

English Language Idioms - A Perspective View Of Their Comprehensive Meanings With Paradigms

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ABSTRACT:-Indeed, every language is beautiful and English language is so gorgeous and stylish. The man who lived during the Stone Age was not happy and bliss with his signs and signals for his communicative purpose. He used to communicate with his group mates and co-travelers with signs. He coined language for his better understanding and communicative purposes through oral or mouth organs. Ages past, he could communicate with his cave-mates or forest travelers in language. After much long time, he was able to furnish the language with different and copious styles of speech. Obviously speech is a powerful tool than that of any other. So there are many power full tools in languages to communicate easily and freely. One among them is Idiom. Idiom is a word which gives much beautiness to language. Years later it is settled down in languages and became a part and parcel of it. Idioms can be a single word, a phrase or clause, or they can be a complete sentence or expression. People often explain their use as figures of speech. Many are indeed figurative, sometimes simply visually exaggerated. For example, it must be raining very heavily in order to describe it as "raining cats and dogs." Idioms can be metaphorical, polysemic, opaque or transparent, and are often colloquial or cultural. This paper focuses very meticulously how Idioms are derived from different sources with different notions and how Idioms are having meanings in English language.

Keywords:- *bliss, copious, gorgeous, happy, meticulously, stylish*

I. INTRODUCTION

An expression whose meaning can't be predicated from the usual meetings of its constituent elements"- Webster's Dictionary Idioms can broadly be classified into many kinds, such as Human Idioms, Animal Idioms, Color Idioms, Insects Idioms, Nature Idioms, and so on. Although the distinction is not an absolute one, different types of idioms are categorized as either opaque or transparent. The determinant is to what degree the idiom's literal translation reveals, with some thought, its underlying meaning. "Leave no stone unturned," is a transparent idiom for searching thoroughly. The opaque German idiom, "to bite into the grass" might mean various things, but the expression becomes quite clear when explained that it means "to die."

Idioms are almost always colloquial or cultural. Americans are often uncomfortable talking about death, so the cryptic English idiom is "to kick the bucket." This exact same expression in Brazilian Portuguese, however, means "to give up, with emphatic drama." Both were born independently from their respective cultures, and have true meaning only within their local context.

The cultural depth of idiomatic expressions is to the extent that most native speakers of a language are rarely aware they are uttering colloquialisms. Some linguists and sociologists speculate that these inventions of language are a culture's way to differentiate itself — a code which outsiders cannot decipher. As such, idioms are often the most difficult aspect of a foreign language to both learn and comprehend.

English is a fascinating language — today it is the most widely spoken language in the world, with many people learning it as a second language. English is "the" world language - an estimated 70% of all WebPages are in English. But English is also complex and unpredictable. Its massive range and wealth of words make it fascinating and surprisingly complex.

Students and teachers alike are on an entertaining journey to discover the peculiarities, lavishness and charm of the English language. Among the many topics which one can discover during studying the English language are the form and meaning of words. This page tries to illuminate at least a part of the hidden and sometimes obvious miracles of the English Language.

Many idioms are metaphorical. Several adages are derived, for example, from the metaphor of time as a currency. Some of the metaphors are obscure analogies, but others may be broadly universal. "Spending time" with children is a phrase that can probably be understood in any language translation.

The most common type of idiom is polysemes. They are words — often verbs — and phrases with multiple, somewhat related meanings. An example is the verb "run;" to "run with a smart idea" or "run a computer program" are related to, but quite different from running a foot race.

