

THE FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PHRASEOLOGY IN ENGLISH LINGUISTICS, AND THE SPECIFIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSION

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Abstract:

With an emphasis on the distinctive qualities of idiomatic expressions, this article examines the historical genesis and continuous evolution of phraseology in English linguistics. It explores the cognitive, linguistic, and cultural factors that have shaped idiom development and looks at how they are employed to express linguistic innovation and cultural subtleties. With citations to important works in the subject, the study also emphasizes the major characteristics of English idiomatic idioms, including their stable structure, metaphorical interpretations, and cultural distinctiveness.

Key words: Phraseology, modern phraseology, English linguistics, idiomatic expression, origin of idioms, grammar structure of idioms.

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A crucial field of study in linguistics is phraseology, which focuses on the fixed phrases, idioms, and set expressions that define a language. Idiomatic phrases in English are essential elements that enhance communication by expressing meanings beyond the precise definitions of particular words. Historical, cultural, and social variables have influenced the evolution of phraseology in English linguistics, making idioms both culturally relevant and functional. English idiomatic phrases' origins, structural characteristics, and cognitive elements will be covered in this article, along with the difficulties they pose for language learners and translators.

English phraseology's historical development. English phraseology has centuries-old roots that have been shaped by social shifts, historical occurrences, and language borrowing. In addition to the influence of other languages like French, Latin, and Norse, English idioms frequently show remnants of historical events like migration, colonization, and conflicts. There are traces of historical meanings that may have changed over time in many present English idioms. A wide range of idiomatic idioms reflecting the language's varied origins have resulted from this lengthy history.

As a branch of linguistics, modern phraseology now studies not only fixed expressions and ancient idioms but also how phrases change in meaning and pattern as they adapt to modern language. Idioms, collocations, sayings, and other multi-word formulations that express more than the sum of their parts are among the many linguistic components it looks at [3,p151]. Taking into account how phrases evolve, proliferate, and are employed in many cultural and communication situations, modern phraseology combines cognitive, social, and computational viewpoints.

Examples of modern phrases:

Idiom	Meaning
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<i>"Break the internet"</i>	<i>This phrase means to generate an unprecedented amount of attention or online traffic, often through viral content.</i>
<i>"Throw shade"</i>	<i>An expression used to subtly insult or criticize someone, usually in a playful or indirect way.</i>
<i>"Ghosting"</i>	<i>Refers to ending communication suddenly and without explanation, often in dating or social contexts. "Cancel culture": Describes the practice of rejecting or withdrawing support for public figures or companies based on their actions or statements.</i>

English linguistics' phraseology development. In the 20th century, phraseology—the study of fixed idioms and idiomatic constructions in language—became a prominent academic discipline. Phraseological units have been better understood because to the work of researchers like Charles Bally and more recent academics like A.V. Kunin. It is currently acknowledged that phraseology is a branch of English linguistics that interacts with pragmatics, semantics, and cognitive linguistics. The idiomatic idioms' grammatical stability, metaphorical connotations, and pragmatic communication functions have all been examined. An overview of English linguistics in brief is the study of the structure, usage, and history of the English language is known as English linguistics. It includes a number of areas: Phonology and phonetics study English sounds, including patterns and pronunciation. Word construction is the main focus of morphology, which also studies roots, prefixes, and suffixes. Syntax: Examines the arrangement of words in phrases to analyze their structure. Semantics: Examines the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences in language. Pragmatics: Examines how social norms and speaker purpose affect meaning in context. Furthermore, English linguistics takes into account dialects, regional and cultural variants, historical linguistics, and the way English interacts with other languages around the world. Understanding the development of English, education, translation, and intercultural communication are all aided by this field [5,48].

Particular characteristics of idiomatic expressions in English idioms are distinguished by certain language and structural characteristics. Fixed structure of English idioms, frequently, have a set word order and little structural flexibility. Phrases like "kick the bucket," for instance, cannot be changed without losing their colloquial meaning. Cultural specificity. A lot of idioms that represent traditions, humour, and history have strong roots in English-speaking societies. Idioms that contain cultural allusions, like "a penny for your thoughts" or "the ball is in your court," represent historical settings and social mores that native speakers are accustomed to. Difficulties with idiomatic expressions in language learning and translation. Because of their culturally specific and metaphorical meanings, English idioms can be difficult for translators and language learners to understand. Idioms that do not transfer straight into their native tongues may be difficult for learners to understand. For example, if you don't comprehend the metaphorical meaning of the phrase "break the ice," it could be confusing.

