

## IDIOMS IN TEACHING CULTURE

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**Annotation.** The article deals with the issues of the role of idioms in teaching culture and their importance in language teaching. Idioms are an important part of language, since they are used to convey our feelings in more concise and effective way. Language as a zone of communication has literal meaning is the direct reference of words or sentences to object, figurative sense is used for giving invective portraiture or distinctive effect. Such a meaning characterizes notions like metaphors, proverbs and idioms. Idioms, as means of non-literal language, have a vital extent use in functional language. In this study, an attempt is made to look at the use of idioms and why need to teach idioms in teaching culture. The present paper aims at how idioms are connected to one's feelings, how one can develop communicative skills effectively through idioms.

**Key words:** Idioms, teaching culture, language use, close relationship.

According to Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary of Current English (1974), "Idiom" refers to "phrase or sentence whose meaning is not obvious through knowledge of the individual meanings of the constituent words but must be learnt as a whole, e.g. ring a bell, fed up, get out of hand, and so on."

An idiom is a group of words in a fixed order whose meaning is different from the meanings of each word, for example "a cold fish" means to a person who doesn't seem very friendly and doesn't show their emotions. The meanings of idioms have become fixed through use, and they have to be learned through reading and by looking up their meanings in a dictionary In addition: idioms reflect national features personify in a language and are prospered in customs and habits that characterize a society. Lots of cultural knowledge is personified in idioms. We can communicate effectively through idioms as it reflects nation's culture. Through the syntax of the idioms may be different, the meaning and theme is the same in both countries. For example: crying over spilt milk means repenting the same is conveyed in Indian (Hindi) language differently.

Idioms are not only a part of language, but also they are the part of universal communication. Generally, people use idioms, in order to sound natural as a native speaker. They are used to give life and richness to the language by enabling it to absorb

new concepts which need to be expressed linguistically in a new way. Idioms take existing words, combine them in a new sense, and bring forth new expressions.

So, what really is an idiom? One definition is that an idiom is "the assigning of a new meaning to a group of words which already have their own meaning." They are informal in nature and although they appear in literature, they are not necessarily considered to be "literary" They are often colloquial, often slang, and through overuse can be because of cliches. Idioms may be adjectival, adverbial, verbal, or nominal. They also may take the form of traditional sayings or proverbs.

For the foreign student, the learning of idioms is an important aspect of the language mastery. Although learning the idioms by rote may be one important goal, learning to use idiomatic expressions correctly is even more important! The more idioms that a nonnative speaker can use in the right context in conversation with native speakers, the more easily will he be able to establish a communicative relationship, thus opening doors to friendly feelings on the part of both native and nonnative speakers

It is also quite likely that the nonnative speaker who has a good command of idiomatic expressions will be judged by native speakers to be "fluent," an attainment dear to the heart of every learner of a foreign language!

Figurative language includes the use of metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbolae, euphemisms and pun.

Idioms are common phrases or terms where the meaning is not real, but can be understood by their popular use.

For the person who does not know the sense of the idiom, it is difficult to understand, because idioms can't be translated word by word.

Some idioms are only used by some groups of people, at certain times or in definite countries. If we use idioms of our country in foreign countries will not understand us. For example: If someone says: "This car is a lemon, do not buy it" or "I am in a pickle" or if to say to the British people: "You are an oak". Many people may not understand what these idioms significance. They will not guess what you mean because in Britain, the oak is a sacred tree. In order not to be in such situations a person needs to learn the words at this language, and how and when to use them. But people also need to learn idioms separately because certain words together or at certain times can have different meaning. In order to understand an idiom, it's good to know the culture the idiom comes from.

Idioms make language more interesting and vibrant. Everyone in the culture knows what they mean, while outsiders are often confused. For not being confused we must learn idioms and it will help us to immerse into the culture of another nation, to feel ourselves at home among aliens.

Idioms are saying that reflect accumulated human experience and are built on frequently occurring situation, that demonstrate human behavior, social traits, certain habits or tradition in a country. They almost represent life lessons and are a heritage of those accumulated events that make up the language of a nation or humankind in general.

Every country or nation has got their own idioms that are specific to their own culture, while many idioms have synonyms in several countries that refer to the equal shared human nature in many cultures.

Learning the specific idioms related to a certain culture helps, learn more about the historical, customary beliefs and social forms of it. The role of idioms in teaching culture is very important because language and culture have close relationship.

Idioms can be useful to teachers of English, to speakers of foreign language. Many teachers of English as a Second language avoid idioms and their complexity.

However, idioms can make someone sound like a native speaker and express feelings or attitudes toward an event in the way that literal phrases cannot. Idioms enliven speech, so native speakers use them frequently. Without the use of idioms, a foreigner speaking English will never “enter the spirit” of a foreign language.

In addition: “Since idiomatic expressions are so frequently encountered in both spoken and written discourse they require special attention to language programs and should not be relegated to a position of secondary importance in the curriculum.

We must pay attention to the idioms while teaching culture because the English language being very flexible constantly enriches its vocabulary with words invented by language speakers, making it more colorful with new idiomatic expressions, and, at times, refills its stocks with the borrowings and neologisms.

English just amazes by its extraordinary linguistic diversity. However, understanding English lexicon demands more than just knowing the denotative meaning of words.

It is a bias in the learning idioms. Learning idioms is certainly not a piece of cake, but once you know them, they can be a lot of fun, and anyway, because English people use idioms non-stop you will be totally confused in most conversations until you understand how think works Idioms share cultural and historical information and broaden people’s understanding and manipulation of a language

**Conclusion.** This article is discussed how we can better communicate using idioms, why important to learn idioms in teaching culture and how to influence idioms in our speech. Idioms are beautiful expressions, because we can convey vague expression making it more understandable and clear Idioms are special expressions which are almost known and agreed by all members of community. Idioms are linguistic symbols which most vividly reflect the culture of a nation and its people.

Idiomatic expressions or idioms should not be neglected and should not be taken for granted. Idioms are used daily and repeatedly by native speakers of English Language. Idiomatic expressions are a part of every language's vocabulary and are based on that language history, heritage, and culture. Learning idiomatic expressions helps non-native speakers of a language become more fluent, and sound more native-like. Learning idiomatic expressions increases the vocabulary and lexicon of the English Language learner. Moreover, idiomatic knowledge leads to a better understanding of the culture and customs of that particular language English language teachers should teach idiomatic language to their students and not overlook such a vital issue because becoming more native-like in English Language is by learning idiomatic expressions, understanding their meanings and using them frequently parallel to English Language native speakers. If we want to know about other countries, we must learn not only language, we must learn idioms because idioms have close relationship in teaching culture. Study of idioms opens us faces and makes our speech more vivid and our vocabulary richer.

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