

# ЗАГАЛЬНЕ МОВОЗНАВСТВО

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DOI <https://doi.org/10.32782/2710-4656/2025.3.1/35>**Huseynova Maral**

Sumgayit State University

## CHALLENGES IN TRANSLATING ENGLISH IDIOMS

*Translating English idioms presents several challenges, primarily due to cultural differences, structural mismatches between languages, difficulties in direct translation, and the impact of wordplay. These challenges are examined in detail here. Firstly, idioms are deeply rooted in a specific culture when translated, their meaning may change. Secondly, idioms often don't align with the grammatical and syntactic structures of other languages, making accurate translation difficult. Additionally, some idioms lose their meaning when translated literally, requiring contextual adaptation to find an appropriate equivalent. Wordplay and irony in English idioms add further complexity to the translation process.*

*In this article, idioms are analyzed as linguistic units that are often deeply embedded in the cultural and historical background of a particular language community. Moreover, idiomatic expressions in English frequently do not correspond to the grammatical, syntactic, or stylistic norms of the target language. In many cases, idioms cannot be translated word-for-word, as their meaning is derived not from the literal interpretation of individual words but from the expression as a whole.*

*As defined in this study, successful translation requires not only fluency in both the source and target languages but also a deep understanding of cultural nuances. Translators must apply creativity, interpretive skills, and contextual awareness to find equivalent expressions or create new ones that preserve the original idiom's impact and tone.*

*In conclusion, translating idioms is a complex crucial aspect of linguistic exchange that requires skill, cultural knowledge, adaptability. Since idioms are deeply tied to the linguistic and cultural frameworks of their respective languages, their translation often involves more than just substituting words it requires an in-depth understanding of both the source and target languages. Thus, the study of idiomatic translation not only enhances linguistic comprehension but also fosters cross-cultural communication and understanding.*

**Key words:** idioms, translation, culture, language, structure.

**Statement of the Problem.** The translation of idiomatic expressions from English into other languages remains one of the most complex areas in translation studies. Idioms are inherently culture-bound and often resist direct translation due to their figurative meaning, syntactic structure, and the cultural nuances embedded in their usage. Inaccurate translations may lead to misinterpretation, loss of meaning, or distortion of the original tone. The problem is further exacerbated by the lack of one-to-one equivalents in the target language, making it essential to explore effective translation strategies.

**Analysis of Recent Research and Publications.** Recent studies in the field of translation studies and linguistics have highlighted the intricate nature of idioms and the role of cultural competence in

successful translation. Researchers such as A.V. Kunin and V.V. Vinogradov have examined the semantic and structural features of idioms, contributing to the theoretical understanding of phraseology. Mona Baker (1992) emphasizes the importance of equivalence at different levels, including idiomatic and figurative language. Other studies have explored strategies such as paraphrasing, using cultural substitutes, or omitting idioms entirely when no suitable alternative exists. Despite these contributions, there is still a need for more practical guidelines and context-based analysis to aid translators in handling idioms effectively across diverse language pairs.

**Task Statement.** This study aims to investigate the primary challenges involved in translating English idioms into other languages, with a focus on cultural,

linguistic, and semantic factors. The objective is to identify common issues faced by translators, analyze current translation strategies, and propose effective approaches for preserving idiomatic meaning in the target language.

#### **Outline of the Main Material of the Study.**

The study begins with a theoretical overview of idioms, including their definition, characteristics, and classification. This is followed by an exploration of the cultural and linguistic barriers that complicate idiom translation. Examples of problematic idioms and case studies of their translation into various languages are provided to illustrate common challenges. The paper then examines translation strategies employed by professionals, comparing their effectiveness. Finally, the study offers practical recommendations for translators and language learners to navigate idiomatic expressions with greater accuracy and cultural sensitivity.

