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Idiomatic expression between Arabic and English
A contrastive semantic study

Dr. Yusuf Elayyan

Abstract

This study deals with a universal subject, i.e., proverbs, sayings, and idiomatic expressions that are spoken in Arabic and English. The study showed that idiomatic expressions were unknown by ancient Arab Linguists. Instead, they used idioms like proverbs, metonym, context of situation, etc. Such idioms are familiar with modern western linguists who wrote many specialized dictionaries, while the Arab libraries are still poor with such studies. The study also showed that an idiomatic expression is a semantic unit. It can be replaced by synonym, homonym or antonym. The study focused on subjects like kinds of idiomatic expressions, similarities and differences between Arabic and English, reasons that make people use idioms now and then, and reasons that make the translation of idiomatic expressions difficult. The study drew attention that he who translates idiomatic expressions must be of a well-known of the culture of the two languages.

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Semantics

" " ()"

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(Wittgenstein)

(Pierce) ()

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Palmer:Semantics,2ndedition,CambridgeUniversity, Press,1991, p: : ()

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-(.)- - - - - : ()

() ()
() () (Alston) (Searle)J. (Austin)
() :

- - :
() -
(J. Firth)

(M. Halliday)

"
()
:

(B. Malinowski)

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similes

aphoristic sayings

proverbs

slang

jargon

metaphors

context of situation

metonym

colloquialism

.Idiomatic expression

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collocation "

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(Greenbaum)

(Macintosh)

(Sinclair)

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(Apresyan)

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" ()"

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- - - - - ()

(Palmer)

red - ()
kick the bucket () herring
. ()

"the conjuror took the audience in".

: :
.() the woman took the homeless children in .

: .
" " " " " " . "
.() .()

" : .
[] "
.()" " : .

Palmer: Semantics, P:80 : ()

- - - ()

: ()

- - - - -
: - - ()

. - :

() : () "let sleeping dogs lie" :
() : () "A stitch in time saves nine" :

" : ()"

() " " :

() :

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..... :

- - - - - ()
/ -

" : () " () " :
 () " " () "
 () Boycott Mutt and Jeff:
 () Jack of all trades, master of none ()
 () " " :

Idiomatic Idiom " Terminology Term expression
 (term)

" Idioms

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 : - - - -
 / ()
 - - - - - - - - ()
 / :
 120- - : ()
 - - - - - - - - ()
 / ()
 : ()

An idiom is an expression whose meaning is different from the meaning of the individual words.

idiomatic expression idiom
.to jump on the bandwagon^()

Collocations

() Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners. First Edition Learnes
Cambridge, University, 1999. 2002, Malaysia , P:710

- - - - - : ()
- - - - - ()
- / - - - - ()
- - - - - ()

/ () ()

:

:()

Carter

() / spick and span :

:

/big shot :

to make / to smell a rat :

":

/ bones

/a fat salary : / dead drunk :

:

... / the meeting kicks off at....

:()

. pure idiom

:

blow " " "blow the gaff" To :

" " "gaff" " "

:

" " " to spill the beans"

" " " to kick the bucket " :

:

"He jumped for joy"

" the blues "

: :

: It is me / It is I :

. I am the man

- / - - - - - : ()

- : ()

/ () ()

(R.Blachere) " (G.Freytag) " (S.deSacy) ()
" (R.Sellheim)

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"()"

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"()"

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" ()"

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" ()"

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"A short well known statement that gives practical advice about life."

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:

Opportunity seldom (never) knocks twice , Let sleeping dogs lie

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() " " () " :
" : ()

() Care killed the cat () A cat has nine lives : () "
" :
:()

-
-
-

:()

" " : -

/ - ()
/ - ()
) - - ()
" " - ()
/ " " : / ()

(5) English Idioms, James, M. Dixon. University of Japan, Thomas Nelson Ltd, p:44
(6) English Idioms, P:42

- - - - - ()
- - - - - : ()

/ () ()

()" " ; -

. ()" " ;

- - . -

. ()" " -

;() -

;() -

"

" " " " " " " " " "

" " " "

proverbial idiom :

Pope Gray Shakespeare Keats
To be or :^()

