

УДК 81'276.11

UNDERSTANDING AND USING AMERICAN IDIOMS IN LEARNING ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE  
ПОНИМАНИЕ И ИСПОЛЬЗОВАНИЕ АМЕРИКАНСКИХ ИДИОМ В ИЗУЧЕНИИ  
АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА  
АНГЛИС ТИЛИН ҮЙРӨНҮҮДӨ АМЕРИКА ИДИОМАЛАРЫН ТҮШҮНҮҮ ЖАНА  
КОЛДОНУУ

*Kerimberdieva A.D. - senior teacher,  
Isabaeva Y.A. - senior teacher,  
JASU, Philology faculty, English language and literature department.*

*Annotations: This article identifies the problems in understanding and using American idioms in students' speech. It can help students to enrich their vocabulary and speaking skills. Here are given some examples and meanings of idioms.*

*Данная статья рассматривает проблемы в понимании и использовании Американских идиом в разговорной речи студентов. Идиомы помогают студентам расширить словарный запас и разговорную речь. Имеются примеры и значения идиом.*

*Бул макалада Америка идиомаларын түшүнүү жана колдонуудагы көйгөйлөр жана аларды чечүүнүн жолдору каралган. Идиомалар студенттердин сөз байлыгын жана сүйлөө речин өстүрүүгө жардам берет. Макалада идиомалардын бир канча мисалдары маанилери менен бирге берилген.*

Most American idioms, especially when they talk to one another, and, consequently, idioms form a very important part of American English. They are used to give life and richness to the language by enabling it to absorb new concepts, which need to be expressed in a new way. Idioms take existing words, combine them in a new sense and bring forth new expressions. For instance, to nouns such as monkey and business are combined in a new expression monkey business, which means any activity that is dishonest, in illegal, objectionable and somewhat underhanded or deceitful.

What really is an idiom? An idiom is a phrase which means something different from the meanings of the separate words that are a part of it. Usually it cannot be understood by the literal interpretation of the word that makes up the expression. Used together the words convey a meaning that is often unrelated to the individual words in the idiom. Some idioms have become so well worn that they are also clichés: over used or commonplace expressions. Idioms may be adjectival, adverbial, verbal, or nominal. They also may take the form of traditional sayings or proverbs. Some idioms are slang. They may be used to create an effect such as shock, irreverence or exaggeration.

It is very important to study the causes of difficulties, which the foreigners have when they try to use American idioms in their speech. So this part of the first chapter introduces some of the widely spread difficulties.

One of the main difficulties is that the language learner does not know when he can use idioms, he does not know all peculiarities of a style i.e. he does not know if it is possible to use a chosen idiom in formal or informal situation.

Choice of idioms depends on the person with whom you are talking and it also depends on a situation or a place on a moment of a talk. You can use informal expression even slang if your interlocutor is your friend or a situation is very personal. In formal situation when we know the interlocutor not so good or in the official situation it is necessary to choose the idioms more

carefully. It would not be correct to choose informal expression in a rather official situation and the choice of a slang expression in such case is an indication of the bad manners. It means that we can tell the same information or express an idea by different ways using different levels of the language. For example, when someone is late for meeting with friends and use an expression “Sorry I am late! –but I got badly held up” that is a typical informal way of an apology. However, if you are late for meeting with foreigners the expression “I do apologize for being late. I am afraid my train was delayed” is suitable way of apology in this situation.

Formal idioms are widely used in written language; they underline a definite distance between the interlocutors. Such kind expressions should be used, for example, in lectures in front of the auditory. Informal idioms are used in colloquial language and in personal letters. Slang is used very informal situations between good friends. Language learner should not use slang very often because it usually sounds strangely.

Another serious difficulty is that a language learner does not know what idiom is suitable for this or that concrete situation.

We often read and hear a phrase” Language is a living thing”, but majority of us does not fall to thinking how and why it is so. Living creatures grow and change, the same thing is happening with a language. Any person can easily catch the difference between English of Shakespeare and the language of modern authors. But nowadays English is also growing and changing and it is very difficult to recognize some tendencies of these differences.

The common tendency of the Modern English is a transition to the wider usage of idioms so we have to study the development of English. Idioms are not a separate part of the language that can be used or cannot be used –they form the essential part of the English Dictionary.

It is not so necessary to be a linguist or expert in the language to understand that the vocabulary of a language is often growing because of new knowledge stored by society. However new knowledge need in new conventional sings without which the transmission of new ideas to other people would not be possible. Majority of new words comes from the same English language, but from special subject spheres such as science and technology, psychology, sociology, politics and economics. Words, which already exist, also can take special meaning in different situations. For example, **to lock someone out usually means “to lock the door in order to prevent someone to go out”**. But this phrase has another meaning in the context of relations of production. It means that an employer does not allow the workers return to their places that is why it can be considered to be a new world in the language.

