*beat around the bush* «originates in 15th century but it's still used a lot in 21st century. Well, in case you've never heard it – it means to avoid the issue and keep talking about other topics. So whenever someone avoids answering your question directly, you can tell them to stop beating around the bush and answer the question they're asked!

Or this one – "*play by ear"* – which originates in the first part of 19th century but is still used in these days as a figurative way of saying that you're going to do things depending on how the situation develops and that you can't really plan for anything. As you can imagine, first they used this phrase only when discussing music related matters; at some stage the phrase went mainstream and they started using it in other aspects of life so it became an idiom, something that can't be taken literally. On the other hand, there are many idioms that have lost their relevance in modern times – like the one about the pot and the kettle, so I really don't think you should focus on such phrases when building your vocabulary of figurative English language. "*Look a gift horse in the mouth"* is an idiom used in situations when someone criticizes something they got for free or very cheep, but tell me, when is the last time you heard this phrase? To be honest with you – We don't think we've ever heard it during the last 75 years spent in our current job, and that's something for you to think about! We are not saying you're going to waste your time learning such old-fashioned idioms – most English speakers will understand you, of course.

The point we are trying to make here is that you should use your time and brain capacity *effectively*, and we don't think that stuffing your head with English idioms of relatively small relevance is the best way of using your resources. This brings us to the next point.

1. The role and importance of idioms in English language

During communication mostly we use some idioms with proper names. In folklore each nation has its own idioms which express the tradition, culture, language, personality of the country. In history also we can meet some proverbs from mythology. A name is simply a word, phrase or sentence by which a human being is by it, he or she is identified, called, described, distinguished and classified. Nothing on earth and in much of the heavens exists without a name…A name conveys history, culture, heritage, language and a consciousness of self-image and pride. Onomastics (study of names) involves many disciplines such as history, geography, linguistics, literature, philosophy, anthropology, psychology, sociology, theology, and even the legal and medical sciences. [13, 16-17]

Here I want to give a few idioms with proper names are listed below. Note that proverbs may exist in several variants, for example: I fear the Greeks even when bringing gifts; I fear the Greeks bringing gifts; I fear the Greeks bearing gifts. As we mentioned before proverbs are widely known, people often say just part of a proverb, like an idiomatic expression, for example: Greek gifts; Greek gift (i.e. a gift from an enemy may be dangerous).

They refer to the good behavior of a child but which must once alluded to gold as a monetary standard. Some idioms are related to some folk practice and customs. For example: ***bleeding heart, heart and soul.*** In the past English believed that, nothing was wholly dark or full of unmixed sorrow or gloom. There was some good in every evil. In history, as we know, it was not easy to live, there were a lot of difficulties. By psychological proverbs we can get more and more behavioral advices, psychologists and other scientists have spent more than a century testing the validity of statements about human behavior and thinking. Each cultures passes along its own wisdom, which is not always meaningful to outsiders. In India, for example, people say, “Call on God, but row away from the docks”, and Romanians advise, “Do not put your spoon into the pot that does not boil for you”. We get the idea. Proverbs that relay wisdom about how we’re supposed to live do not necessarily supply useful or reliable advice.

2. The importance of selecting and learning of English Idioms

Some phrases stick you even if you don't memorize them intentionally, and that's quite natural. If you decide to purposefully learn English idioms in order to improve your English fluency, however, you should learn the ones that are relevant to personal circumstances – in other words – situations when you use the English language! Just think about this – is there any use for you to learn very specific English proverbs such as *"chickens come home to roost"* or *"talk the hind legs off a donkey"* if you haven't heard anyone use them? Don't make the mistake of learning something in English just because it sounds cool and it will allow you to show off in front of your work colleagues, fellow students or friends!

Just like I wrote in another part about which new English idioms, you should rather engage in plenty of activities involving the English language so that you encounter new vocabulary naturally – and, of course, it includes idioms and idiomatic expressions as well! And if you decide to add more to your figurative language by finding more of such useful idioms, I'd suggest you browse through great idiom compilations – such as this one and see if any of them ring a bell with you. You see – I just used an idiom which is used in situations when you're reminded of something, and this idiom is quite relevant for any foreign English speaker.

