A METAPHORICAL ANALYSIS OF SOME SELECTED IDIOMS IN ENGLISH

Assist. Lect. Shaima Hassan Matroud
Department of English language, College of Education,
Sawa University, Almuthana, Iraq
shemaa@sawauniversity.edu.iq

Abstract

This research which entitled A METAPHORICAL ANALYSIS OF SOME SELECTED IDIOMS IN ENGLISH is an important part of English language. because it talks about a special word which tells us a different meaning from the actual meaning. This study contains three sections. Section One deals with the problems that the non-native learners might face, the aims, the value of the study and procedure of the study. Section Two talks about the main idea of metaphor and the important types of metaphor and how do we differentiate between the real meaning and the covered meaning. Section Three is divided into three parts and each part contains a group of idiomatic expressions. With their meanings, origins and a numbers of examples to clarify their meanings, and also ends with a conclusion and references.

Keywords : Cognitive Semantics ,Conceptual Metaphor, Idioms **,** Metaphor and Target domain.

Section one
Introduction
1.1 The Study's Problem

The issue with this study is that a large number of non-native English language learners are unaware of when and how to employ idioms, they face many difficulties whenever they try to understand or to find the meanings of Idiomatic expressions, since idioms must not be translated literary. If we translate this expression (it's raining cat and dogs) using a regular translation application, its meaning might sound strange and unrealistic for human beings. The better way to find the meaning of idioms Is to ask native speakers or to use some dictionaries which specialized in idioms.

1.2 Aim of the Study

This Study aims at :

1) improving the speaker's language by learning new words that consist of different meanings.

2) Teaching the listener when to use idioms.

3) Showing the origins of some idiomatic expressions.

4) Having a good amount of information about Idioms.

5) Learning how to use idioms in everyday communications and situations.

1.3 The Value of the Study

This study's contribution is to teach non-native speakers of English how and when to employ idioms in context, and to gain a good background about idioms and language culture as well as improving their speaking skills by using idioms.

1.4 Procedure of the study

The following are the present in this study :

1- Presenting a general background of the concept of cognitive semantics a its type, in order to get framework to analysis idioms in English.

2- Identifying types and function of conceptual metaphor in English.

3- Identifying idioms, its type and it's function in English.

4- Drawing some conclusion.

Section Two
Theoretical Background
2.1 Introduction

This chapter begins by defining metaphor, then goes on to discuss idioms, their many forms, their qualities, and how they relate to one another. Idioms are idioms, words, and phrases that defy direct translation. To put it another way, the meanings we assign to them in ordinary speech differ from the dictionary definitions. Part of a figure of speech is an idiom. In reality, there are several figures of speech, including idioms, proverbs, metaphors, and hyperboles. Moreover, a lot of people are unaware of how frequently idioms may be found in song lyrics. The field of cognitive linguistics includes cognitive semantics. It is the study of meaning in language. According to cognitive semantics, language can only explain the world as humans see it because it is a component of a more

universal human cognitive ability. due to the fact that various language societies have diverse perspectives on the world's basic processes and objects.

2.2 Cognitive Semantics

The realist approach to semantics holds that an expression's meaning is a property of the outside world. Conversely, realist semantics is divided into two categories: expansive and intense, while cognitive semantics interprets statements involving mental beings. When using the extended version of semantics, one begins with the language L, which may or may not have a formal definition. The elements of L are then designated to the "world." Things are given names, groupings of items are given predicates, interactions between things are given names, and so on. These identifiers are combined to give the statements their final truth values. Determining the truth conditions for sentences in L is the primary goal of this kind of semantics. This method has the effect of making an expression's meaning independent of how different users interpret it. (JR Taylor 2010: 29-30)

