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EXPLORING EQUIVALENTS IN CROSS-CULTURAL IDIOMS BETWEEN ENGLISH AND AZERBAIJANI

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Abstract: *This article explores the parallelism between common English idiomatic expressions and their equivalents in Azerbaijani, examining their usage in everyday contexts. Idioms, integral to both languages, play a significant role in communication by conveying nuanced meanings that extend beyond literal interpretations. Through a comparative analysis, this article elucidates how idiomatic expressions serve as cultural bridges, reflecting shared experiences and values across linguistic boundaries. By examining examples such as "When pigs fly" and its Azerbaijani counterpart "Dəvənin quyruğu yerə dəyəndə," and "Cost an arm and a leg" and its equivalent "Baha başa gəlmək" the article highlights the rich tapestry of idiomatic expression and its contribution to cross-cultural understanding. Through this exploration, readers gain insights into the intricate interplay between language, culture, and communication in both English and Azerbaijani contexts.*

Keywords: Idioms, Common English idiomatic expressions, Azerbaijani equivalents, everyday usage, language comparison, cross-cultural communication, linguistic parallels.

Açar sözlər: İdiomlar, ümumi ingilis idiomatik ifadələr, Azərbaycan ekvivalentləri, gündəlik istifadə, dil müqayisəsi, mədəniyyətlərarası ünsiyyət, lingvistik paralellər.

Ключевые слова: Идиомы, распространенные английские идиоматические выражения, азербайджанские эквиваленты, повседневное использование, сравнение языков, межкультурное общение, лингвистические параллели.

Introduction:

Idioms are expressions or phrases that have figurative meanings different from their literal interpretations. These phrases are deeply rooted in language and culture, often conveying a message or idea that goes beyond the individual words used. Idioms are commonly used in everyday speech and writing to add color, emphasis, or imagery to communication. "The problem with idioms is that the words in them do not mean what they ought to mean" (Linda Flavell and Roger Flavell). Due to the fact that their meanings are not always directly deducible from the words themselves, idioms can pose challenges for language learners and translators. This article explores common English idioms and provides their corresponding Azerbaijani equivalents, demonstrating how idiomatic expressions enrich both languages.

Aim:

The aim of the article "Exploring Equivalents in Cross-Cultural Idioms Between English and Azerbaijani" is to investigate and compare idiomatic expressions in both languages, aiming to identify parallels, differences, and cultural implications. This research seeks to explore how idioms are used in everyday contexts, analyze their linguistic structures and figurative meanings, and elucidate their roles as cultural bridges. The primary objective is to contribute to a deeper understanding of the cross-cultural nuances embedded within idiomatic expressions, facilitating communication and appreciation of cultural diversity between English and Azerbaijani speakers.

Methodology:

This study employs a comparative analysis research design to investigate the equivalents of idiomatic expressions between English and Azerbaijani languages. The design allows for a systematic examination of idioms in both languages to identify similarities, differences, and cultural nuances.

"When pigs fly" (English) / "Dəvənin quyruğu yerə dəyəndə" (Azerbaijani)

The origin of the phrase "when pigs fly" is not entirely clear, but it is believed to date back several centuries. It is thought to have originated as a sarcastic or humorous response to a suggestion or statement that is considered highly unlikely or impossible. The idea of pigs flying is obviously absurd, as pigs do not have the physical ability to fly, so the phrase is used to dismiss or mock something that is deemed improbable or unrealistic. It is often used humorously to dismiss an idea or suggestion that is considered improbable or fanciful. The phrase implies that the event being discussed is as unlikely to occur as the sight of pigs flying in the sky.

- English Usage: "He will stop smoking when pigs fly."

- Azerbaijani Equivalent: "Dəvənin quyruğu yerə dəyəndə o siqaret çəkməyi dayandıracaq."

"It's raining cats and dogs" (English) / "Leysan yağır" (Azerbaijani)

The exact origin of the idiom "it's raining cats and dogs" is uncertain, and several theories exist about its beginnings. One theory suggests that the phrase originated in England in the 17th or 18th century, where heavy rainstorms would cause stray animals, such as cats and dogs, to seek shelter on the roofs of thatched houses. During particularly heavy rain, the animals could fall from the roofs, giving the impression that it was raining cats and dogs.

- English Usage: "Grab an umbrella, it's raining cats and dogs outside!"

- Azerbaijani Equivalent: "Çətir götür, çöldə leysan yağır!"