So when you go through English idiom lists, you should make note of the ones you remember having heard previously. As you might remember from my earlier blog posts, passive and active vocabulary not everything you recognize is part of your active spoken English vocabulary. Let's say, you're reading an idiom *"have a sweet tooth"* (*"I have a sweet tooth"* means that you're fond of sweets, chocolate and pastries) and you have a feeling that you've heard it before. Well, I'd say it's worth memorizing this idiom! The best way to achieve it would be by writing the phrase *"I have a sweet tooth"* down into your dictionary and using repetition to cement it into your active vocabulary.

Most likely you'd be getting the same impression of familiarity when coming across a bunch of other idioms – *"safe and sound"* (meaning that everything is fine with the person in question), *"far cry from"* (used to describe that something is far from being complete, or something is much different from what you describe further in the conversation) and similar idiomatic expressions, so it's worth noting them because you'd put them to good use in your daily conversations.I mean – once you've heard them at some stage, they must be used in real life spoken language, right?

3. Idioms from famous books

The next big group is idioms with personal names which are taken from famous books, songs, cartoons. For example:

1. Rip van Winkle – Rip van Winkle is a character in a story that slept for twenty years, so if someone is a Rip van Winkle, they are behind the times and out of touch with what is happening now

2. Mickey Mouse – something that is intellectually trivial or not of a very high standard

3. Live a life of Riley – used in order to say that someone has a very comfortable, easy life without having to work hard or worry about money .

4. Let us look at the origin of the name Riley – this phrase originated in a popular song of the 1880s, "Is That Mr. Reilly?" by Pat Rooney, which described, what its hero would do if he suddenly came into a fortune).

Idioms with personal names that are related to real persons are also often used in the English language. We have found 13 idioms of this kind. For example:

1. Bob's your uncle – said after you tell someone how to do something, in order to emphasize that it will be simple and will definitely achieve the result they want.

2. Look a right Charlie – to look very strange or stupid, so that people laugh at you, or feel that people are going to laugh at you.

3. 50 million Elvis fans can't be wrong – used to say that something must be true because so many people think so.

Two well-known persons in our examples are Elvis Presley and Charlie Chaplin. Let us look at the example Bob's your uncle. It is a catchphrase dating back to 1887, when British Prime Minister Lord Salisbury decided to appoint a certain Arthur Balfour to the prestigious and sensitive post of Chief Secretary for Ireland. Not lost on the British public was the fact that Lord Salisbury just happened to be better known to Arthur Balfour as "Uncle Bob". In the resulting furor over what was seen as an act of blatant nepotism, "Bob's your uncle" became a popular sarcastic comment applied to any situation where the outcome was preordained by favoritism. They are:

- *cover one's back* – do something to protect yourself from criticism or future blame;
- *blood, sweat, and tears* – great personal effort;
- *in cold blood*- without feeling;
- *feel (something) in one's bones* – sense something, have an intuition about something.

Other big group is idioms derived from animals names:

- *as weak as a kitten* – weak, sickly;
- *hit the bulls-eye* – to reach the main point of something;
- *dog-eat-dog* – ready or willing to fight and hurt others to get what one wants;
- *monkey see, monkey do* – someone copies something that someone else does.

The third big group is idioms derived from food and preparing it:

- *full of beans*- to feel energetic, to be in high spirits;

- *grist for the mill*- something that can be used to bring advantage or profit;
- *take the cake*- to be the best or worst of something;
- *cook (someone's) goose*- to damage or ruin someone.
- *Idioms describing people*
- She has a heart of gold - very kind, generous.
- He’s very quick off the mark - he always gets things before everybody else.
- She’s a bit of an odd-ball - very strange, peculiar, strange.
- I was a bit slow off the mark - the job had been filled by the time.
- *Idioms describing feeling or mood*
- Joe’s as happy as the day is long - extremely content.
- He had a face as long as a fiddle - looked very depressed/sad.
- I could eat a horse - very hungry.
- She was scared stiff - very scared

Conclusion

An idiom is a phrase where the words together have a meaning that is different from the dictionary definitions of the individual words, which can make idioms hard for ESL students and learners to understand**.** It is a sequence of words which has a different meaning as a group from the meaning it would have if you understood each word separately. All these expressions add color to the language, helping us to emphasize meaning and to make our observations, judgments and explanations lively and interesting. They are also very useful tools for communicating a great deal of meaning in just a few words.

