

THE USAGE OF WORD “HAND” IN ENGLISH AND TURKISH IDIOMS

«РУКА» В ИДИОМАХ АНГЛИЙСКОГО И ТУРЕЦКОГО АЗЫКОВ

Аннотациясы: «Кол»-дене мүчөсүнүн бир органы катары баардык сырдуу жана жасаган аракеттери менен ар кайсы маданияттагы, культурадагы тилчилердин, акындардын, психологтордун ал эле эмес илимпоздордун дагы көңүлүн өзүнө бурган. Бул макала негизинен атайын тандалып алынган англис жана түрк тилиндеги идиомалардагы «кол» деген сөздүн мааниси үстүндө турган идиомалардын ортосундагы окшоштуктарды жана айырмачылыктарды мисалдар менен салыштырылып берилген чакан изилдөө.

Негизги сөздөр: Англисче, түркчө, аныктама, идиома, метонимия, салыштыруу, окшоштуктар, айырмачылыктар, кол, белги.

Аннотация: Рука как орган человеческого тела ее таинственность и функции привлекли к себе внимание лингвистов, поэтов, психологов, а так же ученых различных культур и цивилизаций. Данная статья представляет собой скромную работу, направленную на изучение слова «рука» в некоторых идиомах английского и турецкого языках, где рассматривается в примерах его значение, сходства и различия.

Ключевые слова: Английский, Турецкий, Определение, Идиома, метонимия, Сравнения, Сходства, Различия, Рука, Символ.

Abstract: As a body part “hand” attracted the attentions of linguists, poets, psychologists and even scientists with its mysteries and functions in every cultures and literatures. This article may be accepted as a short comparative study which focuses on the meaning of “hand” between the selected English and Turkish idioms and demonstrates the similarities and differences with examples.

Keywords: English, Turkish, definition, idioms, metonymy, comparison, similarities, differences, hand, images.

INTRODUCTION

Idioms have long been considered as a backbone of every languages. When people speak each other express their feelings by using a group of words in a fixed order that have a particular meaning. In other words, idioms encompass our life from all its aspects. The different situations of our daily life can be better communicated and described by the contribution of the idioms. It means that consciously or unconsciously, we often use the idioms in the different steps of social life.

Idioms are a strong bridge between the past and present and always carry the old traditions to present day with beautiful, attractive short and effective expression. In addition, idioms are inexhaustible treasure for moral and traditional values.

Therefore, it can be said that all nations more or less learn some historical, cultural and traditional principles from the idioms. In other words, idioms may be accepted as important chain of advises for a nation from the ancestors.

For instance: “(don’t) **bite the hand that feeds you**» is an English idiom that ethically advises not to act badly against a person who helped us.¹ Some idioms demonstrate human character, For instance: “**elini veren kolunu alamaz – if you give one hand he will ask your arms**” is a Turkish idiom which depicts greedy character of a person.²

An idiom may be defined as follows:

¹ <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/bite-the-hand-that-feeds-you>

² Asım Ömer Aksoy, Atasözleri ve Deyimler Sözlüğü, İnkılap Yayınevi, Ankara, 1998, Page, 760.

«*idiom*» is an expression that cannot be readily understood according to the actual meanings of the words in the expression.³

Idioms are indispensable to the daily speech of people and to the language of the books and newspapers, television and movies.⁴

“Idiom: The mode of language used by a particular people or by an individual.”⁵

«idiom is a combination of fixed words which, ease speech and writing and sometimes can not be understood logically.»⁶

“Idiom is a traditional way of saying something.»⁷

Above given definitions prove that, idioms are not only a simple group of words or kinds of fixed metaphorical structures but they are also colorful part of tradition which take place in every steps of social and cultural life.

However, the richness and the metaphorical structures of idioms prevent even the native speakers of language from proper understanding of them. They are not always transparent. At times, idioms are understood in their literal meaning and at times, they should be understood metaphorically without losing the connection of their literal forms.

As a body part hand attracted the attentions of linguists, poets, psychologists and even scientists with its mysteries and functions in every cultures. This article may be accepted as a short comparative study which focuses on the meaning of “hand» between the selected English and Turkish idioms. In order to indicate the similarities and differences, first of all an English idiom was given on the top as a source, after that either Turkish idiom or its translation into English was written. Then both idioms were analyzed and made detailed expressions about the similarities

³ Wanda Kelly, Stephanie Buehler, Teachers Created Recourses, America, 2011, Page, 36.

