

MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE GOVERNMENT-FINANCED INSTITUTION
BAIMAK LYCEUM №4 OF THE BAIMAK REGION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BASHKORTOSTAN

Research Work on the Subject “Awesome Family Idioms”
(Devoted to the Family Year in Bashkortostan)
Nomination “Linguistics. The Foreign Languages”

Work compiled
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INTRODUCTION

Once I watched the cartoon “Finding Nemo” in English, and I heard “See, I suffer from short-term memory loss. I forget things almost instantly! It runs in my family”. And at that time I couldn’t understand “it runs in my family”. I was puzzled. What runs in the family? Or who runs in the family? Of course, I looked up these words in the dictionary, but it was useless. Then English teacher advised to find this expression in the dictionary of English idioms. Finally it was clear – Dory suffers from a disease spreading from generation to generation. It was such an interesting theme to learn and we began this research work.

Family idioms... An unusual phrase expression...

What is it? What’s its origin? What does it mean? These are the questions we answer in this research work by means of the method of survey of the pupils of the 6th classes in our school, descriptive and comparative methods, analysis and summary.

The subject of our work is research of the origin of an idiom, its structure and its classification.

Therefore the objects are the family idioms in the dictionaries of English idioms by Pavel Litvinov and Aleksandr Vinokurov.

The purpose of this research is scientific study of family idioms in English and proving the hypothesis that every English family idiom has its equivalent in Russian.

The novelty of this work consists in new view of this issue – few pupils know about family idioms, their meanings and origin, and when to use them.

The actuality of the research is learning family idioms in English is not only interesting, but very useful. Learning an idiom in English helps to understand it better.

Research of different linguistic expressions in various foreign languages is one of the most popular directions of the modern investigations, developing linguistics – the branch of knowledge that deals with the structure, historical development and relationships of a language or languages. Thereby this work takes on theoretical value.

The practical value of this work is getting of practical results; and family idioms can be used at the lessons, our illustrated book can help the children to understand and learn some family idioms.

The structure of this research is the following:

1) the introduction which describes the subject, the objects, the actuality, the purpose, the tasks; shows the theoretical and practical values, the used methods;

2) the theoretical part which presents the definition of an idiom, its origin and structure, dwells upon their types;

3) the practical part which shows the ways of practical usage of family idioms; explains the causes of frequent misunderstandings of this linguistic expressions;

4) the conclusion which summarize the research results given in the practical part of the presented course paper.

THE THEORETICAL PART

THE SURVEY OF THE PUPILS OF THE 6TH CLASSES IN THE LYCEUM

At first we carried out a survey (Appendix 1) of the pupils of the 6th classes in our school. As can be seen only 33% of the pupils are familiar with English idioms. Only 40% can find the right equivalent of English family idiom. And most of the pupils would like to learn idioms (Appendix 2). So there is a solid foundation for doing our research on this theme.

THE DEFINITION OF AN IDIOM

According to the Internet-resources we can define that idioms are common phrases or terms whose meaning is changed but can be understood by their popular usage [7]. In the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of English Idioms it is said that the word 'idiom' is used to describe the special phrases that are an essential part of a language [Litvinov, 2007, p.4]. By "A Book of Russian Idioms" of M.I.Dubrovin an idiom is a set phraseological units which meaning does not result from the meaning of its components [Vinokurov, 2009, p.5].

So we can define that an idiom is a phrase or an expression that has a figurative, or sometimes literal, meaning.

THE ORIGIN OF AN IDIOM

The word *idiom* comes from the Greek root *idio* which means *personal*. Thus, each language contains expressions that make no sense when translated literally into another tongue [6].

Some idioms have first been seen in the works of writers like William Shakespeare, Sir Walter Scott and Lewis Carroll [8]. Some idioms came from different customs and others from different speech. Several popular idioms began as sayings and spoken in local dialects. Some idioms go back in time to the ancient Greeks and Romans, thousands of years ago. For instance, the meaning of the idiom *Achilles' heel* is the weakness, fault or vulnerable spot in one's strong

character. But the origin of this idiom goes back to the times when the Greek poet Homer wrote his famous work “Iliad” [7].

So the name of the first author or speaker who used particular expressions is not often obvious.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF ENGLISH IDIOMS BY THEIR MEANING CONTENTS

By the meaning contents English idioms can be divided into categories:

- ~ age (*golden age* – *золотой век*);
- ~ animals (*let sleeping dogs lie* – *не буди лиха*);
- ~ clothes (*fill someone's shoes* – *занять чье-либо место*);
- ~ colours (*green with envy* – *позеленеть от зависти*);
- ~ food (*big cheese* – *большая шишка*);
- ~ furniture (*in the oven* – *быть на сносях*);
- ~ health (*take a deep breath* – *глубоко вздохнуть*);
- ~ home (*hit home* – *задеть за живое*);
- ~ language (*watch your language / tongue / mouth* – *следить за языком*); etc.

Thus, to learn a language a person needs to learn the words in that language, and how and when to use them. But people also need to learn idioms separately because certain words together or at certain times can have different meanings. In order to understand an idiom, one sometimes needs to know the culture the idiom comes from.

THE PRACTICAL PART

Let's stop at the English family idioms. We have chosen this theme because 2018 is the Family Year in Bashkortostan.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF FAMILY IDIOMS BY THEIR STRUCTURE

There are some types of English idioms by their structure:

~ binomials (two words are joined by a conjunction (linking word))

flesh and blood – *плоть от плоти, кровь от крови*;

~ trinomials (three words are joined)

the black sheep of the family – *паршивая овца в семье*;

~ metaphorical idioms (that include a metaphor)

warm house – *родной очаг*;

~ similized idioms (that include a simile)

like mother, like daughter – *яблоко от яблони недалеко падает*.

