

## THE LINGUOCULTUROLOGICAL FEATURES OF ENGLISH IDIOMS

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**Abstract.** *This article examines the linguoculturological features of English idioms and their role in reflecting national culture, history, and mentality. Idioms are considered important linguistic units that express the worldview and cultural values of English-speaking people. The study analyzes the figurative meanings, historical origins, and cultural background of English idiomatic expressions. Special attention is given to the difficulties of translating idioms into other languages because of their culture-specific meanings. The article also highlights the importance of idioms in intercultural communication and language learning. The research shows that idioms serve not only as language elements but also as carriers of cultural identity and national traditions.*

**Key words:** *idiom, linguoculturology, culture, language, metaphor, national mentality, English language, translation, cultural identity, communication.*

**Annotatsiya.** *Ushbu maqolada ingliz tili idiomalarining lingvokulturologik xususiyatlari hamda ularning milliy madaniyat, tarix va mentalitetni aks ettirishdagi o'rni tadqiq qilinadi. Idiomalar ingliz tilida so'zlashuvchi xalqlarning dunyoqarashi va madaniy qadriyatlarini ifodalovchi muhim til birliklari sifatida qaraladi. Tadqiqotda ingliz idiomalarining ko'chma ma'nolari, tarixiy kelib chiqishi va madaniy asoslari tahlil qilinadi. Shuningdek, idiomalarning madaniyatga xos ma'nolari sababli ularni boshqa tillarga tarjima qilishdagi qiyinchiliklarga alohida e'tibor qaratiladi. Maqolada idiomalarning madaniyatlararo muloqot va til o'rganishdagi ahamiyati ham yoritiladi. Tadqiqot natijalari idiomalar nafaqat til birligi, balki madaniy identitet va milliy an'analarni ifodalovchi vosita ekanligini ko'rsatadi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *idioma, lingvokulturologiya, madaniyat, til, metafora, milliy mentalitet, ingliz tili, tarjima, madaniy identitet, kommunikatsiya.*

**Аннотация.** *В данной статье рассматриваются лингвокультурологические особенности английских идиом и их роль в отражении национальной культуры, истории и менталитета. Идиомы рассматриваются как важные языковые единицы, выражающие мировоззрение и культурные ценности англоязычных народов. В исследовании анализируются переносные значения, историческое происхождение и культурная основа английских идиоматических выражений. Особое внимание уделяется трудностям перевода идиом на другие языки из-за их культурно-специфического значения. В статье также подчеркивается значение идиом в межкультурной коммуникации и изучении языка. Результаты исследования показывают, что идиомы служат не только элементами языка, но и носителями культурной идентичности и национальных традиций.*

**Ключевые слова:** *идиома, лингвокультурология, культура, язык, метафора, национальный менталитет, английский язык, перевод, культурная идентичность, коммуникация.*

**Introduction.** Language is not only a means of communication but also a reflection of a nation's culture, history, traditions, and worldview. In modern linguistics, special attention is paid to the relationship between language and culture, which is studied within the field of linguoculturology. One of the most expressive and culturally rich layers of any language is idiomatic expressions. English idioms, in particular, represent unique combinations of words whose meanings cannot always be understood from the meanings

of their individual components. They preserve the cultural experience, values, customs, and mentality of English-speaking people.

The study of the linguoculturological features of English idioms is important because idioms reflect national identity and cultural peculiarities. Through idiomatic expressions, speakers convey emotions, attitudes, historical events, and traditional beliefs. Many English idioms originate from literature, religion, mythology, historical events, and everyday life, which makes them valuable sources for understanding English culture and mentality.

Furthermore, idioms play a significant role in intercultural communication and foreign language learning. Understanding the cultural background of idioms helps learners avoid misunderstandings and use the language more naturally and effectively. From a linguoculturological perspective, English idioms can reveal how language encodes cultural concepts and social values.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the linguoculturological features of English idioms, identify their cultural meanings, and examine the connection between language and culture reflected in idiomatic expressions. The article also aims to demonstrate the importance of idioms in understanding the worldview and cultural identity of English-speaking communities.

**Methods.** This study employs a qualitative research method to investigate the linguoculturological features of English idioms. The research is based on the descriptive and comparative analysis of idiomatic expressions commonly used in modern English. The qualitative approach allows for a deeper understanding of the cultural meanings and linguistic characteristics reflected in idioms.

The data for the research were collected from various reliable sources, including English phraseological dictionaries, linguistic textbooks, academic articles, and online language corpora. A number of English idioms related to culture, traditions, history, and everyday life were selected as research materials. The selected idioms were analyzed according to their semantic meanings, cultural connotations, origins, and usage in communication.

Several research methods were applied in the study. First, the descriptive method was used to explain the meanings and structural features of English idioms. Second, the linguoculturological analysis method helped identify cultural elements and national values reflected in idiomatic expressions. Third, the comparative method was applied to compare English idioms with similar expressions in other languages in order to determine common and culture-specific features.

In addition, contextual analysis was used to examine how idioms function in authentic communicative situations. Examples from literary works, media sources, and everyday speech were analyzed to understand the pragmatic and cultural significance of idiomatic expressions.