The following sentences contain idioms. The fixed words constituting the idiom in each case are bolded:

1. She is **pulling my leg** - *to pull someone's leg* means to tease them by telling them something untrue.
2. When will you **drop them a line** - *to drop someone a line* means to send a note to or call someone.
3. You should **keep an eye out for** that - *to keep an eye out for something* means to maintain awareness of it so that you notice it as it occurs.
4. I can't **keep my head above water** - *to keep one's head above water* means to manage a situation.
5. It's **raining cats and dogs** - *to rain cats and dogs* means to rain very heavily (a downpour).
6. Oh no! You **spilled the beans!** **you let the cat out the bag** - *to spill the beans* means to let out a secret.
7. Why are you **feeling blue** - *to feel blue* means to feel sad.
8. That jacket costs **an arm and a leg**. - *An arm and a leg* mean a large amount of money.
9. It is **not rocket science** - *not rocket science* means something is *not difficult*.
10. Put a **cork in it** - *put a cork in it* is another way to say, "shut-up!" (Another idiom), be quiet, and stop talking.
11. I'm **screwed** - *to be screwed* means that one is doomed, is in big trouble, or has really messed up.

Each of the word combinations in bold has at least two meanings such as a literal meaning and a figurative meaning. Such expressions that are typical for a language can appear as words, combinations of words, phrases, entire clauses, and entire sentences.

II. COMMONLY USED IDIOMS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1. **A hot potato** - Speak of an issue (mostly current) which many people are talking about and which is usually disputed
2. **A penny for your thoughts** - A way of asking what someone is thinking
3. **Actions speak louder than words** - People's intentions can be judged better by what they do than what they say.
4. **Add insult to injury**- To further a loss with mockery or indignity; to worsen an unfavorable situation.
5. **An arm and a leg** -Very expensive or costly. A large amount of money.
6. **At the drop of a hat** - Meaning: without any hesitation; instantly.
7. **Back to the drawing board** - When an attempt fails and it's time to start all over.
8. **Ball is in your court** - It is up to you to make the next decision or step
9. **Barking up the wrong tree** - Looking in the wrong place. Accusing the wrong person
10. **Be glad to see the back of** - Be happy when a person leaves.
11. **Beat around the bush** - Avoiding the main topic. Not speaking directly about the issue.
12. **Best of both worlds** - Meaning: All the advantages.
13. **Best thing since sliced bread** - A good invention or innovation. A good idea or plan.
14. **Bite off more than you can chew** - To take on a task that is way too big.
15. **Blessing in disguise** - Something good that isn't recognized at first.
16. **Burn the midnight oil** - To work late into the night, alluding to the time before electric lighting.
17. **Can't judge a book by its cover** - Cannot judge something primarily on appearance.
18. **Caught between two stools** - When someone finds it difficult to choose between two alternatives.
19. **Cost an arm and a leg** - This idiom is used when something is very expensive.
20. **Cross that bridge when you come to it** - Deal with a problem if and when it becomes necessary, not before.
21. **Cry over spilt milk** - When you complain about a loss from the past.
22. **Curiosity killed the cat** - Being Inquisitive can lead you into an unpleasant situation.
23. **Cut corners** - When something is done badly to save money.
24. **Cut the mustard** [possibly derived from "cut the muster"] - To succeed; to come up to expectations; adequate enough to compete or participate
25. **Devil's Advocate** - To present a counter argument