**Introduction.** Translating idioms is one of the most challenging tasks in language translation, requiring a deep understanding of both the source and target languages. Idioms are expressions whose meanings are not immediately clear from the individual words they contain, and they often reflect the cultural, historical, and social contexts of the language in which they originate. The unique nature of idioms makes them difficult to translate, as they depend on specific language structures, cultural nuances, and wordplay that may not have direct equivalents in other languages. As a result, translators must navigate various obstacles in order to preserve the meaning, tone, and impact of these expressions while ensuring they are understandable and relevant to the target audience.

Idioms are often deeply ingrained in the cultural fabric of a language, making them an essential part of everyday communication. They can be humorous, ironic, or even metaphorical, and they serve as a means of expressing ideas more vividly or concisely than literal language would allow. However, this reliance on cultural context and figurative meaning can make idioms tricky to translate. An idiom that makes perfect sense in one language may be confusing or nonsensical when directly translated into another, leading to a loss of meaning or impact. This is particularly true when the idiom uses wordplay, regional references, or other elements that do not have clear equivalents in the target language [2, p.43].

One of the primary challenges in translating idioms lies in the fact that they often rely on cultural knowledge that is specific to the language they originate from. For example, idioms related to local

customs, traditions, or even food may not be familiar to speakers of other languages. A translator must carefully consider whether there is an equivalent idiomatic expression in the target language or if a more creative approach is needed. In some cases, a direct translation of the idiom might result in confusion, while in other instances, the idiom might need to be replaced with a completely different expression that conveys the same idea, even if it doesn't use the same linguistic structure.

Moreover, idioms often include elements of humor, irony, or exaggeration, which can be difficult to replicate in a translation. These stylistic features add depth and personality to the idiom, making it more engaging and memorable. However, translating humor and irony is particularly challenging, as these elements are often culture-specific and may not be understood in the same way in another language. This can require the translator to go beyond literal translation and find a way to adapt the idiom to the cultural and emotional context of the target language, preserving the original effect while making it accessible to the new audience.

Another challenge in translating idioms is the need for contextual awareness. The meaning of an idiom is often dependent on the context in which it is used, and translating it without considering the surrounding text or conversation can lead to misinterpretation. A translator must not only understand the meaning of the idiom but also the tone, purpose, and relationship between the speakers involved in the conversation. Without this contextual knowledge, the translation can lose its intended effect, and the idiom may not resonate with the target audience in the same way it does with the source language speakers.

In this article, we will explore the various challenges involved in translating English idioms, examining the cultural, linguistic, and contextual factors that must be considered in the translation process. By understanding these challenges, translators can develop strategies for overcoming them and ensure that idioms retain their meaning, humor, and impact in the target language. Through careful analysis and creative adaptation, translators can successfully navigate the complexities of idiomatic translation and provide readers with a translation that captures the essence of the original expression while remaining culturally relevant and accessible [8, p.120].

**Cultural and Linguistic Differences.** When translating idiomatic expressions from English into other languages, one of the most significant challenges lies in the deep-rooted cultural and linguistic differences between languages. Idioms are not just

phrases or collections of words they are linguistic shortcuts that often reflect the culture, history, and values of the people who use them. As a result, idioms carry meanings and associations that may not exist in other languages, making translation a complex and intricate process. Understanding how cultural and linguistic differences impact the translation of idioms is essential to effectively communicating the original message.

Idioms are inherently tied to the culture in which they are spoken. They often emerge from historical events, traditions, popular beliefs, and social practices that shape the way a community thinks and speaks. For example, the English idiom "to hit the nail on the head" means to do or say something exactly right. This phrase likely originates from the practical and precise act of driving a nail into a surface at the correct angle, an image that is familiar to English speakers because of the prominence of carpentry in Anglo-Saxon culture. However, this idiom would not resonate in cultures where carpentry or similar trades do not have the same significance or visual association. A direct translation of this idiom into another language would likely confuse the audience if they do not share the same cultural context.