The methodological framework of the study is based on the principles of modern linguistics, phraseology, and linguoculturology, which provide theoretical support for analyzing the interaction between language and culture through idioms.

**Results.** The analysis of the selected English idioms shows that idioms are much more than fixed language units. They carry cultural meaning and reflect how people see the world, understand behavior, and interpret everyday life. Overall, the idioms reveal important aspects of English thinking related to nature, human character, relationships, emotions, and moral values.

One clear pattern is the use of vivid animal imagery to describe human behavior. For instance, *“A wolf in sheep’s clothing”* describes someone who looks harmless but is actually dangerous. The contrast between the wolf and the sheep makes the idea easy to visualize and emotionally strong. In the same way, *“Fight like cat and dog”* shows constant arguing and conflict by referring to the natural behavior of these animals. Meanwhile, *“When pigs fly”* is used when something is considered almost impossible, expressed in a humorous and exaggerated way.

Religious and moral influences are also clearly present. The idiom *“Good Samaritan”* refers to a person who helps others without expecting anything in return, and it comes from a Biblical story. It highlights values such as kindness and compassion. Similarly, *“Cast pearls before swine”* expresses the idea that valuable things should not be wasted on people who cannot appreciate them, again reflecting a Biblical background.

Idioms connected to the human body are also very common. *“Hold one’s tongue”* means to stay silent or control what one says, while *“Gnash your teeth”* shows strong anger or frustration. *“Apple of one’s eye”* is used to describe someone who is deeply loved and very important. These expressions show how human emotions are often explained through physical experience.

Time and speed are often expressed through simple but powerful images. Idioms like *“In the twinkling of an eye”* and *“Like lightning”* describe actions that happen extremely quickly. They connect the idea of time with things people can easily see and understand in nature.

Social behavior is another important theme. *“Butter someone up”* refers to flattering someone for personal benefit, while *“Lead someone by the nose”* describes controlling or manipulating another person. These idioms reflect how relationships and power dynamics are viewed in everyday life.

The idiom *“Burn the candle at both ends”* describes a situation where someone works too hard and becomes exhausted. The image of a burning candle shows limited energy and the cost of overworking.

Nature and extreme situations are used in expressions like *“Come hell or high water,”* which shows strong determination to achieve something no matter the difficulties. The powerful imagery makes the idea of persistence more intense and emotional.

Idioms such as *“Strike while the iron is hot”* and *“You reap what you sow”* reflect practical life lessons. They stress the importance of taking the right opportunity, working hard, and accepting the results of one’s actions. These expressions are closely linked to traditional working life, such as farming and blacksmithing.

Finally, *“The walls have ears”* reminds people to be careful with their words, suggesting that private conversations may not always be safe. In general, these idioms show that English phraseology is closely connected with everyday experience, cultural values, religion, nature, and human psychology. They act as small cultural stories that carry meaning far beyond their literal words.

**Discussion.** The results of this study show that English idioms are closely tied to culture and everyday thinking. They are not just fixed expressions, but ways of packaging cultural experience into short, memorable phrases. Through idioms, English speakers express how they understand human behavior, nature, morality, and social relationships.

A strong pattern that stands out is the frequent use of animal and nature imagery. Idioms such as *“A wolf in sheep’s clothing,”* *“Fight like cat and dog,”* and *“When pigs fly”* show how animals are used to describe people and situations in a very direct and visual way. These images are not random - they reflect how people naturally compare human behavior to the world around them. At the same time, they often carry judgment, showing approval or disapproval of certain behaviors like deceit, conflict, or impossibility.

Religious influence is another important layer. Expressions like *“Good Samaritan”* and *“Cast pearls before swine”* show that biblical stories still live inside everyday language. Even when speakers are not consciously thinking about religion, these idioms preserve moral lessons about kindness, respect, and human values that have been passed down for generations.

Body-related idioms also play a key role in expressing emotions and mental states. Phrases like *“Hold one’s tongue,”* *“Gnash your teeth,”* and *“Apple of one’s eye”* show how people use physical experience to explain feelings such as anger, love, or self-control. This makes abstract emotions easier to understand because they are connected to something physical and familiar.

Idioms about time, effort, and struggle - such as *“In the twinkling of an eye,”* *“Burn the candle at both ends,”* and *“Strike while the iron is hot”* - reflect everyday life experience and traditional work practices. They show how people understand time as something valuable, limited, and closely connected to opportunity and hard work.

Overall, the discussion makes it clear that idioms are deeply rooted in culture. They reflect how people think, what they value, and how they interpret the world in a simple but powerful way.

**Conclusion.** This study explored the linguoculturological features of selected English idioms and showed that idioms carry much more meaning than their literal words suggest. They are shaped by culture, history, and shared human experience.

The analysis revealed that English idioms strongly reflect themes such as religion, nature, human emotions, social behavior, and everyday work life. Animal and natural imagery helps people describe complex ideas in simple and vivid ways, while religious references preserve long-standing moral values. Body-based expressions show how people understand emotions through physical experience, and idioms about time and work reflect practical life lessons.

In conclusion, English idioms should be seen as cultural expressions that carry meaning, not just vocabulary items. To fully understand them, it is important to look beyond language and consider the cultural background behind them.

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