26. **Don't count your chickens before the eggs have hatched** - This idiom is used to express "Don't make plans for something that might not happen".
27. **Don't give up the day job** - You are not very good at something. You could definitely not do it professionally.
28. **Don't put all your eggs in one basket** - Do not put all your resources in one possibility.
29. **Drastic times call for drastic measures** - When you are extremely desperate you need to take drastic actions.
30. **Elvis has left the building** - The show has come to an end. It's all over.
31. **Every cloud has a silver lining** - Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days.
32. **Far cry from** - Very different from.
33. **Feel a bit under the weather** - Meaning: Feeling slightly ill.
34. **Give the benefit of the doubt** - Believe someone's statement, without proof.
35. **Hear it on the grapevine** - This idiom means 'to hear rumors' about something or someone.
36. **Hit the nail on the head** - Do or say something exactly right
37. **Hit the sack / sheets / hay** - To go to bed.
38. **In the heat of the moment** - Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment.
39. **It takes two to tango** - Actions or communications need more than one person
40. **Jump on the bandwagon** - Join a popular trend or activity.
41. **Keep something at bay** - Keep something away.
42. **Kill two birds with one stone** - This idiom means, to accomplish two different things at the same time.
43. **Last straw** - The final problem in a series of problems
44. **Let sleeping dogs lie** - Meaning - do not disturb a situation as it is - since it would result in trouble or complications.
45. **Let the cat out of the bag** - To share information that was previously concealed
46. **Make a long story short** - Come to the point - leave out details
47. **Method to my madness** - An assertion that, despite one's approach seeming random, there actually is structure to it.
48. **Miss the boat** - This idiom is used to say that someone missed his or her chance
49. **Not a spark of decency** - Meaning: No manners
50. **Not playing with a full deck** - Someone who lacks intelligence.
51. **Off one's rocker** - Crazy, demented, out of one's mind, in a confused or befuddled state of mind, senile.
52. **On the ball** - When someone understands the situation well
53. **Once in a blue moon** - Meaning: Happens very rarely.
54. **Picture paints a thousand words** - A visual presentation is far more descriptive than words.
55. **Piece of cake** - A job, task or other activity that is easy or simple
56. **Put wool over other people's eyes** - This means to deceive someone into thinking well of them.
57. **See eye to eye** - This idiom is used to say that two (or more people) agree on something.
58. **Sit on the fence** - This is used when someone does not want to choose or make a decision.
59. **Speak of the devil!** - This expression is used when the person you have just been talking about arrives.
60. **Steal someone's thunder** - To take the credit for something someone else did.
61. **Take with a grain of salt** - This means not to take what someone says too seriously.
62. **Taste of your own medicine** - Means that something happens to you, or is done to you, that you have done to someone else
63. **To hear something straight from the horse's mouth** - To hear something from the authoritative source.
64. **Whole nine yards** - Everything, All of it.
65. **Wouldn't be caught dead** - Would never like to do something
66. **Your guess is as good as mine** - To have no idea, do not know the answer to a question

Some of the Idioms mentioned with their meanings and Paradigms

1. **Monkey Business** – silly, mischievous or deceitful behavior; stupid or time-wasting activity.

Example:

- Our accountant has been fired as there was some monkey business with the books.
- Are you still fiddling about with those old tools? Stop the monkey business and get some new ones.
- 2. **Rat Race** – an exhausting and repetitive routine, a hectic struggle for success
Example:
 - I'm so tired of the rat race. I'd love to retire and move to the country.
 - She started to work from home as she couldn't stand the rat race at the office.
- 3. **Cat Burglar** – a stealthy burglar who climbs into buildings, usually through upper windows, skylights, etc.
Example:
 - Grandfather's old telescope has disappeared from the loft. It must have been a cat burglar that took it.
 - The inspector was surprised by the exploits of a cat burglar who only stole from upper floors and attics.
- 4. **Top Dog** – the most important person in a group, somebody with the dominant position or highest authority.
Example:
 - I don't want to be the top dog at our company, I just do my job as well as I can.
 - Peter is the top dog at English in our class.
- 5. **Cash Cow** – a dependable source of income; a product or service that makes money
Example:
 - Our company's cash cow is the sales department, which makes enough income to finance the developers.
 - The publisher saw the new bestseller as a cash cow.
- 6. **Eager Beaver** – an enthusiastic hard worker; someone very excited to start a task
Example:
 - The new secretary is an eager beaver. Although she comes to work at seven every day, she's the last to leave in the evening.
 - Don't be an eager beaver; we have plenty of time to do this job.
- 7. **Road Hog** – a dangerous or inconsiderate driver, someone who drives carelessly and selfishly.
Example:
 - Sorry that we're so slow, but there is no way to overtake that road hog in front of us.
 - A road hog nearly ran me over at the crossing as he failed to stop at the sign.
- 8. **Black Sheep** – an undesirable member of a group, a disliked person, somebody who causes shame or embarrassment due to deviation.
Example:
 - Don't be surprised that he doesn't want to take over father's business; he's always been the black sheep of the family.
 - They called me the black sheep as I didn't want to go to the pub and play billiards with them.

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