This cultural specificity means that idioms rarely have exact counterparts in other languages. Take, for example, the English idiom "kick the bucket," which means "to die." The image of a person kicking a bucket may not carry the same metaphorical meaning in other languages or cultures, leading to a situation where a literal translation would be meaningless. Similarly, many idioms are drawn from the cultural importance of certain elements, such as animals, food, or even weather patterns. In some cases, these elements may not be present in the target language, making the idiomatic expression harder to translate in a way that conveys the same emotional or cultural resonance.

Cultural references play a significant role in shaping the meaning of idioms. Idiomatic expressions often depend on shared experiences or cultural knowledge that speakers of the language take for granted. For example, the English idiom "like two peas in a pod" is used to describe two people who are very similar or inseparable. The image of peas in a pod is a familiar concept in cultures where peas are a staple food, but this might not be the case in other cultures where peas are not as common or culturally significant. Translating this idiom directly into a language where peas are not as familiar could result in confusion or misunderstanding. A translator would need to find an equivalent idiomatic expression in the target language

that conveys the same idea of similarity or closeness without relying on the specific cultural image of peas [3, p.12-19].

Similarly, idioms may be influenced by local customs, folklore, or even religion. In many cultures, idiomatic expressions emerge from deeply ingrained traditions or beliefs that may be unfamiliar to speakers of other languages. For example, in English, one might say "to have a skeleton in the closet" to refer to a hidden secret or shame. This idiom's meaning may be tied to Western cultural notions of privacy and secrecy. However, in a culture where family honor is more openly discussed, the expression may not have the same significance, and a direct translation could be confusing. In such cases, finding a culturally appropriate equivalent or using a paraphrase becomes essential.

**The Difficulty of Direct Translation.** One of the core challenges in translating idioms lies in the difficulty of applying a direct, word-for-word translation. Idioms, by their very nature, are figurative expressions that carry meaning beyond the literal interpretation of the individual words. Direct translation—translating each word of the idiom into the target language rarely preserves the intended meaning or cultural nuances. This is particularly problematic when dealing with idioms that rely heavily on imagery, wordplay, or local references [6, p.33].

Idioms often use words in ways that are not their conventional meanings. For example, the English idiom "a leopard can't change its spots" means that a person cannot alter their inherent nature, but the literal meaning of this phrase is about an animal, the leopard, and its spots. If translated directly into another language, the result may be a nonsensical or confusing sentence that fails to convey the intended metaphor.

This issue is most evident in idioms that play on metaphors, cultural references, or historical contexts unique to a particular language. For instance, "to let the cat out of the bag" is an English idiom meaning to accidentally reveal a secret. The phrase's meaning is understood through its figurative context rather than the literal sense of letting an animal escape from a bag. A direct translation of this idiom into another language may not be effective unless the target culture shares a similar metaphor involving a cat or a bag. In many cases, the phrase would make little sense without the cultural context that shapes its meaning [4, p.38]

Idioms often rely on humor, irony, or subtle wordplay to communicate their meaning effectively. When translated directly, these elements can be lost.

For example, the English idiom "barking up the wrong tree" refers to someone pursuing a misguided course of action or making an incorrect assumption. The humor in this idiom comes from the visual of a dog barking at the base of a tree, oblivious to the fact that the thing it is chasing may be somewhere else. However, if this idiom were translated literally into a language where the concept of a dog barking at the wrong tree doesn't hold the same metaphorical value, the humor would be completely lost.

This is particularly important in languages where humor or irony is a key component of the idiomatic expression. The failure to translate these subtleties accurately can significantly affect the tone of the message and result in a translation that feels flat or awkward. In some cases, direct translations might sound stilted or overly formal, stripping the expression of the natural flow that is inherent in the original language.

