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ИДИОМЫ В РАЗГОВОРНОМ АНГЛИЙСКОМ: ЦВЕТНЫЕ ИДИОМЫ

Идиомы являются неотъемлемой частью любого языка. Использование идиом делает нашу речь более живой и выразительной, кроме того, иностранцу, который знает их и правильно употребляет, всегда легче понять носителя языка.

Idioms are an essential part of any language and the knowledge of them is not only very useful for the one who studies foreign language, but furthermore, it makes the whole process of learning more gripping and interesting. We use idiomatic phrases to express something that other words do not express as clearly or as cleverly. They make our speech more lively and interesting. Though sometimes we face a great trouble using them. Firstly, idioms of the same meaning in both languages can be expressed with different words that sometimes have absolutely nothing in common. So the meaning of such idiomatic expressions cannot be guessed or derived from the native language. Secondly, an idiom is a rather changeable structure. Within some period of time an idiom can gain a new meaning, or some words can be replaced.

The English language is full of idioms (over 15,000). Native speakers use idioms all the time, often without realizing that they are doing so. This means that the process of communicating can be quite a confusing experience. Suppose you've heard the following text:

Sam is a real cool cat. He never blows his stack and hardly ever flies off his handle. What's more, he knows how to get away with things...Well, of course, he is getting on, too. His hair is pepper and salt, but he knows how to make up for the lost of time by taking it easy. He gets up early, works out, and turns in early. He takes care of the hot dog stand like a breeze until he gets time off. Sam's got it made; this is it for him.

You can't but agree that it is almost impossible to understand this text if you don't know the exact meaning of each phrase. Into Russian it can be translated like this:

Сэм очень тихий человек. Он никогда не теряет контроль над собой и редко сердится. Кроме того, он знает, как вести свое дело с финансовой точки зрения, используя некоторые хитрости... Безусловно, он стареет. Его волосы седеют, но он умеет восстанавливать потраченные силы. Он рано встает, делает гимнастику и рано ложится. Со своей работой в колбасном магазине он справляется без особого труда, успевая все сделать, до того, как его сменят. Сэм вполне счастлив,- он достиг цели своей жизни.

This example shows that spoken informal language cannot do without idioms. For foreigners it is necessary to know the exact meaning of the phrase to use it correctly and in the right situation.

The aim of this work is to compare idiomatic expressions of the English and Russian languages, to find out the differences and similarities in the meaning on the basis of idioms with color. More than a hundred colorful idioms can be found in the English language. One of the simplest is *to be in the black*. When asked what it means, people give the most obvious answer: to be wearing clothes of black color. In fact, it is not so. It means *to be successful or profitable*. *To be in the red* is an antonym to this, meaning *to be in debt*. *To paint the town red* is also an interesting expression the corresponding idiom to which can be hardly found in Russian. It stands for *going out to the party and having a good time*, e.g. At the end of final exams college students have traditionally gone out to paint the town red.

On the other hand sometimes it is quite easy to find the right equivalent for an English idiom. E.g. *She was as white as a sheet*. There is analogous expression in our language: *бледный как полотно*. This conformity makes the process of learning idioms less difficult.

In most cases it is almost impossible to trace the history of an idiom, because people just start using a phrase in speech, and then in a certain period of time it may become less popular and be forgotten. However, sometimes the origin of an idiom is known. The expression *once in a blue moon* means *to occur extremely rarely*. It is rare that in one calendar month you would see the second full moon or "blue moon". This is absurd and can never happen.

So, it's evident that idioms in English and Russian as well as in all other languages differ from each other in most cases. And this is not surprising, because a collection of idiomatic expressions is a distinguishing feature of every language. Though parallels in the use of phrases can still be found.

Learning idioms is absolutely indispensable and important for those who study foreign languages. Using them makes our speech more colorful and natural, helps us to make any conversation, even the most common one, more pleasant and interesting.