2.3 Conceptual Metaphor Theory

Metaphor is not considered a "decorative tool, secondary to language and thought" according to conceptual metaphor theory. Rather, the theory claims that conceptual metaphors are "fundamental to language-based thought." Conceptual metaphors are a component of a culture's shared language and conceptual framework. Because there is a particular link between the structure of the source domain and the structure of the destination domain, these metaphors are systematic. Conceptual metaphors eventually become language norms because they originate from a shared cultural understanding. This explains why knowledge of recognized conceptual metaphors is necessary to grasp the meanings of numerous words and colloquial idioms. Most of the relationships we form are unconsciously made. It's a component of an almost reflexive mental process. Though occasionally, when the metaphor is inspired by unexpected or unique events, the metaphor itself may likewise be out of the ordinary (Lakoff, George; Johnson, Mark. "Metaphors We Live By."1980) (Lakoff, George; Turner, Mark. "More Than Cool Reason."1989)

Conceptual metaphors eventually become language norms because they originate from a shared cultural understanding. This explains why knowledge of recognized conceptual metaphors is necessary to grasp the meanings of numerous words and colloquial idioms. Most of the relationships we form are unconsciously made. It's a component of an almost reflexive mental process. Though occasionally, when the metaphor is inspired by unexpected or unique events, the metaphor itself may likewise be out of the ordinary. (Lakoff, George; Johnson, Mark. "Metaphors We Live By."1980) (Lakoff, George; Turner, Mark. "More Than Cool Reason."1989) .

2.3.1 Source and Target Domains

A conceptual metaphor's quality or experience that is described or associated with the source domain is the target domain. Also called the recipient of the picture. Knowles and Moon (2006) state that conceptual metaphors are "equivalent to two concept domains, as in ARGUMENT IS WAR," while presenting the metaphor. The idea domain—in this case, WAR—from which the metaphor is derived is referred to as the source domain. The idea domain, to which the metaphor is applied in this case, ARGUMENT, is the target domain." George Lakoff and Mark Johnson first used the phrases target and source in The Metaphors We Live With(1980). Although the more traditional terms tenor and composite (IA Richards, 1936) are roughly equivalent to target domain and source domain, respectively, traditional terms fail to emphasize the interaction between the two domains. As William B. Brown, "" The terms "target domain and source domain" not only recognize a certain import equivalence between a metaphor and its reference, but also more accurately illustrate the dynamic that occurs when something is referred to figuratively—the one-sided superposition or mapping of one domain over another. (Psalms, 2010).

The conceptual domain that metaphorical expressions are taken from is known as the source domain in conceptual metaphors. Also called the giver of images. According to Alice Deignan, "a conceptual metaphor is a relationship between two semantic contexts, or domains, in this case [HAPPY IS UP] the concrete domain of direction (UP) and the abstract domain of emotion (HAPPY).

The domain that is talked of metaphorically, 'emotion' in this example, is known as the target domain, and the domain that provides the metaphors, 'direction' in this example, is known as the source domain. The source domain is typically

concrete and the target domain is typically abstract" (Metaphor and Corpus Linguistics, 2005). In their 1980 book Metaphors We Live By, George Lakoff and Mark Johnson developed the concepts of source and target. While target domain and source domain are broadly analogous to the more conventional words tenor and vehicle (I.A. Richards, 1936), the traditional terminology do not highlight the interplay between the two domains As noted by William P. Brown, "The terms target domain and source domain not only acknowledge a certain parity of import between the metaphor and its referent but they also illustrate more precisely the dynamic that occurs when something is referenced metaphorically-a superimposing or unilateral mapping of one domain on another" (Psalms, 2010).

2.3.2 Metaphorical Mappings

Domains are described as "a coherent area of conceptualization relative to semantic units" by Langacker (1987:488). The source domain is the one that is mapped, and the target domain is the one that is mapped (Koveceses, 2002:6). Conceptual metaphors, according to Lakoff and Johnson (2003:13), are the methodical mappings between conceptual domains. According to Koveceses (ibid), mapping is the process of applying knowledge from the source domain to the target domain in order to give the comparatively abstract target domain greater substance. According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980), mapping has the following qualities. Initially, the mapping is one-way, meaning it only maps from the source domain to the target domain—never the other way around. Second, just a portion of the source domain gets translated onto the target domain due to partial mappings. For example:

•LOVE IS JOURNEY.