Cultural differences play a significant role in the failure of direct translations. Many idioms are rooted in cultural experiences, shared values, or historical knowledge unique to the language of origin. For instance, English-speaking cultures often use sports-related idioms, such as "throw in the towel" (meaning to give up, taken from boxing). A direct translation into a language where the sport of boxing or the symbolism of a towel is not culturally significant would fail to convey the same meaning. The target audience might not even understand the reference or the metaphor involved.

In cases where direct translation is attempted, the target audience may be left puzzled, or worse, the idiom could be misinterpreted. To mitigate this, translators often face the difficult task of either finding an equivalent idiom in the target language or creating a new expression that conveys the same message [7, p.4-6].

Because of the figurative nature of idioms, their meaning is often closely tied to the context in which they are used. Without understanding the broader context of the idiom—whether it's related to the conversation, situation, or cultural reference—the translator cannot achieve an accurate and effective translation. Direct translations fail to account for the nuances and implications of the situation, leading to potential misunderstandings.

In contrast, effective translation requires an awareness of the idiomatic meaning within the specific cultural and situational context. Translators need to grasp the emotional tone, underlying message, and social context surrounding the idiom to convey its true meaning. Without this understanding, a direct translation would miss the mark.

The Impact of Wordplay and Irony. Wordplay and irony are often essential components of English idioms, making them both entertaining and challenging to translate. These elements add depth and complexity to idiomatic expressions, relying on subtle linguistic tricks and contradictions to convey a deeper meaning. However, when translating idioms into another language, these aspects can be particularly difficult to preserve. Wordplay, which includes puns and double meanings, and irony, where words often convey the opposite of their literal meaning, can be almost impossible to capture in a way that resonates with speakers of the target language [1, p.30].

In English, puns and wordplay are frequently used in idioms to create humor or emphasize the message. For example, the idiom "a fine kettle of fish" is used to describe a situation that is confusing or problematic. The phrase itself has a playful quality, as "a kettle of fish" is a somewhat nonsensical and humorous image. However, a literal translation of this idiom into another language may fail to retain the humor and may even result in a confusing expression that doesn't make sense in the target language. Translating wordplay involves more than simply finding equivalent words in the target language; it requires understanding the double meaning or hidden joke behind the phrase, which may not exist in the other culture.

Irony is another crucial element in many idiomatic expressions. The English idiom "a blessing in disguise" refers to something that seems bad at first but turns out to be beneficial. This phrase depends on an ironic twist, where the word "blessing" is juxtaposed with the concept of something being "disguised" as negative. If translated literally, the irony could be lost, and the phrase may not make sense in another language. In such cases, the translator must find an equivalent expression that preserves the ironic nature of the original idiom or may opt for a paraphrase that conveys the same meaning without losing the nuance [6, p.15].

For example, "barking up the wrong tree" is another idiom that relies heavily on irony. It implies that someone is making a mistaken assumption or pursuing an incorrect course of action, while the literal image of a dog barking at the wrong tree adds an ironic layer to the expression. In another language, the image of a dog and tree may not have the same ironic impact, and a direct translation could result in a phrase that lacks the original humor or depth.

Moreover, wordplay and irony often rely on the shared cultural knowledge of the language's speakers. English-speaking audiences are familiar with certain images or situations that make these idioms work, but



those same images might not resonate with people from other cultures. This can lead to a situation where the idiom becomes completely meaningless when translated. As a result, translators often face the challenge of either finding a local equivalent that captures the same spirit of the idiom or reworking the phrase entirely to convey the intended meaning without the original wordplay or irony.

In sum, the impact of wordplay and irony in idioms can significantly hinder their translation. While some translators may find clever ways to adapt idioms into their target languages, it is often a delicate balance between preserving the original meaning and ensuring that the final translation feels natural and culturally appropriate [7, p.5].

