



IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS AS A SMART USAGE OF LANGUAGE – ORIGIN AND FRAMING OF MEANINGS-AN EXEMPLIFIED STUDY

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Abstract

According to the research in the movie 'Patala Bhairavi' (Released in 1951) Shri S.V.Ranga Rao Garu the famous and renowned actor stated that one should take lead in inventing new words otherwise how the new words take place in any language. For instance he used the word 'Dimbaka' (Guy) which is a famous dialogue in that movie 'Saahasam Cheyara Dimbaka' 'Dare my boy'.(Ref:) The words of a particular region do transform form time to time and region to region. Sometimes based on the culture, the words take transformation in the usage because of the acculturation. For instance, the words such as Katti, Sutti and mama are used only for their figurative meanings once upon a time as Katti means sword, Sutti means Hammer and Mama means uncle where as at present scenario, these words are used beyond the figurative meanings and used as Katti is used to indicate the sharpness and brightness quality. If a girl is narrated very beautiful she is complimented as 'Figure kattila undira' which means the girl is awesome. In the same manner, the word Sutti is used to indicate the boring thing irrespective of its figurative meaning. The famous statement 'Sootiga maatadu suttiga matadakunda' which means speak straightly without beating around the bush. Mama is used as uncle in the figurative meaning but it is used as friendly manner to call the buddies among the groups. This sort of transformation is not only for the specific language or for a particular period of time or for a period of time.

The word idiome, or via late Latin from Greek idiōma 'private property, peculiar phraseology', from idiousthai 'make one's own', from idios which means 'own or private'. In the same way, the idioms which are used and applied in daily usage of the local people of a particular region particular place of a specific time. These idioms are also called Jaatiyaalu (adopted) of that particular region and spread all over during of a particular period of time. Every idiomatic expression has various reasons behind its origin. Hence, this paper focuses on how the idiomatic expressions originated and their background history for generating such type of words. I have taken very few of the idioms for the study as there are innumerable idioms existed in English Language. I have applied descriptive method along with quoting of some examples in this paper. The final outcome of this paper brings about the various general and situational causes of generating the idioms of particular region time and culture.

Key words: Idioms, Nativization, Adoption, Glory and Flavor of Language, origin,nativity.

Full Paper:

Lions Share: Major part.

The idiom Lions Share, which means the major share or major part, which has been taken into consideration by the nativization with a fable that in general the lion is considered to be the king of the forest. It hunts the animals and eats the hunted animal by taking a major share. It leaves the flesh at the end. The other animals like jackal and fox will eat the left out meat and flesh which is generally very less. Hence, from this, the idiom is used as a synonym for the word major share.

**White Elephant: Costly but no use**

In *Ithihasa*, the white elephant is with the god *lord Indra*, and that elephant is considered to be holy and reputed. It does not do any sort of work but still it has with great nobility and great honor with grandeur. Even in general as the white elephants are very rare species, they are treated as great and with high respectfulness. However, these white elephants do not work like other elephants like bearing of logs and doing a lot of forest work like other elephants. Hence, from then, the white elephant is considered to be the costly and rare one but of no utility.

Cats & Dogs Life: To lead a quarrelsome life

It's a universally known fact that, in the animals the Cats and Dogs are considered to be the enemies. Its quiet clear with the world famous show called Tom And Gerry. Hence, from this the idiom Cats and Dogs life the sentences are framed to indicate the people who are having rivalry continuously. It's also used for the quarreling issues con

Snake in the grass: Hidden danger

The idiom Snake in the grass means hidden danger which has come from the situation that a snake is not at all identified when it is in the grass. It takes the shadow of the same color as the grass and snakes appear in the same manner. It is highly impossible to trace out the hidden danger as it is in the grass and that is the reason this proverb has come.

Man of Straw: Man with worthless

The idiom man of straw which means a man with worthless nature by his deeds. In one of the Hindu *ithihasas*, *Sitha* also showed the straw to *Ravana* and says you are like this to me, which indicates he is like a worthless man to her. From then, itself it is known factor that a straw is useless for any purposes. in this way this idiom has come into existence.

Man of Iron: Strong person

The idiom man of Iron means Strong person which has come from the material that is iron. As iron is a representation for strong thing the person is represented with strength in the public in terms of good reputation and familiarity it has come to practice in society.

Burn the Midnight oil: To work hard

The idiom Burn the Midnight oil, which means to work hard which has come from the olden culture as in olden days, power and electricity were unavailable. During those days the fuel *lantharns* and candles were used after the sunset. If a person works at night shifts he has to consume the oil so as to get the light. Hence, the idiom has come into practice and if a person burns the midnight oil means working nigh outs.

To carry the coal to the castle: To do unnecessary work/useless work



The idiom to carry the coal to the castle which means to do unnecessary work or useless work. A castle indicates well structured building which has fully furnished and done with full of interior. Hence, there is no point of carrying coal to the new castle where there is no need. Hence, it is considered to the useless work.

From the Cradle: From the Childhood

The idiomatic expression from the Cradle means from the childhood, which is derived based on the word cradle means in childhood for infants a swinging bed is used to make the kids sleep well. This cradle is used only for infants and new born babies generally. Hence, the term from the cradles resembles that it exists from the birth.

To have heart at the right place: To be kind and generous

The idiomatic expression to have heart at the right place means to be kind and generous towards others. That is the reason; the idiom has used to have the heart at the right place.

Caste pearls before swine: to display before an unworthy person

The idiomatic expression Caste pearls before swine means to display or showcase talent before an unworthy person undeserving person as he does not know anything or does not appreciate the others talent. In this idiom, the swine is an animal which does not like the neatness and tidiness. It always likes to be dwelling the mud. Hence to caste pearls or valuables before the swine is wasteful thing. To indicate the idiomatic expression Caste pearls before swine is used.

Once in a blue moon: very rare

The idiomatic expression Once in a blue moon means very rare or occasional. As the blue moon or full moon happens to occur rarely like once in a month. To indicate the same meaning, whenever anything happens to be rare or very occasional that is termed with the idiomatic expression once in a blue moon.

Storm in a teacup: to make issue for small things

The idiomatic expression Storm in a teacup means to make an issue for small things which are unnecessary or not at all needed to highlight. As the word itself says to create nonsense out of a cup this idiom also represents

Skelton in the cupboard: A hidden secret or danger

The idiomatic expression Skelton in the cupboard means a hidden secret or danger. As the Skelton represents the danger symbol if it is hidden, it is symbolized as hidden secrets it is identified as a Skelton in the cupboard.

Conclusion: This paper gives a picture on the origin of the few idiomatic words and the usage in the daily life with the help of few case studies.

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