Idioms are expressions that have deeper meanings than their literal words and are frequently derived from social, cultural, or historical settings. The figurative interpretations of many idioms are enhanced by their origins in literature, mythology, historical events, and old practices. Idioms are colourful and occasionally difficult to translate directly because they capture the history, values, and culture of the language to which they belong.

Idiom	Meaning
<i>Break the ice [6..p32]</i>	<i>To initiate conversation in a tense or awkward situation.</i>
<i>Hit the sack</i>	<i>To go to bed or sleep.</i>

<i>Spill the beans</i>	<i>To reveal a secret or disclose information prematurely.</i>
<i>Once in a blue moon</i> [7, p135]	<i>Something that happens very rarely.</i>
<i>Bite the bullet</i> [8, p35]	<i>To face a difficult or unpleasant situation with courage.</i>
<i>Kick the bucket</i>	<i>A humorous or informal way to say someone has died.</i>
<i>Burn the midnight oil</i>	<i>To work late into the night, often studying or working hard.</i>
<i>Under the weather</i>	<i>Feeling sick or unwell.</i>
<i>The ball is in your court</i>	<i>It's your decision or responsibility to take action.</i>
<i>Let the cat out of the bag</i>	<i>To accidentally reveal a secret.</i>

Grammar structures of these idioms:

Idiom	Structure	Meaning
<i>Break the ice</i>	Structure: Verb + Definite Article + Noun <i>Break (verb) + the (definite article) + ice (noun)</i>	Meaning is figurative, as "ice" represents social tension.
<i>Bite the bullet</i>	Structure: Verb + Definite Article + Noun <i>Bite (verb) + the (definite article) + bullet (noun)</i>	Figurative, with "bullet" symbolizing a difficult decision or situation.
<i>Hit the nail on the head</i>	Structure: Verb + Definite Article + Noun + Prepositional Phrase <i>Hit (verb) + the (definite article) + nail (noun) + on the head (prepositional phrase)</i>	"Nail on the head" symbolizes accuracy, based on carpentry imagery.
<i>Let the cat out of the bag</i>	Structure: Verb + Definite Article + Noun + Prepositional Phrase <i>Let (verb) + the (definite article) + cat (noun) + out of the bag (prepositional phrase)</i>	Figurative; "cat out of the bag" represents revealing a secret.
<i>Spill the beans</i>	Structure: Verb + Definite Article + Noun <i>Spill (verb) + the (definite article) + beans (noun)</i>	Figurative; "beans" symbolize secrets being revealed
<i>Burn the midnight oil</i>	Structure: Verb + Definite Article + Adjective + Noun <i>Burn (verb) + the (definite article) + midnight (adjective) + oil (noun)</i>	Figurative, referring to using oil lamps in the past to stay up late working.
<i>Under the weather</i>	Structure: Prepositional Phrase <i>Under (preposition) + the (definite article) + weather (noun)</i>	Figurative, "under" suggests feeling low or unwell, like being affected by the weather.
<i>Cost an arm and a leg</i>	Structure: Verb + Indefinite Article + Noun + Conjunction + Noun <i>Cost (verb) + an (indefinite article) + arm (noun) + and (conjunction) + leg (noun)</i>	Figurative, where "arm and a leg" symbolize a high price.
<i>When pigs fly</i>	Structure: Subordinating Conjunction + Subject + Verb <i>When (subordinating conjunction) + pigs (subject) + fly (verb)</i>	Figurative; impossible imagery to suggest something will never happen.

The ball is in your court	Structure: Definite Article + Noun + Linking Verb + Prepositional Phrase The (definite article) + ball (noun) + is (linking verb) + in your court (prepositional phrase)	Metaphor from sports, "ball in your court" means responsibility lies with.
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In English linguistics, the study of phraseology and idiomatic idioms provides understanding of the intricacies of cognitive processing, cultural influence, and language evolution. Idioms are cultural markers that represent historical contexts and society ideals in addition to being language tools. Idiomatic expressions give English depth and color, improving both written and spoken communication, even if they can be difficult for learners. Gaining fluency requires an understanding of idioms since it enables people to speak clearly and enjoy the diversity of the English language.

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