**The Role of Cultural Context in Idiom Translation.** Translating idioms is one of the most challenging aspects of language translation due to their deep connection with culture. Idioms often carry meanings that extend beyond their literal words, making them difficult to translate word-for-word. Cultural context plays a crucial role in understanding and accurately conveying idioms from one language to another. Without considering the cultural background of an idiom, its translation may lose its intended meaning, sound unnatural, or even cause confusion for the target audience.

Idioms are deeply embedded in the historical, social, and cultural fabric of a language. They often originate from folklore, religious texts, literature, historical events, or common daily experiences that are unique to a particular community. For example, the English idiom "to spill the beans" means to reveal a secret, but its origin dates back to an ancient Greek voting system using beans. If translated literally into another language without explaining the context, the meaning may be lost. Similarly, the Azerbaijani idiom "Dilim-ağzım qurusun" (literally: "May my tongue and mouth dry up") is an expression used to prevent misfortune, but a direct translation into English would sound confusing to a native English speaker unfamiliar with the cultural significance.

One of the main challenges of translating idioms lies in finding an equivalent expression in the target language. If the target culture has a similar idiom, the translator can use it to maintain the intended meaning. For example, the English idiom "It's raining cats and dogs" can be translated into Turkish as "Bardaktan boşanırcasına yağıyor", which means "raining as if pouring from a bucket." Though the literal words are different, both convey the idea of heavy rain. However, in cases where no equivalent idiom

exists, translators often have to use paraphrasing or descriptive translation.

Cultural sensitivity is also vital in idiom translation. Some idioms contain references that might be offensive or inappropriate in another culture. For instance, English idioms like "bringing home the bacon" (earning money) or "beating around the bush" (avoiding the main topic) may be difficult to translate directly into languages where these cultural references do not exist. A skilled translator must ensure that the idiom's meaning is conveyed in a way that aligns with the cultural values and beliefs of the target audience [4, p.84].

To effectively translate idioms while preserving their cultural significance, translators use several strategies. These include finding an equivalent idiom, paraphrasing, providing explanations in footnotes, or adapting the idiom to fit the target culture. The choice of strategy depends on the audience and the context in which the translation is used. In literary works, idioms may be adapted creatively to maintain the author's style, while in business or technical translations, a more direct approach may be necessary.

Another important aspect of idiom translation is the evolution of language over time. Languages constantly change, and idioms that were once commonly used may become outdated or take on new meanings. For example, the English idiom "bite the bullet" originally referred to battlefield medicine, where soldiers would bite on a bullet to endure pain during surgery. Today, it means to endure a difficult situation bravely. If a translator is unaware of this historical context, they may struggle to convey the true meaning in another language. Similarly, idioms that arise from modern pop culture, technology, or social media may not have direct equivalents in other languages, requiring creative adaptation.

Additionally, dialectal variations within the same language can affect idiom translation. English idioms differ between American, British, and Australian English. For example, the American phrase "knock on wood" (to avoid bad luck) is said as "touch wood" in British English. Likewise, in Azerbaijani, the idiom "əliniz armud yığır?" (literally: "Are your hands picking pears?") means "Are you just standing there doing nothing?" but this phrase would be unfamiliar to a Turkish speaker. When translating idioms, it is crucial to consider not only the language but also regional and cultural differences.

In professional translation, idioms present unique challenges in various fields, such as literature, marketing, and legal translation. In literature, idioms contribute to the tone and style of a text, so

translators must preserve their expressive power while making them understandable for readers in another language. In marketing, companies must carefully localize idiomatic slogans to ensure they make sense and resonate with their audience. A well-known example is when KFC's slogan "Finger-lickin' good" was mistranslated into Chinese as "Eat your fingers off," creating an unintended and humorous effect. In legal translation, idioms can cause serious misunderstandings, as legal terminology requires precise and culturally neutral language.

With the rise of machine translation and artificial intelligence, idiom translation remains a major challenge. While AI tools like Google Translate have improved in handling literal translations, they often fail to interpret idioms correctly. This is because idioms require an understanding of cultural nuances, which AI struggles to grasp without human intervention. As a result, professional human translators are still essential for accurate and culturally appropriate idiom translation [1, p.18].

