

IDIOMS WITH A COMPONENT 'WEATHER'

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The English language being very flexible constantly enriches its vocabulary with words invented by language speakers, making it more colourful with new idiomatic expressions, and, at times, refills its stocks with the borrowings and neologisms [1]. Thus, English just amazes by its extraordinary linguistic diversity.

According to New Webster's Dictionary, an idiom is 'a construction or expression having a meaning different from the literal one or not according to the usual patterns of the language' [2]. In addition, in accordance with the definition given in Collins Dictionary an idiom is 'a language, dialect, or style of speaking peculiar to a people' [3]. Thus, idioms are always something special about any language; they build up some distinctive features that differ one language from another. What is more, idioms reflect certain cultural traditions and describe the national character. Idioms are the phrases that cannot be understood directly word by word, it is an integrity of words that can refer completely another meaning of a particular word [4, p.57].

Idioms are not the same thing as a slang, they are the combination of normal words. 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 from which the idiom comes from. To know the history of an idiom can be useful and interesting, but it is not necessary to be able to use the idiom properly [4, p.57]. In the English language there are more than 15,000 idioms which are generally used in informal speech and are of value to study. The idiomatic expressions can be divided into several groups according to the component that they contain, for example, weather, food, animals, colors, parts of the body and so on. The problematic issue of our study is the peculiarities of the translation of the idiomatic expressions with the component 'weather', as they are one of the most popular and actual lexical groups for research.

Weather is one of the favourite topics of conversation in the UK and America. That's probably why there are so many idioms in the English language related to various weather phenomena.

While analyzing 'weather' idioms it has been found out that there is a large group of idioms including various weather phenomena, such as rain, cloud, storm, wind, rainbow, thunder and lightning, snow and ice.

Idiomatic expressions with the component 'rain' are the most popular idioms describing different weather phenomena (e.g., *'take a rain check'* ('сдвинуть сроки', 'отложить на потом', 'перенести до лучших времен'), *'rain cats and dogs'* ('лёт как из ведра'), *'save for a rainy day'* ('откладывать что-либо на черный день'), etc.). So, for instance, the idiom *'take a rain check'* is used to tell someone that you cannot accept an invitation now, but would like to do so at a later time (*'Mind if I take a rain check on that drink? I have to work late tonight'*). Another example is the idiom *'rain cats and dogs'* which means to rain very heavily (*'Don't forget to take your umbrella - it's raining cats and dogs out there'*) [5].

The next group of idioms describing different weather phenomena is formed by idiomatic expressions with the component 'cloud' (e.g., *'be on cloud nine'* ('быть на седьмом небе от счастья'), *'have one's head in the clouds'* ('летать в облаках'), *'every cloud has a silver lining'* ('нет худа без добра'), etc.).

For example, the idiom *'be on cloud nine'* means to be extremely happy and excited (*'Was Helen pleased about getting that job?' 'Pleased? She was on cloud nine!'*) [5]. We use the idiom *'have one's head in the clouds'* when we are talking about the person who is thinking about something that is not connected with what he is doing or who has ideas, plans, etc. that are not realistic (*'The boy has his head in the clouds and doesn't think about what is going on around him'*) [6].

Idiomatic expressions with the component 'storm' are also widely spread in English (e.g., *'the calm before the storm'* (*'затишье перед бурей'*), *'storm in a teacup'* (*'делать из мухи слона'*), *'to weather the storm'* (*'пережить сложные времена'*), etc.). For instance, the idiom *'calm before the storm'* means a quiet or peaceful period before a period during which there is great activity, argument, or difficulty (*'I like to get everything done before the guests arrive and relax for a moment in the calm before the storm'*). Another example is the idiom *'storm in a teacup'* which means a lot of unnecessary anger and worry about a matter that is not important (*'It seems to me to be a storm in a teacup about these business letters'*) [5].

Another group of idioms describing different weather phenomena are idiomatic expressions with the components 'thunder' and 'lightning' (e.g., *'steal one's thunder'* (*'украсть чужие лавры'*; *'погреться в лучах чужой славы'*), *'have a face like thunder'* (*'лицо мрачнее тучи'*), *'be as fast as lightning'* (*'быстрый, как молния'*), etc.). For example, the idiom *'steal one's thunder'* means to do what someone else was going to do before they do it, especially if this takes success or praise away from them (*'Sandy stole my thunder when she announced that she was pregnant two days before I'd planned to tell people about my pregnancy'*). We use the idiom *'have a face like thunder'* when we are talking about a person who looks extremely angry (*'She suddenly came into the room with a face like thunder'*) [5].

Idiomatic expressions with the component 'wind' are also widely spread (e.g., *'get wind of something'* (*'пронюхать'*), *'windfall'* (*'неожиданная удача'*), *'to throw caution to the wind'* (*'отбросить сомнения'*), etc.). For instance, the idiom *'get wind of something'* means to hear a piece of information that someone else was trying to keep secret (*'I don't want my colleagues to get wind of the fact that I'm leaving'*). *'Windfall'* is an amount of money that you win or receive from someone unexpectedly (*'Investors each received a windfall of £3,000'*) [5].

Among the idiomatic expressions describing weather phenomena there is a group of idioms with the component 'rainbow' (e.g., *'a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow'* (*'несбыточная мечта'*), *'chase rainbows'* (*'гнаться за недостижимым'*), *'life isn't all rainbows and unicorns (or sunshine)'* (*'жизнь прожить – не поле перейти'*), etc.). *'A pot of gold at the end of the rainbow'* is something that is very attractive that you will probably never achieve (*'At the moment, finding a good plumber is like finding a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow'*) [5]. The idiom *'chase rainbows'* means to waste time trying to get something that you can never have (*'You are chasing rainbows. You cannot alone change the system of education'*) [3].

Last but not least, idiomatic expressions with the components 'snow' and 'ice' (e.g., *'to break the ice'* (*'сделать первый шаг'*), *'snowed under'* (*'быть заваленным работой'*), *'tip of the iceberg'* (*'верхушка айсберга'*), etc.). For instance, the idiom *'to break the ice'* means to make people who have not met before feel more relaxed with each other (*'Someone suggested that we play a party game to break the ice'*). Another example is the idiom *'snowed under'* which means to have too much to do (*'I am totally snowed under at school'*) [5].

Having analyzed idioms with the component 'weather', it must be admitted that names of weather phenomena are not frequently used in Russian idioms and, moreover, word-by-word rendering of a source phrase is impossible in most cases. Some of the idioms have equivalents in other languages, others are unique and original. Thus, idioms help us make our speech more colourful, it is really gripping to use them rather than repeating simple phrases and words. There are many reasons explaining the popularity of using idioms about the weather in daily conversations.

Literature

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