English family idioms are embraced by children, young adults and older poets for their advantages and accent. During two weeks the pupils of the 6th classes in our lyceum carried out the project on learning English family idioms. Finally they learned by heart about 40 family idioms. After this project they understand English better and enlarge their vocabulary. We printed an illustrated book of English family idioms and sited it in the Internet. We could find Russian equivalent for each English family idiom (Appendix 3).

Our hypothesis that every English family idiom has its equivalent in Russian was proved.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion we can say that the origin of idioms is closely connected with people's mentality. Nowadays English cannot be considered full without idiomatic expressions. An idiom is a phrase whose meaning cannot be understood from the dictionary definitions of each word taken separately.

In fact, idioms evolve the language; they are the building blocks of a language and civilization. They also have great intensity to make a language interesting and dynamic. Idioms bring a spectacular illustration to everyday speech. Idiomatic sentences enrich a language and the knowledge of idioms signals that the speaker knows the language on the level of a native speaker. This research proposes practical hints for pupils wishing to include in their speech different idioms because they are integral part of language which makes our speech more beautiful and close to native one.

Thus learning idioms you enlarge your English and have fun!

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THE QUESTIONS OF THE SURVEY

Survey “Awesome Family Idioms”

Name_____

Class_____

1. “The black sheep of the family” is ...

- A. a proverb
- B. an idiom
- C. a phrasal verb

2. Find the best variant of the English idiom

“Like two peas in a pod”:

- A. как две капли воды
- B. как две горошины в стручке
- C. любить горох в стручке

3. Is it necessary to learn English idioms?

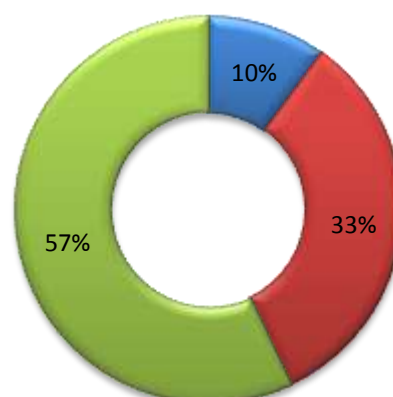
- A. Yes, it is
- B. No, it isn't
- C. I don't know



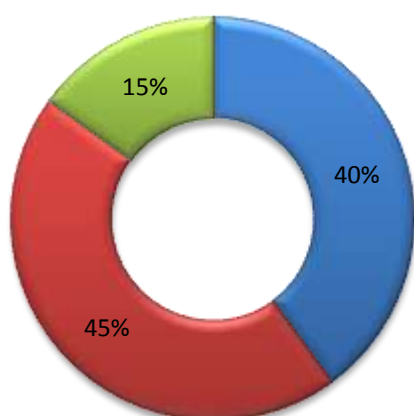
RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

“The black sheep of the family” is ...

- A. a proverb
- B. an idiom
- C. a phrasal verb



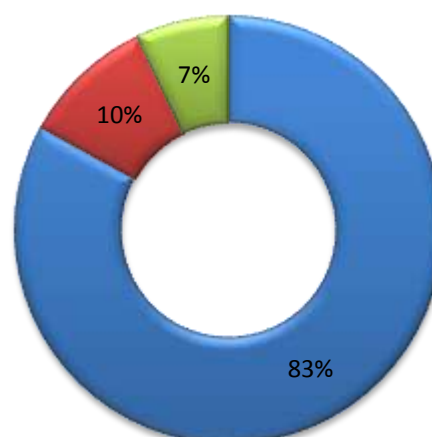
**Find the best variant of the English idiom
“Like two peas in a pod”**



- A. как две капли воды
- B. как две горошины в стручке
- C. любить горошины в стручке

Is it necessary to learn English idioms?

- A. Yes, it is
- B. No, it isn't
- C. I don't know



THE TABLE OF FAMILY IDIOMS

№	The Family Idiom in English	Its Meaning	Its Russian Equivalent
1.	a long-lost relative	somebody whom you haven't seen for many years	отрезанный ломоть
2.	a man of no family	a man without a family, relatives	человек без роду, без племени
3.	a man of a family	a head of a family	глава семьи
4.	bad blood between somebody	when you have a bad relationship with somebody	питать вражду к кому-нибудь
5.	Benjamin of the family	the youngest child in the family	последыш
6.	blood is thicker than water	when loyalty to family is more important than anything else	кровь – не водица
7.	charity begins / starts at home	when you are kind and patient with relatives if you want to make a difference in the world	кто думает о родных, не забудет и чужих; благотворительность начинается дома
8.	follow in your father's steps	to do the same thing as someone in your family	идти по стопам отца
9.	in a family way	to be pregnant	быть в интересном положении
10.	it runs in the family	when members of the family have common qualities	семейная черта

11.	like father, like son	when a son / daughter is	яблоко от яблони
12.	like mother, like daughter	very much like his/her father/mother	недалеко падает
13.	like one of the family	to be considered as a part of the family	быть одной масти
14.	Mother Nature	power of the nature	мать-природа
15.	mum's the word	when you don't say a word to anybody	рот на замок
16.	on the house	at the management's expense, free	за счет заведения
17.	the baby of the family	the youngest child in the family	последыш
18.	the black sheep of the family	a member of the family who gets into trouble or makes mistakes	паршивая овца в семье
19.	the spitting image of your father / mother	when a child looks just like one of the parents	точная копия отца / матери
20.	to be someone's own flesh and blood	when you are a close relative of somebody	плоть от плоти, кровь от крови
21.	to start a family	to conceive or have a first child	свить гнездо