Idioms are defined as a sub-type phrase, the meaning of which is not the regular sum of the meanings of its component parts. John Saeed defines an idiom as collocated words that became affixed to each other until metamorphosing into a fossilized term. This collocation of words redefines each component word in the word-group and becomes an idiomatic expression. Idioms usually do not translate well; in some cases, when an idiom is translated directly word-for-word into another language, either its meaning is changed or it is meaningless. English is a language particularly rich in idioms - those modes of expression peculiar to a language (or dialect) which frequently defy logical and grammatical rules. Without idioms English would lose much of its variety and humor both in speech and writing. Idioms are fixed expressions with meanings that are usually not clear or obvious. The individual words often give you no help in deciding the meaning. The expression “to feel under the weather”, which means ‘to feel unwell’ is a typical idiom. The words do not tell us what it means, but the context usually helps. Idioms are words or phrases that have a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the words and is understood to be figurative by virtue of common usage and in relation to a specific culture. They are fixed expressions with meanings that are usually not clear or obvious. The individual words often give you no help in deciding the meaning. Think of idioms as being just like single words; always record the whole phrase in your notebook, along with information

on grammar and collocation. Idioms are usually rather informal and include an element of personal comment on the situation. They are sometimes humorous or ironic. As with any informal ‘commenting’ single word, be careful how you use them. Never use them just to sound ‘fluent’ or ‘good at English’. In a formal situation with a personal you do not know, don’t say.

‘How do you do, Mrs. Watso. Do take the weight off your feet - sit down.

Instead say ‘Do sit down’ or ‘Have a seat’.

It is important when using idioms to know just how flexible their grammar is. Some are more fixed than others. For instance, barking up the wrong tree - be mistaken: is always used in continuous, not simple form.

e.g. I think you’re barking up the wrong tree. A good dictionary may help but it is best to observe the grammar in real examples.

The aim of the research work is to analyze the use of proper names in English idioms and to identify origins of these names. Idioms were classified into two groups: with personal names and with place names. The definitions of the collocated idioms were presented as well and they were illustrated with examples.

Research methods employed in the work are as follow:

- Descriptive-theoretical literary analysis provided a possibility to review numerous issues concerning features of proper nouns.

- Statistical method – was salutary for the processing of the results of the empirical part of the research.

The English language has quite a long list of idioms. Colloquial idioms with personal and place names among all the idioms are not the prevailing ones. To compare both idioms with personal and place names researched in our work we can draw a conclusion than idioms with personal names are used more frequently in the English language. For example:

- Be robbing Peter to pay Paul – to take money from one part of a system or organization that needs it and use it for another part of the system or organization, so that you deal with one difficulty but still have problems. Idiom with personal names.

- New York minute – (USA) if something happens in a New York minute, it happens very fast. Idiom with place name.

The analyses presented in this study are an answer that proper names are quite often used in English idioms. We have analyzed many idioms: 73 from them are with personal names and 24 with place names. The origin of personal and place names in English idioms are of different types. In spite of this we identified the following six groups of the origin of personal names:

- Mythical
- Derived from religion
- Based on characters of the films, books, cartoons.
- The real persons.
- Folk etymology.
- And many more others.

The analysis showed that idioms with personal names are used in English language more frequently that idioms with place names. Almost all the place names are authentic, not made-up. Among personal names the most frequent were names derived from religion and characters of books, films etc. Number of idioms with personal names that derived from mythology was the smallest one.

It is really important to know the meaning of idioms of the language, you translate on. It is needed to avoid a ridiculous situation.

For instance, "Every Tom, Dick and Harry knows how it works". If you translate: "Том, Дики Гари знают, как это работает", it would not be right. That’s why we are young generation of county should study more strongly in order to make popular our country.

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