.not to be , That is the question

/ - ()

/ - ()

: ()

/ - ()

/ - ()

- / - - ()

.Where ignorance is bliss, 'Tis folly to be wise" : () Gray

" : () " " : - () "

" :
" : () " " : () "
:() "

:()

: :

() " " : " " () " "

/ - ()
/ - ()
/ - ()
- ()
/ ()
/ - ()
/ - ()
/ - ()

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.()

." " " " : -

. ()" " : -

. ()" " : -

Wisdom :

" "

.()

.()

" :

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/ ()

- - - - - : ()

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. () " " () " " () "
 : () "When the fox preaches, beware the geese "
 : () " :

You cannot run with the hare and hunt with the hounds
 Trust not a new friend nor an old enemy ()

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 () -
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 ... " :
 : - - () "
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 / - ()
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 . - : / - ()
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Quotations. :

:

: () " Cowards die many times before their death "

:

()

:catch phrase :

:

:

() " " : () " "

. Happy new year Feel at home

:

" " "

() " " "

(F. Buhl)

" : (R.Sellheim) () " "

- : . - ()

- - - - - - - - ()

/ - ()

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. - : ()

. - ()

()"

It is better to give than

()"

()"to take

()"It is more blessed to give than to receive " :

As you sow, so you will " :

()"reap

()" ...

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"

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" ()"

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- : / - : ()

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/ () ()

() " " : -
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" : .
.() "
" " :
.()
" : - -
.() "...
" :
.() "
.
.() "
:

See you later, Nice to see you, To ask the hand of With my best wishes

His majesty - Ladies and gentlemen - On my honor : -

Dictionary of Idioms, the University of Birmingham
Oxford Dictionary of Current Idiomatic English.
York Dictionary of Idioms , York Press.
Longman Dictionary of English Idioms
English Idioms ,University of Japan

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/ () ()

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: () " "

() "spill the beans"

() It was the beans- that were spilled :

beans bean

redder : () "red herring

() " " () "

() " "

: ()

.Opened expressions " "

: ()

wee-minute- : little-small-tiny -microscopic

Palmer: Semantics ,P:79-80

Semantics,P:79-80: ()

Semantics,P:80 ()

" " " " " " " " (6)

/ : " ()" ()

/ : " " " " ()

Do not spoil the " hog" for a half pennyworth of tar. ()

: . sheep ship hog sheep hog

() closed expressions "

() frozen

:

" " ..

:

() invent

make up () yield :

give in

" :

"

:()

:

:

-

-

Semantics , P:80 : ()

Semantics , P:80 : ()

(3) Semantics,P: 80

/ : - - : ()

()

Actions speak louder than "

" () " () "words

When the ass () tell

" "

kicks, never

() () "Indian summer"

:

()

"

"

"

"

"

//

<http://www.majalisna.com/showflat.php> "

: ()

//

" "

()

/

/

()

"Let sleeping dogs lie"

"Above board"

"Money talks :
let sleeping dogs lie"

"above board"

"kick the bucket"

"In cold blood"

(2) English Idioms, P:263, University of Japan

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/ () ()

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. SVO VSO

()

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: -

:

(¹)to fish in troubled water / (²)to be in deep water

. water- melon , water – closed :

" " " ;

(¹)Half a loaf is better than no bread . / (²)A piece of cake : -

(¹)" " "

Money attracts . (¹)Money is the root of all evil: -

(¹) " : . (²) money

. (¹)Every man is kin to the rich man. "

_____ - ()

- ()

(3) Dictionary of Idioms ,the University of Birmingham ,P:296

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/ ()

- ()

- ()

/ ()

- ()

()/A snake in the grass ()	Crocodile tears :	-
" ()" " :	/Let sleeping dogs lie	
;() ()"	" ()	
()to clear the air	It rains cats and dogs () :	-
" " .	/Blow the gaff Spill the beans:	-
Between the devil	/To jump on the bandwagon /	-
	() and the deep blue sea	
black and blue . /look black	/Black market :	-
()	/the black arts	
To bring (one's) heart into his	/ In cold blood :	-
:	()mouth	
/ Above board	/ ()Charity begins at home :	-
A chip of the old	()Like father, like son :	-
	()block	