In this instance, "love" is interpreted as a "journey." Thus, one way to conceptualize metaphor is as a mapping from a source (the journey) to a target domain (love). Machakanja, 2006:21)

2.4 Types metaphor

Metaphors are ways of thinking and of influencing other people's thinking. Every day, everyone uses metaphors in their speech, writing, and thought. It's actually difficult to comprehend how humans managed without them. They've

been dissected by academics from many fields. There are several perspectives on metaphors.

2.4.1 structural metaphor

A structural metaphor is a metaphorical framework that presents a complicated, generally abstract idea in terms of another, normally more tangible one. It is distinct from the metaphor of the organization. As per John Goss, "a structural metaphor operates as a guide to meaning and action in the discursive context within which it operates"; "it need not be explicitly articulated or defined" (Marketing the New Marketing, in Ground Truth, 1995). One of the three overlapping kinds of conceptual metaphors that George Lakoff and Mark Johnson outlined in Metaphors We Live By (1980) is the structural metaphor. (The ontological metaphor and orientational metaphor are the other two kinds.) According to Lakoff and Johnson, every single structural metaphor "imposes a consistent structure on the concept it structures" and is internally consistent.

2.4.2 Ontological metaphor

A metaphor (or figurative analogy) in which something tangible is projected onto something abstract is known as an ontological metaphor. In Metaphors We Live By (1980), George Lakoff and Mark Johnson recognized three overlapping kinds of conceptual metaphors, one of which is the ontological metaphor (a figure that offers "ways of viewing events, activities, emotions, ideas, etc., as entities and substances"). Orientational metaphor and structural metaphor are the other two kinds. Lakoff and Johnson claim that because ontological metaphors "are so natural and persuasive in our thought, they are usually taken as self-evident, direct descriptions of mental phenomena." Indeed, ontological metaphors "are among the most basic devices we have for comprehending our experience," according to their assertion."" Generally speaking, ontological metaphors let us recognize more clearly defined structure when none or very little exists. Personification is a type of ontological metaphor that we can understand. Personification is the process of giving inhuman creatures human characteristics. Personification is widespread in ordinary speech as well as literature.

2.4.3 Orientational metaphor

In Metaphors We Live By (1980), George Lakoff and Mark Johnson established three overlapping kinds of conceptual metaphors, one of which is orientational metaphor (a figure that "organizes a whole system of concepts with respect to one another"). Ontological metaphor and structural metaphor are the other two kinds. It is distinct from the metaphor of the organization.

2.5 The Effect of Context on Metaphor

Metaphor is an important phenomenon of language that depends on context. It was not until the 1970s that this reality became evident. When interpreting the effect that the user transmitted throughout the conversation, context is crucial. It can assist in clearing up word meaning ambiguity, although it is not always effective in doing so. This is partly because there is typically a number of a context to consider simultaneously. (Zhag, 2010: 17) People can tell metaphor from literal expressions and they can decide what a good metaphor is and what is not with considerable agreement. However, some sentences can be interpreted either literally or metaphorically. Some metaphors have more than one possible interpretation. Some metaphors are understood easily in isolation, while others are not. Thus, people need the guidance of context in deciding what is meant by some metaphors (Marschark and Hunt, 2014:15).Theorists has emphasized the importance of context in the comprehension of metaphors. In explaining the ease or difficulty of metaphor comprehension, the focus will be on the sufficiency of the preceding context from a schematic point of view. If the context provides enough information to activate an appropriate schema, later sentences will be understood easily in their frame. If not, subsequent comprehension will suffer (Shijnjo, 1986:16). To sun up; context has an important role in the interpretation and understanding of metaphor.