New ideas can be expressed by combination of two or three words. For example, the words **wage** and to **freeze** are well-known but a term **a wage-freeze** appeared in the language comparatively not long ago. To freeze wages is an expression from the British politics and economics.

New word can be formed in a result of conversion of a verbal phrase into a noun (**a lock-out**) or conversion of a noun into a verb. Such conversion is widely spread in American English (AE) and British English (BE) borrows new word combinations from American English. For example, **a stop-over, a check-up, a walk-over, a hand-out, asset-up** (all of them usually used in the colloquial language) **to pilot (a plane), to captain (a team), to radio (a message), to service (a motorcar), to Xerox (a document), to pressure (somebody)**.

Thanks to the flexibility of English, new words can easily report new grammatical functions. All these changes in the word functions have the only aim – to **How to gain needed understanding and facility of American idioms**. Speaking on how to gain needed understanding and facility of American idioms in our speech we have to take into consideration different aspects of idioms. Idioms are not colloquial expressions only, as many people suppose. They can be used in a formal speech and in island also. We can meet them in poetry or in the Shakespeare’s language, even in the Bible. What is idiom? We can say that idiom is a number of

words a meaning that is not coincided with the meanings of every word taken from this idiom separately. The way with a help of such words are joined usually is not logical and grammatically correct. Some idioms have special features. Other ones are ordinary and logical combinations of words taking into consideration their grammar and vocabulary. By force of special features of some idioms we have to study the idiom as the whole, and often we can't change any of its components (exception is a tense of a verb). English is full of idiomatic expressions. Really, it is very difficult to speak or write English not using idioms. Native speakers very often do not realize that he's used an idiom. Language learners consider the correct use of idiomatic English to be one of his main aims and the fact that some idioms are not logical and grammatically correct, it gives a lot of trouble. Here the only help is an accurate work on the idioms.

We can't explain what was the cause of appearance of this or that idiom because the idiom is forming as a result of a long use and it can be seen from it's vocabulary. For example, the idiom **"to buy a pig in a poke"** means "to buy something that really costs less than it was paid", where the word **poke** is an old name of a sack. In Modern English **poke** in this meaning was used in this idiom only. It is clear that this idiom is used far long than individual words. Thus, we have to speak on the sources of idioms. As we caught, the main in idiom is it's meaning. Namely that is why the native speaker does not notice that some idioms are not correct grammatically. It is not so difficult to catch on the meaning of any idiom if you know it's source. Many idiomatic phrases came from the everyday way of life. For example:

**to be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth**

**to make a clean sweep of something**

**to hit the nail on the head**

There are many idioms connected with a cooking in English. For example:

**to eat humble pie**

**out of the trying pan into the fire**

**to be in the soup.**

For the foreign student of English, learning of idioms is an important aspect of the mastery of American English. And, although learning idioms by rote may be one important goal, learning to use idiomatic expressions correctly is even more important! The idioms that a nonnative speaker of English can use in the right context in conversation with Native Americans the more easily will he be able to establish a communicative relationship, thus opening door to friendly feelings on the part of both native and nonnative speakers. There is also an added bonus. It is quite likely that the nonnative speaker of English can use in the right context in conversation with Native Americans, the more easily will he be able to establish a communicative relationship, thus opening door to a friendly feelings on the part of both native and non native speakers. There is also an added bonus. It is quite likely that the non native speaker of English who has a good command of idiomatic expressions will be judged by Native Americans to be "fluent", an attainment dear to the heart of every learner of a foreign language!

#### References:

1. Holman C.H. A Handbook to Literature New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1986 248 p.
2. Laflin S.V. Something To Crow About : A Concise Collection of American English Idioms for Everyday Use. Washington, D.C Materials Development and Review Branch, 1993-94 p.
3. The World Book Encyclopedia. Chicago World Book, Inc. 1994 500 p
4. Ellin-Elmakiss Catching on to American idioms. Second edition. Michigan 2001. 255.
5. Dean Curry. Illustrated American Idioms . Washington, D.C. 1990. 100 P.
6. Fragiadakis H.K. All Clear! Idioms in Context Second edition. Boston Heinle and Heinle Publishers, Inc., 160

7. Dickson R. Essential idioms in English. Moscow, Petersburg; Pechatniy Dvor, 1994. 230p.
8. Shafrin Y, idioms of English. Moscow, Laboratoriya znaniy, 2003. 558 p.

Рецензент:

Орозбаева Г.А. – к.ф.н., доцент