⁴ Gaines Barbara K., Idiomatic American English: A Step-by-step Workbook for Learning Everyday American Expressions, Kodansha International press, 1986, Page, vii.

⁵ Cunningham W. T., The Nelson Contemporary English Dictionary, Nelson Thornes Publications, 1977, Page, 258

⁶ Çotuksöken, Yusuf, Deyimlerimiz, Özgül Yayınları Eğitim ve Öğretimde Kaynak Kitaplar Dizisi, İstanbul, 1992.

⁷ Hirsch Eric Donald, Trefil Joseph F. Kett, James S., The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Printing, 2002, Page, 154.

and differences in meanings and images. Finally, usage of English and Turkish idioms demonstrated with examples.

HAND

* Lend/give someone a hand

El uzatmak/vermek – give a hand

English and Turkish idioms have the same meaning and same images. “*Lend/give someone a hand*» means in English idiom to help or aid someone.⁸ “*el uzatmak/vermek*» means in Turkish idiom help needy people.⁹ It can be said that both idioms metaphorically indicates helping needy people by using the hand that is the most important part of human being. Actually, in many cultures hand is used to express the act of help. In other words. It is considered as universal case for the different culture as well as for the different system languages

English example: Ashley lent her new neighbor a hand.¹⁰

Turkish example: Zor durumdaki kadınlara, kendilerini bekleyen tuzakların farkında olmayan genç kızlara el uzatmak bir insanlık vazifesidir.¹¹

* From hand to hand

Elden ele – from hand to hand

English and Turkish idioms have the same meaning and same images. Both idioms try to explain the same situation for instance; “*from hand to hand*» means in English idiom «Pass on from person to person.»¹² “*elden ele*» means in Turkish “passing something from one person to another.”¹³ Here the hand is a metaphor which stands for a person. Hereby, It can be said that both idioms figuratively express something which shifts or changes from one person to another.

⁸ Swick Edward, American Idioms and Some Phrases Just for Fun, Barron’s Educational Press, Newyork.1999, Page, 13.

⁹ <http://www.tdk.gov.tr>, section E.

¹⁰ Hamilton Zhanna, 117 Most Common English Idioms and Phrasal Verbs, Zhanna Hamilton, 2013, Page, 77

¹¹ Sinar Alev, Aka Gündüz’ün romanlarında kadın, Der-gâh Yayınları, İstanbul, 2007, Page, 84.

¹² Copper David, Idioms, Lotus Press, New Delhi, 2005, Page, 67.

¹³ Yetiş Kâzım , Ayverdi Sâmiha Türkçenin nakışları: atasözleri, deyimler, tekerlemeler, Kubbealtı Neşriyatı, İstanbul, 1993, Page, 75.

English example: “The scrip was the liability of the company issuing it, and was *passed from hand to hand* as a form of money.”¹⁴

Turkish example:

“Yasal DVD’lerinin yanısıra korsan VCD’leri de elden ele dolaşıyor.”¹⁵

* **Be in good hands**

Emin ellerde olmak – Be in secure hands

English and Turkish idioms have the same meaning but slightly different images. “*Be in good hands*» means in English; «Be in a secure and safe position.”¹⁶ «*emin ellerde olmak*» means in Turkish; «be in a secure position or be under someone’s wings”

English idiom expresses the secure position of someone with the image of good hand. On the other hand Turkish idiom indicates the same situation with the image of secure hand. Above mentioned idioms have the same meaning but different images. The word “hands” was used as a metonymy just to describe trustworthy people in both idioms. They are also considered as universal case.