2.6 The History of Idioms

The Latin word "idioms," which means "to make one's own," is where the term "idiom" originated between 1565 and 1575. It has suffered different labels for instance: Glaser (1984) the term phraseological unit, Moon (1997) picks up the term multi-word items, Carter (1998) uses the term fixed expressions. whereas, Howarth (1998) prompts for the term phraseology and McCarthy (1998) prefers the traditional term idiom. (Hatch and Brown,1995:202) -An idiom is a phrase,

Intent Research Scientific Journal

IRSJ

saying or a group of words that has a metaphorical (not literal) meaning, which has become accepted in common usage. (Gazder et al,1985:327) -Idioms are Frozen patterns of language which allow little or no variation in form and often carry meanings which cannot be deduced from their individual components. (Baker,1992,63)

-An idiom is the assigning of a new meaning to a group of words which already have their own meaning. (Dean curry,1994,49) -An idiom is a number of words which, taken together, mean something different from the individual words of the idiom when they stand alone. (McMordie, 1983,4).

2.7 The Concept of Idioms

An idiom, also known as an idiomatic expression, is a term, phrase, or statement with a commonly acknowledged figurative meaning among native speakers. This interpretation differs from the idiom's constituent parts' actual meaning. Idioms, then, are not precisely what they aim to convey. But they have a deeper significance. "Kick the bucket" and "Spill the beans" are two examples. The definition or exact meaning of the words that make up these statements is not the same as their meaning. However, their meaning is applied metaphorically. "To die" and "to tell people secret information," are their respective meanings.

2.8 The Features of Idioms

Generally speaking, altering non-idiomatic expressions is not the same as altering the words, their sequence, or their grammatical structures. Idioms, then, are essentially fixed phrases.
. (Michael Berman, 2000).
• Idioms have a metaphorical meaning as opposed to a literal one. It has nothing to do with how their pieces work together compositionally.
An idiom's grammatical form is permanent and unchangeable. Substitution is prohibited, and passive buildings are not permitted.

2.9 The Relationship between Idioms and Metaphor

First and foremost, their prevalence makes them significant. Speaking, reading, or listening to English in any capacity requires encountering idiomatic language. You cannot abandon this until you have attained a high level. English spoken by native speakers is idiomatic. Newspapers are rife with figurative language. You

are unable to put it off or avoid it. The second reason is that a word's metaphorical usage is frequently more prevalent than its literal usage in today's world. We all know that farmers plough their crops, for instance, but you may also plough through a lengthy report or novel and keep working. You should be aware of the exact meaning. The literal meaning frequently conjures up an image in your head, and this image facilitates understanding of the other meanings. (Wright,1992:9).

2.10 The Nature of Idioms

Both! Idiomatic language, according to some, is more colloquial and hence exclusive to spoken English. This is untrue. Just as tenses and prepositions are essential to English, so is idiomatic language. They are particularly prevalent in written language in newspapers as the authors aim to create captivating headlines and exciting stories. (D"Arcy,2001:9).

Section Three
Idioms in English
3.1 Idioms from food
 3.1.1 " Full of beans "
 A. ORIGINS

This expression was once known as "Full as Prunes," but "beans" eventually took the place of "prunes" in the original. During the 14th century, when horses were fed beans cultivated only for fodder, the expression first appeared in Europe. The owners would frequently observe that their horses had become quite animated and spirited after feeding them. Thus, the term was first used to describe this vitality (ibid,38) .

B. MEANING

A person who is full of beans is active, full of vitality, and full of excitement. Someone who is gregarious, upbeat, or passionate. (Broukal, 1994:64) ϖ To feel vivacious and joyful. ϖ To be bursting with vitality. (Varra,2006:103)

C. USAGE

-When Mary received the fantastic news, she was undoubtedly giddy.
- It is a general conception that every bride should be full of beans on their wedding day. (Kirkpatrick,2004:52)

- John̈'s reaction showed that he was full of beans after hearing that he was going to be a dad for the second time. (Broukal,1994:64).