Macmillan English Dictionary ,p:331 ()

(2) Dictionary of Idioms , P:359

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/ ()

/ ()

/ ()

- ()

(8) Dictionary of Idioms , P:3

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- ()

- ()

(12) Dictionary of Idioms ,P:66 : Macmillan Dictionary, p:227

- ()

- ()

() Have bats in the belfry () Go nuts : -
 () . : :
 . () () Tell it to the marines : -
 -

() " : .
 . () "carry coals to Newcastle"
 to be at sixes and () " " :
 . () "to bite off his tongue" " " () sevens
 When in Rome " : () " " :
 " : . () do as Romans do .
 . () " " : .
 . () " " :

- ()
 - ()
 - ()
 / ()
 - ()
 . / ()
 - : .
 (7) York Dictionary of English Idioms, P:15
 - ()
 / ()
 (10) York Dictionary of English Idioms, P:215
 / ()
 / ()

" : . () A word to the wise is enough :

."

() "More haste less speed" . () "

" . () "Haste makes waste "

. : () "A constant guest is never welcome " . () "

() "A small spark makes a great fire""

()

"

. () "Men are not to be measured in inches " . () "

:

.

-

" () "

" () "

:"

- ()

/ ()

- ()

/ ()

- ()

- ()

- ()

/ ()

- : ()

/ ()

/ ()

/ ()

/ () ()

() " " " () " " "
() " () " " " " "
- - " " " "
:

Two () "Barking dogs seldom bite " +() " let the cat out of the bag "
to be in the dog's " () " dogs fight for a bone, and a third runs away with it "
() "dog's life" () "house"

: () " " :
: . : . : .
() " " :

() collocation :

(4) Dictionary of English Idioms , P:63 / - ()
/ - ()
/ ()
- ()
- ()
(7) Dictionary of Idioms, P:105 - ()
/ ()
/ ()
collocate collocation ()
" " locate " " c0-
: .
- - - - -

()
 :
 /Heavy rain /To commit murder

to perpetrate : "commit" "perpetrate"
 () murder
 to criticize :
 () murder , to condemn murder ,

()
 war- monger, strong solution , Olympic games
 lexemes
 heavy rain , heavy weight , heavy : () .
 . sleep , heavy smoker

() to take temperature take measure

/ () ()

" . -
 : : : " "
 : : " "
 () :

raise . lift raise
 raise a protest raise a question , protest question :
 Lift up : lift something out : lift .
 . () : one's voice

run . -
 " "
 : " "
 " run

will the dye run when the blouse is washed ? :⁽³⁾ "

/ Run a blockade : / Run a risk:

:

:
 " : -
 "Lemon " "Cat" ."
 . ()" " : . ⁽⁴⁾ She has a tongue

/ - ()

- ()

(3) Macmillan English Dictionary , P: 1244

(4) Macmillan English Dictionary , P:514

- - - ()

: () " () " " :
 " : () "to ask the hand of" "
 euphemism ()"
 " " :
 . () taboo ()

(M. Ulmann) "Kick the bucket" :

()
 . () "it rains old women and sticks" " "it's raining cats and dogs"

" :
 . () " " () " " : . "

Coffee shop, Night club , Super market, loud speaker

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 Palmer: Semantics, p:80: ()
 / ()

loud speaker

: . :

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"

(¹)Old guard

: .

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"

"

"

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.money laundering

stone-blind :

(¹)

stone-dead

stone- deaf

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:

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(Nicholson)

(¹)

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(1) Macmillan English Ditionary,P:986

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- : ()

"

":

.to "carry coal to Newcastle"

"

. " He was killed in cold blood "

"

."

":

.The upper hand is better than the lower hand "

It is better to give than to receive (take).

()

Taboo ()

() infinite justice

()

: Enduring freedom

- ()

/ - - ()

. " "

.money laundering
" ()

concealing the source of illegally gotten
. money

()"

Crusade

" "

Crusade

: The breast cancer crusade :

(¹) The crusade against Hunger :

" :

" :

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