"To kill two birds with one stone" (English) / "Bir daşla iki quş vurmaq" (Azerbaijani)

The exact origin of the phrase "to kill two birds with one stone" is uncertain, but it is believed to have originated from ancient hunting practices. The concept of using a single stone to kill multiple birds likely emerged from the practicality and efficiency of such an action in hunting scenarios. Over time, the phrase evolved into a metaphorical expression used to describe achieving two objectives or completing two tasks with a single action or effort. While the specific origin remains unclear, the phrase has become a common idiom in many languages, illustrating the universal concept of efficiency and multitasking.

- English Usage: "By studying for the exam while commuting, she was able to kill two birds with one stone: she saved time and improved her grades."

- Azerbaijani Equivalent: "İşə gedib-gələrkən imtahan üçün oxuyaraq, o, bir daşla iki quş vura bildi: vaxta qənaət etdi və qiymətlərini yaxşılaşdırdı."

"Cost an arm and a leg" (English) / "Baha başa gəlmək" (Azerbaijani)

The origin of the phrase "cost an arm and a leg" is not definitively known, but it is believed to have originated in the United States during the mid-20th century. The expression likely evolved from earlier idiomatic phrases that conveyed the idea of something being extremely expensive or costly.

One theory suggests that the phrase may have originated from the world of art, particularly portrait painting. During the 18th and 19th centuries, artists would often charge more for portraits that included additional elements such as limbs, which required more time and skill to paint. Thus, the phrase "cost an arm and a leg" may have originally referred to the high price paid for a detailed portrait.

Another theory proposes that the phrase may have its origins in military slang during World War II. Soldiers may have used the expression to describe the high cost, both financially and in terms of personal sacrifice, of military equipment or services.

Regardless of its exact origins, "cost an arm and a leg" has become a widely-used idiom in the English language to convey the idea of something being extremely expensive or prohibitively costly.

- English Usage: "Buying a new car can cost an arm and a leg."
- Azerbaijani Equivalent: "Yeni bir maşın almaq baha başa gələ bilər."

"The world is your oyster" (English) / "Hər şey öz əlinizdədir" (Azerbaijani)

The phrase "the world is your oyster" is attributed to William Shakespeare's play "The Merry Wives of Windsor," written around 1600. In Act 2, Scene 2, the character Pistol famously declares, "Why, then the world's mine oyster, Which I with sword will open."

The phrase metaphorically suggests that the world is full of opportunities and possibilities, waiting to be explored and seized by an individual. Just like an oyster contains a valuable pearl, the world contains valuable opportunities for those who are willing to take advantage of them.

It's important to note that while Shakespeare may have popularized the phrase, the concept of the world being likened to an oyster with pearls dates back even further in literature and folklore.

- English Usage: "Believe in yourself, my dear. With your talent and determination, the world is truly in your oyster."

• Azerbaijani Equivalent: "Özünə inanın, əzizim. İstedadın və qətiyyətinlə hər şey həqiqətən də sizin öz əlindədir."

"Once in a blue moon" (English) / "Ayda ildə bir dəfə" (Azerbaijani)

The origin of the phrase "once in a blue moon" dates back several centuries and is rooted in celestial events. The term "blue moon" originally referred to an additional full moon within a specific period, usually a calendar month. This phenomenon happens infrequently, typically once every two to three years.

The phrase "blue moon" itself has been in use since at least the 16th century, with "blue" likely being used in its older sense, meaning "rare" or "unusual," rather than referring to the color of the moon.

Over time, "once in a blue moon" evolved into an idiomatic expression used to describe something that occurs very rarely or infrequently. It suggests that the event being described is as uncommon as the occurrence of an extra full moon within a month, emphasizing its rarity.

- English Usage: "I only see my old college friends once in a blue moon, so when we do get together, it's always a special occasion."

• Azerbaijani Equivalent: "Köhnə kollec dostlarımı yalnız ayda ildə bir dəfə görürəm, ona görə də bizim bir araya gəlməyimiz həmişə xüsusi bir

"Break a leg" (English) / "Şeytanın qıçını sındır" (Azerbaijani)

The origin of the phrase "break a leg" as a theatrical expression of good luck is not definitively known, but there are several theories about its origins.

The theory suggests that the phrase originated in the world of theater as a superstitious alternative to directly wishing someone good luck. It is believed that expressing wishes for good luck directly was considered bad luck in the theater world, so performers would say the opposite to counteract this superstition. By wishing someone to "break a leg," they were actually wishing them the opposite, or good luck.