3.1.2 '' In a pickle ''
A. ORIGINS

The word "pickle" originally referred to a salty vinegar that was seasoned and used as a preservative. It is derived from the Dutch word "pekel," which means "something piquant." Preserved vegetables such as cucumbers or gherkins acquired the term in the seventeenth century. The phrase's "in difficulty" connotation suggests that one is as confused and lost as the pickled veggies in the jar. (Howard,1987:88)

B. MEANING

- Someone in a difficult situation. (Hatch and Brown,1995:83)
- If you are in a pickle, you are in a difficult position, or have a problem to which no easy answer can be found. (Mcportal,1989:72)

C. USAGE

-Can you help me? Ï'm in a pickle! (ibid,72)
- I've been in such a pickle since I saw you last that. I really I need your help. (Workman,1993,30)
- Bill was in a pickleHe found the money to fill his automobile with petrol, but he was unable to pay for it. (broukal 1994: 13)

3.1.3 '' Spill the beans ''
A. Origin

Spill is a word that appears to have been used since the sixteenth century to signify "divulge," although the expression "spill the beans" dates back to the United States in the early twentieth century. Earlier iterations included humans spilling both soup and their intestines in addition to beans. (Crowther,1995:67)

B. MEANING

- Sharing the details exposes personal information. Your buddy doesn't want you to tell anyone her secret if she tells you not to reveal it. (Kirkpatrick,2004,62)
- To tell people some secrets information. (McMordi,1983,49)

-If we say someone spilled the beans, that means he or she revealed a secret that he or she should not do it. It is similar to (let the cat out of the bag). (ibid,49)

C. USAGE

You might, for example, spill the beans about the surprise party your sister was planning for your dad and then worry that your sister is going to be furious. (Julie,1987,93).

3.2 Idioms from Animals
3.2.1 " The Black Sheep "
A. ORIGIN of the idiom

It is possible to dye sheep wool a variety of colors. A recessive gene causes the black color of the wool in black sheep. This limits its color-dying options and lowers its value relative to white wool. In the 16th century sheep with black wool was seen as carrying the mark of the devil. (Broukal,1994,86)

B. MEANING

- Someone who brings shame to their family. (Howard,1987,39)
- The least reputable member of a group.
- Someone who is viewed as unlike the rest (usually a part of a family). (Mcportland,1989,64)

C. USAGE

-John is the black sheep in our family. When we were younger, he came dangerously close to going to jail several times. (Ibid:64)
- In our family, my cousin is viewed as the bad guy. She ran off with her lover after school.

My father was really concerned when I decided to get married to you. "Do you really want to spend your life with that black sheep?" he once said. (Rachel,2006,103).

3.2.2 " A fish out of water "
A. ORIGIN of the idiom

The expression "fish out of water" describes someone who is in the unknown. This phrase refers to the reality that fish, once they leave their environment, cannot live on dry land for an extended period of time. (Theidioms.com)

B. MEANING

- feeling uneasy and agitated.

- slipping into a confused state. (Kirkpatrick,2004:52)

- being in a peculiar circumstance.

-I'm not at ease. Exiled from the comfortable surroundings. (Mcportal,1989:72)

C. USAGE

-Given that Sara has enrolled in online classes to further her education, she hasn't seemed to be a fish out of water during the mathematics lecture.
-Danny was a fish out of water when he first went from the country to the big metropolis. (Collis,2007:103).

3.2.3 " Buying a pig in a poke "
A. ORIGIN

The phrase "pig in a poke" first appeared in the 1500s, when a "poke" was a sack. During that time, traders would frequently sell young pigs in pokes without their eyes. Unbelieving buyers would bring their poke home, intending to release the piglet, only to see a chicken, duck, geese, or other less valued animal emerge from the bundle in its place. It is advised to "wait to buy anything until you have seen it". (Mcportal,1989:57)

B. MEANING

- something that is purchased without being thoroughly examined. (Chris, 2001, 153).
-A transaction or offer that is approved without first undergoing a thorough evaluation.
- Purchasing an item without first inspecting it. (Collis,2007:38)

C. USAGE

Despite its immense popularity, internet shopping may occasionally be a bit of a scam because you are unable to see what you are actually purchasing.
- -If you buy a used car without examining it thoroughly first, you might end up buying a pig in a poke. (Workman,1993,30).