English example:

“They will be reassured that the *child is in good hands*.”¹⁷

Turkish example:

“Hastanız artık emin ellerde; siz çıkabilirsiniz.”¹⁸

* **One's hands are tied**

Eli kolu bağlı olmak – Have one’s hand and arm tied – колу байлануу

Sometimes people try to do many things despite their eagerness some unexpected situations curb them from reaching their goal. Above given idioms depict someone’s position who is in deep water. Both idioms have the similar meaning but with different images. “*One’s hands are tied*» means in English; “Prevented from doing

something or unable to act.”¹⁹ “*eli kolu bağlı olmak*» means in Turkish; «unable to do anything due to pressure or preventions.”²⁰ As it has been mentioned above that both idioms have the same meaning with different images. For instance; the position of a prevented person is demonstrated with “*tied hand* «in English idiom. On the other hand, the same condition is demonstrated with «*tied hand and arm*» in other words, Turkish idiom used “*arm*» as additional metaphor.

English example:

“Jack had his hands tied on the new project the boss was not allowing any new input.”²¹

Turkish example:

“Elim kolum bağlı, ne yapacağımı bilemiyorum.”²²

* **Wait on someone hand and foot**

El pençe divan durmak – Wait on someone with tied hands on one’s lap.

Respect is above everything in many cultures. Therefore, it is necessary to pay **obeisance** to elders, rulers or scholars especially in eastern civilizations. Of course, every nation had different ways to show respect.

Above given idioms describe the way of paying respect.

“*Wait on someone hand and foot* «means in English; «To wait to serve someone attentively.”²³ «*el pençe divan durmak*» means in Turkish;”wait on someone with tied hands on one’s lap”²⁴ Turkish idiom actually, describes the state of a person who stands before Sultan or a ruler with his hands tied on his lap as a sign of loyalty. English idiom also indicates the same situation. The difference occurs between English and Turkish idioms only in images. Both idioms indicate the state of loyalty by using the “*hand*» as a metonymy.

English example:

¹⁹ Skilja Diritas, 1001 idioms To Master Your English, Trafford Publishing, North America, 2013, Page, 31

²⁰ http://www.tdk.gov.tr/Atasozleri_ve_Deyimler_Sozlugu, Section -E.

²¹ Hamilton Zhanna, 117 Most Common English Idioms and Phrasal Verbs, Zhanna Hamilton, 2013, Page, 121

²² Muallimoğlu Nejat, Türkçe Bilen Aranıyor, N. Muallimoğlu, İstanbul, 1999, Page, 543.

²³ Brenner Gail, Webster’s New World American Idioms, Wiley publishing, Indianapolis, 2003.

²⁴ M. Ali Tanyeri, Örnekleriyle Cumhuriyet şiirinde deyimler, MVT Yayıncılık, 2006 Page, 106.

¹⁴ Rogers James P., Power Currency, Power Currency, 2010, Page, 332.

¹⁵ Akyalçın Necmi, Türkçe ikilemeler sözlüğü, Anı Yayıncılık, Ankara, 2007, Page, 249

¹⁶ Olson Elaine, Stedman’s Guide to Idioms, Julie K. Stegman, Maryland, 2005, Page, 21.

¹⁷ Booth Phyllis B., Jernber Ann M., Theraplay, John Wiley & Sons, San Francisco 2009, Page, 189.

¹⁸ Taşkın Hilmi, Tayyibe, Cinius Yayınları, 2013, Page, 21.

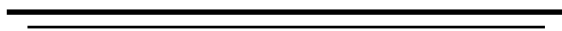
“I tiptoed around the house, *waiting* on him *hand and foot*.”²⁵

Turkish example:

“Veziri âzam Koca Mustafa Paşa, karşısında el-pençe divan duruyor, diğer iki vezir de korkularından hiç ses çıkarmıyorlardı.”²⁶

To sum up: Comparison of the idioms of different languages is an amazing work. During comparison we have observed that above selected English and Turkish idioms have similarities and differences. It can be said that unique language characteristics, historical, cultural and religious

backgrounds and lifestyle of nations caused some differences between English and Turkish idioms. On the other hand, pure reason, common sense, nature, needs expectations of human being and cultural exchange between the nations, naturally gave a birth to some similarities between the idioms of different cultures. Finally, it can be said that as in many other literatures, the word “hand» is mostly used as a metonymy to depict personalities, their respect, loyalty and help in English and Turkish idioms. They are also considered as universal case.



²⁵ Sharp Connie Joy, *Someone to Love Me*, Author House, Indiana, 2005, Page, 76.

²⁶ Özdeş Oğuz, *Yavuz'un pençesi*, Türkiye Yayınevi, İstanbul, 1969, Page, 40.