



## LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF ENGLISH ONOMASTIC IDIOMS

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**Abstract** This article deals with the linguistic analysis of English idiomatic expressions with onomastic components and also try to understand the linguo-cognitive aspects of more than 20 idioms which contain names of people, place, objects and some historical figures. Moreover, we will discuss the role of idioms in nation's cultural heritage and cognition.

**Key words:** onomastic component, linguo-cultural, sociocultural factors, convey, symbolic, proper names

**Annotatsiya** Ushbu maqola ingliz tilidagi onomastik komponentli idiomatik iboralarning lingvistik tahlili bilan shug'ullanadi, shuningdek, odamlar, joy, narsa va ba'zi tarixiy shaxslar nomlarini o'z ichiga olgan 20 dan ortiq idiomalarning lingvistik-kognitiv jihatlarini tushunishga harakat qiladi. Bundan tashqari, maqolada idiomalarning xalqning madaniy merosi va dunyoni lisoniy anglashidagi o'rni haqida muhokama qilinadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** onomastik komponent, lingvo-madaniy, sotsio-madaniy omil, yetkazmoq, simbolizm, atoqli nomlar

**Аннотация** В этой статье рассматривается лингвистический анализ английских идиоматических выражений с ономастической составляющей, а также делается попытка понять лингвокогнитивные аспекты более 20 идиом, которые содержат имена людей, мест, объектов и некоторых исторических личностей. Кроме того, мы обсудим роль идиом в культурном наследии и познании нации.

**Ключевые слова:** ономастический компонент, лингвокультурный, социокультурные факторы, передавать, символический, имена собственные

## INTRODUCTION

Idioms play an essential role nearly in every language in the world since they are considered to depict real cultural and historical image of the nation who use the language. If we look at some components of idioms, they contain names of people, place, animals or some objects. Idioms with proper names can reveal us more interesting data that may help us to find out the nature and origin of the idioms. Especially, idioms with the names of people and place are very popular for a lot of reasons; they are related some historical events, cultural or

traditional rituals dating back to very far, even some of them are very modern. Until recent years, scientists have had a view that idioms are frozen and do not give and convey any semantic meaning. But, current linguists contradict these views and claim that idioms have a lot of features to convey and reveal about the cognition of the people. Anthropologists, philosophers, psychologists may find some social, cultural and historical data for their work by investigating the idioms.

## **MATERIALS AND METHOD**

Onomastics is a branch of linguistics that studies any common names, the history of their origin and change, also collection of all common names. The term onomastics is taken from the ancient Greek language and means ‘the art of naming, naming’. On some studies, the term onomastics is also used in the sense of anthroponymics. So, onomastics are divided into literary and dialectal, usual and poetic, modern and historical, theoretical and practical types depending on the linguistic features of famous names.

Onomastics is connected with such subjects as history, geography, ethnography, archeology, literary studies, astronomy, geology and demography.

The term ‘onomasiology’ was first used in 1902 by A. Zauner, who noted that the concept of onomasiological direction as a starting point and defines what names are available in the language for this concept. In this case, onomasiology is considered as a branch of lexicology. [4]

The extralinguistic conditionality of the nomination allows names to be divided into groups depending on their thematic relationship. O.I. Blinova states “Principles of naming are rules formed by the speaking community based on the generalization of motivational characteristics and at the same time serve as a starting point for new names. The principle of naming is a semantic, meaning category that is fixed in the minds of native speakers”.

Let’s analyze some idioms that contain proper names and see peculiar features of them.

“*Rob Peter to pay Paul*” is very popular idiom and it means *to take or borrow money from someone in order to pay a debt to another person*. If you take money from a credit card to pay off another, it's a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul. It will not take you anywhere. The idiom refers to times before the Reformation when Church taxes had to be paid to St. Paul's church in London and to St. Peter's church in Rome; originally it referred to neglecting the Peter tax in order to have money to pay the Paul tax. The idiom dates back to the long time period in the history of England pointing put specific historical and religious conditions of that time. Ordinary people did not see differences in paying to either to this church or another; they had to pay anyway! Therefore, idiom says there is no difference to pay Paul after borrowing money from another person as there cannot be seen any profit. [7]

Another famous English idiom is “*Keep up with the Joneses*”. It means *to try to be as good as the neighbors by getting what they have and matching their lifestyle*. Her neighbor bought a new car and she went out and bought another; she's always trying to keep up with the Joneses. There is no any exact origin of this idiom but one can possibly say that it was probably

thought by ordinary people of English society as the content is related to simple neighborhood or ordinary actions.

