

Typology of Idiomatic and Set Expressions

- The idiomatic and set expressions, i.e. lexically and often structurally stable units of lexicon present a **universal phenomenon**.

Structurally, they may be

- 1) **Sentence idioms** (*time and tide wait for no man, на козаку нема знаку*);
- 2) **Word-group idioms** (*Ten Commandments, to be or not to be, десять заповідей, бути чи не бути*);

3) **Metaphorically generalised proper names**

e.g.: *Tom Tailor* (tailor), *Tom Thumb* (a small man, a Liliputian), *Mrs. Grundy*, *Tom*, *Dick*, and *Harry* (перший-ліпший), *Nosy Parker* (людина, що втручається/суне ніс не в свої справи).

Similarly in Ukrainian: *Макар Касян*, i.e.

(ненажера), *Чалий* (підступна, зрадлива людина); *Герострат*, *Ксантипа* (сварлива Сократова дружина), *язиката Хвеська*, etc.

paradigmatic classes of idioms

- **substantival** (*the Trojan horse, the sword of Damocles; троянський кінь, дамоклів меч*);
- **verbal** (*to have one's heart in one's mouth, to take the bull by the horns; брати бика за роги, пекти раків*);
- **adverbial** (*by and again, tit for tat; по всіх усядах, тут і там, скрізь і всюди*).

idiomatic expressions exist in all languages either as

1. **absolute equivalents** having all components the same and absolutely identical or slightly different: *the heel of Achilles* - *ахіллесова п'ята*, *the Trojan horse* - *троянський кінь*, *the tree of knowledge* - *дерево/древо пізнання*;

2. *near equivalents*, i.e. when having one or more components missing or different, e.g.: to kiss the *post* - *поцілювати замок*, *as pale as paper* *блідий* - *як стіна*, *grass widow* — *солом'яна вдова*, *measure twice, cut once* - *сім раз одміряй, а раз одріж*;

3. **genuine and approximate idiomatic analogies** (similar meaning but different componental structures). Cf. *a fly in the ointment, make haste slowly*; ложка дьогтю в бочці меду, тухіше їдеш — далі будеш.

National idioms

are formed on the basis of the component parts/ images characteristic of a definite national community and its language. Thus, only in English exist such idioms as *to dine with Duke Humphry, to cut off with a shilling, or to accept the Chilter Hundreds*, and only in Ukrainian such idioms as *передати куті меду, впіймати облизня, пекти раків, утерти носа*.

International idioms

Idioms borrowed from Greek, Hebrew and Latin (cf. *Pandora's box*, *Herculean pillars*, *Gordian knot*, *between Scylla and Charybdis*, *to cross the Rubicon*; *I came, I saw, I conquered*; *the Ten Commandments*, *wise Solomon*, *to be in (the) seventh heaven*, etc.

International idioms

are derived from the Bible, antique literature, common historic heritage of the nations, similar metaphorical images:

an apple of discord – яблуко розбрату; a new broom sweeps clean - нова мітла чисто мете; etc.

Three challenges for translators

- Integrity and naturalness of the image that stands in the center of a phraseological unit – a word-to-word translation destroys stereotypical images known to speakers of the target language;
- Gender connotations that differ between the languages, e.g. Charity is the father of sacrifice / Благодійність – мати пожертви; Caution is the parent of safety / Обережність – супутниця безпеки

- The original rhythm-and-melody pattern of the idiom and its stylistic qualities, compare:

Much gold, much care / Хто не має, той не губить;

Omittance is no quittance/ Що винен – віддати повинен

Americans often draw on sayings for **problem-solving**

Every cloud has a silver lining.

God helps those that help themselves.

Necessity is the mother of invention.

You can't have a cake and eat it too.

Americans often draw on sayings for **health care**

- The best doctors are Dr. Diet, Dr. Quiet, and Dr. Merryman.
- Change of scenery makes for health.
- God restores health, and the physician gets thanks.
- After dinner sit a while, after supper walk a while.
- Etc.

Specifically American are sayings about **success**

- Confidence in success is almost success.
- Great success is preceded by great preparation.
- Meet success like a gentleman and disaster like a man.
- No story of success ever starts with **if** and **but**.
- Etc.

In British English - idioms about the sea, the weather

- Rainy day = black day;
- Between the devil and the deep blue sea – *бути у важкому становищі*;
- Be in deep water – *горевати*;
- Be in low water – *бути без грошей*;
- The best fish are near the bottom – *все гарне важко дається*.

Specifically British – units with ”*Dutch*”

- *Dutch concert* – спів, коли кожен співає, як уміє;
- *Dutch consolation, Dutch comfort* – слабка втіха;
- *Dutch treat* – гулянка вскладчину;
- *Dutch courage* – хоробрість напідпитку;
- *Dutch feast* – бенкет, на якому хазяїн стає п'яним раніше гостей.

Comparison is made on different grounds:

- Good as gold
- Bright as a button
- Large as life
- Hard as nails
- As old as hills
- As soft as butter
- Золото, а не ...
- Блищить, як нова копійка
- Як живий
- Черствий, як камінь
- Старий, як світ
- Мякий, як пух