In conclusion, idioms are deeply rooted in culture, history, and everyday life, making their translation a complex task that goes beyond literal word substitution. Understanding cultural context, identifying equivalent expressions, and adapting idioms creatively are key strategies for successful translation. Whether in literature, business, or legal contexts, idiom translation requires both linguistic expertise and cultural sensitivity. As languages evolve and global communication increases, the ability to translate idioms effectively will play a crucial role in bridging cultural gaps and fostering meaningful international interactions.

Ultimately, idioms reflect the unique worldview of a culture, and their translation requires not only linguistic knowledge but also cultural awareness. A successful idiom translation ensures that the message is accurately conveyed while maintaining the richness and authenticity of the language. As globalization increases, the ability to translate idioms effectively will remain essential for fostering cross-cultural communication and understanding.

**Translation Strategies and Solutions.** Given the complexities involved in translating idioms, translators must employ various strategies to preserve the meaning, tone, and impact of the original expression. Several approaches can help bridge the gap between languages and cultures while ensuring that the essence of the idiom is retained.

Using Equivalent Idioms – one of the most effective strategies is finding a corresponding idiom in the target language. If the target language has an

idiom that conveys a similar meaning and tone, this can be used as a direct substitute. For example, the English idiom "the ball is in your court" (meaning the next move is yours) could be translated into a similar idiom in other languages, such as "topu sende" in Turkish.

Paraphrasing – in cases where an equivalent idiom is unavailable, paraphrasing the meaning of the idiom while maintaining its figurative essence can be a helpful solution. Paraphrasing allows the translator to convey the intended message without relying on a direct idiomatic expression.

Cultural Adaptation – some idioms require cultural adaptation, where the original reference or metaphor is replaced with something that resonates more with the target culture. For example, an idiom like "like a bull in a china shop" might be adapted to a cultural equivalent that reflects the same idea of clumsiness but with a different image that suits the local context [8, p.131].

Creative Interpretation – In certain situations, a more creative approach may be necessary. This involves reworking the idiom into a form that makes sense in the target language while maintaining the original meaning. It may not be a literal or direct translation, but it preserves the overall message and emotional impact.

Footnotes or Explanations – when no direct equivalent or adaptation works, translators may opt to provide a brief explanation or footnote. This is often seen in literature or more formal translations, where the idiom's original meaning is essential to understanding the text. While this may disrupt the flow of reading, it ensures clarity for the audience.

By employing these strategies, translators can navigate the challenges of idiomatic translation, ensuring that the final product communicates both the intended meaning and the cultural nuances of the original idiom.

**Strategies for Overcoming Translation Challenges.** Translating idioms is one of the most complex tasks in linguistic and cultural adaptation. Idioms are deeply rooted in a language's history, traditions, and social environment, making their direct translation difficult or even impossible in some cases. As a result, translators need to employ various strategies to preserve both the meaning and the cultural essence of idiomatic expressions. Without a proper approach, an idiom can lose its intended impact, sound unnatural, or even become misleading. There are several effective strategies for overcoming idiom translation challenges, each of which depends on the context, audience, and purpose of the translation.

One of the most commonly used strategies is finding an equivalent idiom in the target language. This approach works when both languages share similar cultural experiences and idiomatic expressions. For instance, the English idiom "to kill two birds with one stone" has a direct equivalent in Turkish: "Bir taşla iki kuş vurmak", and in Azerbaijani: "Bir güllə ilə iki dovşan vurmaq". Since these expressions convey the same meaning achieving two things with one action translators can use them interchangeably. However, such equivalence is not always available, and in many cases, translators need to explore alternative methods.