Regardless of its exact origin, "break a leg" has become a common expression in the theater world, used to wish performers good luck before a performance. It is now widely recognized as a theatrical tradition and is used both seriously and

Humorously.

- English Usage: "Before taking the stage for her debut performance, the director whispered to the lead actor, "Break a leg!""

- Azerbaijani Equivalent: "Rejissor debüt tamaşası üçün səhnəyə çıxmazdan əvvəl baş rol ifaçısına pıçıldadı: "Şeytanın qıçını sındır!""

In conclusion, idioms play a significant role in language and communication by providing colorful expressions that convey meanings beyond their literal interpretations. Rooted in culture and history, idioms enrich speech and writing, adding depth, emphasis, and imagery to communication. While English idioms are widely used and appreciated, they can pose challenges for language learners and translators due to their figurative nature. However, other languages, such as Azerbaijani, also have their equivalents, demonstrating the universality of idiomatic expressions across cultures.

This article explored common English idioms and provided their corresponding Azerbaijani equivalents, highlighting how idiomatic expressions contribute to the richness of both languages. By understanding and embracing idioms, language learners and speakers can enhance their communication skills and appreciate the cultural nuances embedded in language.

Literature

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İNGİLİS VƏ AZƏRBAYCAN DİLLƏRİ ARASINDA MƏDƏNİYYƏTLƏRARASI İDİOMLARIN EKVİVALENTLƏRİNİN ARAŞDIRILMASI

İsmaylova Günay Sabir qızı

Xülasə

Bu məqalə, ümumi ingilis dili idiomatik ifadələri ilə onların Azərbaycan dilindəki ekvivalentləri arasındakı paralellikləri araşdırır və onların gündəlik kontekstdə istifadəsini təhlil edir. Hər iki dildə də mühüm yer tutan idiomlar, sözlü ifadələrdən daha geniş mənalar çatdırmaqla, ünsiyyətdə vacib rol oynayır. Müqayisəli təhlil vasitəsilə məqalə, idiomatik ifadələrin mədəniyyətlərarası körpülər kimi necə funksional olduğunu və dil sərhədlərini aşan ümumi təcrübələri və dəyərləri necə əks etdirdiyini izah edir. "When pigs fly" (Donuzlar uçanda) və onun Azərbaycan dilindəki qarşılığı olan "Dəvənin quyruğu yerə dəyəndə" və "Cost an arm and a leg" (Bir əl və bir ayaq qədər qiyməti olmaq) ifadəsi və onun Azərbaycan

dilindəki ekvivalenti "Baha başa gəlmək" kimi nümunələr vasitəsilə məqalə idiomatik ifadələrin zəngin və müxtəlif toxumasını və mədəniyyətlərarası anlama necə töhfə verdiyini vurğulayır. Bu araşdırma vasitəsilə oxucular, həm ingilis, həm də Azərbaycan kontekstində dil, mədəniyyət və ünsiyyət arasındakı mürəkkəb qarşılıqlı əlaqəyə dair dərin biliklər əldə edirlər.

ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ ЭКВИВАЛЕНТОВ МЕЖКУЛЬТУРНЫХ ИДИОМ МЕЖДУ АНГЛИЙСКИМ И АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКИМ ЯЗЫКАМИ.

Исмаилова Гунай Сабир кызы

Резюме

Эта статья исследует параллелизм между распространёнными идиоматическими выражениями в английском языке и их аналогами на азербайджанском, анализируя их использование в повседневных контекстах. Идиомы, являющиеся неотъемлемой частью обоих языков, играют важную роль в коммуникации, передавая многозначные смыслы, которые выходят за рамки буквальных интерпретаций. Через сравнительный анализ статья объясняет, как идиоматические выражения служат культурными мостами, отражая общие переживания и ценности через языковые границы. Изучив примеры, такие как "When pigs fly" (Когда свиньи полетят) и его азербайджанский аналог "Dəvənin quyuğu yerə dəyəndə", а также "Cost an arm and a leg" (Стоит целую руку и ногу) и его эквивалент "Baha başa gəlmək", статья подчеркивает богатую ткань идиоматических выражений и их вклад в межкультурное понимание. Эта исследовательская работа позволяет читателям углубиться в сложные взаимосвязи между языком, культурой и коммуникацией как в английском, так и в азербайджанском контексте.

Rəyçi: baş müəllim, fil.f.d. Kəmalə Rafiq qızı Əliyeva

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