*All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy* is another idiom containing a proper name. People say this to warn someone that they will not be an interesting person by working all the time. If you talk about females, it changes to “*all work and no play makes Jill a dull girl*”. The exact origins of the idiom remain unclear, though it was recorded in the middle of XVII century.

“*Jack of all trades, master of none*” is one of the most popular idioms in the English language. This idiom is used in reference to a person who has dabbled in many skills, rather than gaining expertise by focusing on one. The shortened version “*a jack of all trades*” is often a compliment for a person who is good at fixing things, and has very good broad knowledge. The idiom is one of the most popularly used lexical unit that contains a famous English male name. If we look into origin of the idiomatic expression, we can come up with some essential data related to it. The idiom ‘*Jack of the trades, master of none*’ originates from Elizabethan English. The idiom was used by Robert Greene in his booklet ‘*Greene's Groats-Worth of Wit*’ that refers to William Shakespeare with this. [7]

*Mary* is another popular female name in English speaking countries including England and it is included in various vocabulary items as well. “*Contrary Mary*” is an idiom containing a proper name meaning “a girl or woman who often disagrees with other people or does the opposite of what other people want them to do”.

Analyzing the idioms with toponymic component we have found that all the place names mentioned in idioms are real. In spite of that some of them were mentioned in the Bible, for example, *Road to Damascus* - if someone has a great and sudden change in their ideas or beliefs, then this is a road to Damascus change, after the conversion of Saint Paul to Christianity while heading to Damascus to persecute Christians, place Damascus is real. The most common place name used in idioms is Rome. [1]

For example:

*All roads lead to Rome* – this idiomatic expression means that there are many different ways to achieve the same result. The saying refers to the vast network of roads built up during the course of Rome's history, which stretched for more than 250,000 miles at the height of the Roman Empire.

*Rome was not built in a day* - this idiom means that many things cannot be done at once, and require time and patience.

*Fiddle while Rome burns* - used when you disapprove because someone is spending too much time or attention on unimportant matters instead of trying to solve bigger and more important problems.

*Coals to Newcastle* - (UK) Taking, bringing, or carrying coals to Newcastle is doing something that is useless.

*Crossing the Rubicon* - When you are crossing the Rubicon, you are passing a point of no return. After you do this thing, there is no way of turning around. The only way left is forward.

*Dunkirk spirit* - (UK) Dunkirk spirit is when people pull together to get through a very difficult time.

*Fiddle while Rome burns* - used when you disapprove because someone is spending too much time or attention on unimportant matters instead of trying to solve bigger and more important problems.

*From Missouri* - (USA) If someone is from Missouri, then they require clear proof before they will believe something.

*Himalayan blunder* - a Himalayan blunder is a very serious mistake or error.

*Lie back and think of England* - a humorous expression used when someone has sex without wanting it or enjoying it, and often used when someone has to do another activity or job that they do not want to.[1]

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Proper names can be included in any lexical unit, they can be part of idioms, proverbs, aphorisms and others. This may refer to the fact that language is linked with culture, history of the nation, some historical events, cultural ties may cause of deriving such idioms in the language. Nearly every idiom containing proper names has really interesting origin and tells us some interesting stories, traditions, rituals related to the nation. When scientists have analyzed those idioms, they found out that there are more idioms containing personal than places. Moreover, predominance of male over female names tells us that the very low presence of female names is motivated by sociocultural factors. That's because men have played more active role than women.

Analysis show that *Bob, Joe, Mike, Tom, Dick, Harry, Jack Mickey and Larry* are the very firsts common names used in a lot of idioms. While *Alice, Joan, Pandora, Jane, Sally, Mrs. Grundy and Florence* names are used in English idioms a lot. As we mentioned before, every language has got mainly popular names that are probably linked to some interesting stories.

Analysis of them proved that most idioms with proper names in the English language are linked to cultural, historical, traditional, social activities of society members. Some can reveal data related to religion or religious beliefs, music, historical event, cultural or traditional rituals, personal stories. Interestingly, some idioms with proper names have got negative but some can be used in positive context. However, popularity of the name does not make any sense in forming that concept. It may even be difficult for some people unfamiliar with culture, history, customs, and social norms to understand the meaning of these lexical pieces.

## **CONCLUSION**

All in all, we can state that idioms with proper names in the English language are able to give some cultural, historical data about events, customs, traditions, rituals and even life-styles of local people living in the world. Idioms with proper names may be compared to the boxes that contain much related to outer and inner parts of the containers as well as inside liquid. Idioms with popular proper names have been used in various social ranks for long time, they form a link of stories related to various aspects of life.

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