Another effective method is paraphrasing, where the translator explains the idiom's meaning instead of trying to find a direct equivalent. This approach ensures clarity, especially when the target language does not have an idiom that conveys the same concept. For example, the English idiom "barking up the wrong tree" (accusing the wrong person or following a mistaken path) may not have a word-for-word equivalent in some languages. Instead of forcing a literal translation, a translator can express the intended meaning in a descriptive way, such as "yanlış istiqamətdə axtarmaq" in Azerbaijani. This approach is particularly useful in formal texts, academic writing, or professional settings where clarity is more important than maintaining a stylistic effect.

In some cases, literal translation with explanation can be used to introduce a foreign idiom while making its meaning clear to the reader. This strategy is often employed in literature, where preserving the cultural essence of an expression is important. For example, the Japanese idiom "Neko ni koban" literally means "Gold coins to a cat", but it conveys the idea of giving something valuable to someone who does not appreciate it. A translator might keep the original phrase and add an explanatory note, such as "Like giving pearls to swine" to help the reader understand the context. This method helps preserve cultural diversity while ensuring comprehension.

Another approach is adapting the idiom to the cultural context of the target language. This is often done in marketing, advertising, and localization, where direct translations might not make sense to the audience. For example, McDonald's slogan "I'm lovin' it" was adapted in China to "我就喜欢" (Wǒ jiù xǐhuan), which translates to "I just like it", as the concept of "love" in commercial advertising is less common in Chinese culture. Similarly, in translating movies or TV shows, idioms are often adapted to resonate with local viewers. A famous example is the American phrase "It's not my cup of tea" (meaning

"I don't like it"), which might be translated into Azerbaijani as "Mənim zövqümə uyğun deyil" to ensure clarity.

Another complex but effective method is maintaining the idiom's stylistic effect by creating a new, culturally relevant equivalent. This is common in literary and poetic translations where the rhythm, humor, or wordplay of the original text must be preserved. For example, Shakespeare's phrase "All that glitters is not gold" has been adapted into different languages while maintaining its metaphorical meaning. Instead of a literal translation, translators might use an equivalent poetic or proverbial expression in the target language [10, p.27].

Finally, modern technology plays a growing role in idiom translation. While machine translation tools like Google Translate and AI-driven systems have improved significantly, they still struggle with idiomatic expressions. Automated translations often produce literal translations that make no sense in the target language. Therefore, human expertise remains essential for interpreting idioms correctly. Professional translators use a combination of experience, cultural knowledge, and digital resources to refine idiomatic translations.

Idiom translation requires a deep understanding of both the source and target languages, as well as cultural awareness. Depending on the context, translators may use equivalent idioms, paraphrase, provide explanations, adapt expressions, or create new equivalents to preserve the meaning and impact of idiomatic phrases. Each strategy has its advantages, and the best approach depends on the specific translation task. As globalization continues and intercultural communication expands, mastering idiom translation will remain an essential skill for translators, writers, and language learners alike.

**Conclusion.** In the process of translation idioms is a complex task that requires a nuanced understanding of language, culture, and context. Idiomatic expressions, by nature, often have meanings that go beyond the literal interpretation of the words, relying on figurative language, wordplay, cultural references, and social contexts. This makes idiomatic translation both a challenge and an art, as it demands more than simply finding equivalent words or phrases. A successful translation of idioms is dependent on the translator's ability to capture not only the meaning but also the tone, humor, and emotional nuance of the original expression.

One of the primary obstacles in idiomatic translation is the issue of direct translation, which often fails to preserve the intended meaning or

cultural resonance of an idiom. Literal translations tend to be ineffective because idioms rely on shared cultural knowledge and figurative language, which may not exist in the target language. This leads to the need for creative adaptation, where a translator must find equivalent idioms, reformulate expressions, or even reframe them entirely to ensure they carry the same impact and message. This often involves a delicate balance between accuracy and creativity, with translators needing to make decisions based on both linguistic and cultural factors.