3.3 Idioms from daily life

3.3.1 " Biting the hand that feeds you "

A. ORIGIN

Political philosopher Edmund Burke used this expression in public for the first time in the 1700s when he said, "Having looked to government for bread, on the first scarcity they will turn and bite the hand that fed them." It originates from the belief that while feeding horses by hand, they might bite if you're not careful. Since you are the one giving the horse food, in the end, this is not in its best interest. (linda,1992)

B. MEANING

-To harm or treat someone badly who has helped you.
-criticize the person or thing that helps you or gives you money/benefits. (Workman,1993,67)

C. USAGE

It's like biting the hand that feeds you when you quit the firm after three years of training. (ibid,67)

3.3.2 " To crack up someone "

A. ORIGIN

The term "crack," which meaning to break down, is the source of the expression "crack up."'To crack someone up' is said to be an American expression that dates back to the 1600s. Women would wear a heavy coating of makeup on their faces back then, causing it to crack and look flaky anytime they laughed. The expression "it's not all it's cracked up to be" was used in the 1800s. (Crowther,1995:83).

B. Meaning

- To make someone laugh very hard.

C. USAGE

-That comedian really knows how to crack up an audience.
- Josh's joke cracked us all up. (Rachel,2006,58)

3.3.3 " Have a bun in the oven "

A. ORIGIN

This is another expression straight out of the kitchen. A bun that is baked in the oven rises while it bakes. The term "oven" has been used to describe a woman's womb since the 17th century. As a result, the term "bun in the oven" was later used to describe the unborn child. Over time, this expression for pregnancy gained popularity. (Linda,1992:85)

B. MEANING

-To be pregnant.
- To be expecting a baby. (Varra,2006: 103)

C. USAGE

 - After trying for a baby for several years, Mark was happy when his wife told him she had a bun in the oven.
- She was happy to announce to her parents that they would soon be grandparents as she had a bun in the oven. (Hatch and Brown,1995:88).

Conclusion

 The study has arrived the following conclusions…
- A metaphor is a figure of speech that uses non-literal language to describe an item.
- Idioms are a part of a language which have their own Usage .
- Idioms are a type of figurative language, they mean something other than the meanings of their individual words .
- Idioms have their own structures, history, and a situation to be used in .
-Idioms are mostly used in spoken language in both British and American English.
 -Idioms are informal not formal.

References
1. Baker, M. (1992) In the other words. London: Routledge.
2. Broukal Milada (1994) Idioms for everyday use. Chicago: NTC (national textbook company.)

3. Carter,R (1998) vocabulary: Applied linguistics perspectives. London: Routledge .

4. Chitra Fernando (1994) Idioms and Idiomaticity. Oxford: Oxford University Press .

5. Collis Harry (2007) 101 American English Idioms. USA: Mc Graw-Hill .

6. Curry Dean (1994) Illustration American idioms. Washington: the materials branch English language programs division .

7. Gazdar et al (1985) Generalized phrase structure Grammar. Cambridge: Harvard university press .

8. Hatch E. And Brown c. (1995) Vocabulary, semantics, and language Education. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

9. Howard Julie (1987) idioms in American life. New Jersey: prentice-Hall, INc .

10. Kirkpatrick Betty (2004) Everyday Idioms. Singapore: learner publishing, LTD .

11. McCarthy Michael (1998) Spoken Language and Applied Linguistics. Cambridge:Cambridge University Press.

12. McMordie J.S (1983) English Idioms and how to use them. Moscow: Vyschaja Shkola.

13. Moon R.(1997) Vocabulary Connection: Multi-words Items in English. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press .

14. Moon R. (1998) Fixed Expressions and Idioms in English: a Corpus Based Approach. Oxford: Clarendon press .

15. Mcportland Pamela (1989) what's up? American idioms. New Jersey: prenticeHall. INC . Varra Rachel (2006) Easy American idioms. USA: living language, an imprint of random house. INC .

16. workman Graham (1993) phrasal verbs and Idioms. Oxford : Oxford University Press.