Furthermore, wordplay and irony, which are frequently present in idiomatic expressions, pose another challenge. These elements often rely on subtle linguistic tricks or cultural context to create humor, emphasis, or emphasis on a specific point. A literal translation may not adequately capture these elements, and translators must find ways to preserve the humor, irony, or wit of the idiom. This often involves reworking the expression in the target language to ensure that the figurative meaning remains intact while considering the cultural appropriateness of the expression.

Cultural differences play a significant role in idiomatic translation. Since idioms are deeply rooted in specific cultural contexts, they may not have a direct equivalent in another language. Translators must adapt idiomatic expressions to reflect the values, traditions, and experiences of the target culture. This

process requires a deep understanding of both the source and target cultures to ensure that the translation is not only linguistically accurate but also culturally relevant and resonant.

Another crucial aspect of translating idioms is contextual understanding. Idiomatic expressions often derive their meaning from the surrounding conversation or situation. The translator must take into account the specific context in which the idiom is used, including the emotional tone, the relationship between the speakers, and the social setting. Without this context, a translation can lose its intended meaning, making it essential for the translator to grasp the full picture in order to provide an accurate translation.

Ultimately, the process of translating idioms goes beyond merely converting words from one language to another. It is a delicate balancing act that requires linguistic skill, cultural knowledge, and a deep understanding of context. While there may be no one-size-fits-all approach to translating idioms, the translator's ability to adapt and creatively convey the idiomatic meaning is crucial to preserving the impact and effectiveness of the expression. By considering the intricacies of language, culture, wordplay, and context, translators can ensure that idiomatic expressions retain their original flavor while being accessible and meaningful to a new audience.

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#### Гусейнова Марал. ПРОБЛЕМИ ПЕРЕКЛАДУ АНГЛІЙСЬКИХ ІДІОМ

*Переклад англійських ідіом викликає кілька проблем, насамперед через культурні відмінності, структурні невідповідності між мовами, труднощі прямого перекладу та вплив гри слів. Ці виклики детально розглядаються тут. По-перше, ідіоми глибоко вкорінені в певній культурі, при перекладі їх значення може змінюватися. По-друге, ідіоми часто не узгоджуються з граматичними та синтаксичними структурами інших мов, що ускладнює точний переклад. Крім того, деякі ідіоми втрачають своє значення при буквальному перекладі, вимагаючи контекстної адаптації, щоб знайти*



відповідний еквівалент. Гра слів та іронія в англійських ідіомах ще більше ускладнюють процес перекладу.

У цій статті ідіоми аналізуються як мовні одиниці, які часто глибоко вкорінені в культурному та історичному тлі певної мовної спільноти. Крім того, ідіоматичні вирази в англійській мові часто не відповідають граматичним, синтаксичним або стилістичним нормам мови перекладу. У багатьох випадках ідіоми неможливо перекласти слово в слово, оскільки їхнє значення виводиться не з буквального тлумачення окремих слів, а з виразу в цілому.

Як визначено в цьому дослідженні, успішний переклад вимагає не лише вільного володіння вихідною та цільовою мовами, але й глибокого розуміння культурних нюансів. Перекладачі повинні застосувати креативність, навички перекладу та усвідомлення контексту, щоб знайти еквівалентні вирази або створити нові, які зберігають вплив і тон оригінальної ідіоми.

Підсумовуючи, переклад ідіом – це складний важливий аспект мовного обміну, який вимагає навичок, культурних знань, здатності до адаптації. Оскільки ідіоми глибоко пов'язані з мовними та культурними рамками відповідних мов, їхній переклад часто передбачає більше, ніж просто заміну слів, а вимагає глибокого розуміння як вихідної, так і цільової мов. Таким чином, вивчення ідіоматичного перекладу не тільки покращує лінгвістичне розуміння, але й сприяє міжкультурному спілкуванню та розумінню.

**Ключові слова:** ідіоми, переклад, культура, мова, структура.