

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE OF UKRAINE
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Educational and Scientific Institute of Philology
Department of English Philology and Intercultural Communication

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CULTURALLY SPECIFIC IDIOMS IN THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE

Abrar SHAMURADOV

4th year student of the Education Program

‘English Studies and Translation
and Two Western European Languages’

Field of science: 03 “Humanities”

Specialty: 035 “Philology”

Supervisor:

Olga YASHENKOVA

PhD, associate professor



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ABSTRACT

This thesis aims to explore and analyze culturally specific idioms in the American language, investigate their theoretical aspects, conduct empirical research, and examine their application in English language teaching. The study begins by examining the definition of the term "idiom." It delves into the classification and features of culturally specific idioms, highlighting their significance in native speakers' communication and their role in understanding the associated culture. The empirical research section presents the methodology employed in the study, followed by an analysis of a collection of culturally specific idioms in the formulation. The interpretation of idiomatic meanings and their connections with culture are explored in detail, providing valuable insights into the cultural nuances of idiomatic expressions. Furthermore, this thesis investigates the application of culturally specific idioms in English language teaching. It explores the role of idioms in language instruction and provides methodological recommendations for incorporating culturally specific idioms into teaching practices. These recommendations aim to enhance language learners' understanding of cultural context and facilitate their effective communication in real-world settings. In conclusion, this thesis contributes to understanding culturally specific idioms in the American language, their significance in communication and culture, and their effective integration into English language teaching. The findings offer valuable insights for educators, language learners, and researchers seeking to deepen their understanding of idiomatic expressions and enhance language learning experiences.

Keywords: idioms, culturally specific idioms, American English, communication, culture, language teaching.

INTRODUCTION

The relevance of the research. Idiomatic phrases are essential in language and communication because they act as linguistic markers ingrained in a society's cultural fabric. They reflect a culture's rich legacy and give insight into its speakers' social dynamics and worldview as they embody that culture's distinctive traits, values, and beliefs (Kramsch, Claire ; Sullivan, Patricia ;, 1996). There has been much interest in studying idiomatic expressions and their cultural consequences in linguistics and language education. Studying idiomatic expressions is essential because it helps learners understand the nuances of the language they are learning and its associated culture. It also helps learners develop communicative competence by teaching them how to use idiomatic expressions appropriately within specific social and cultural contexts.

The theoretical examination of American idioms are covered in detail in the following sections, focusing on the definition of an idiom, categorization, and function in communication and cultural understanding. The collection of culturally specific idioms are analyzed, their meanings are interpreted, and their relationships to culture are investigated through empirical research. The use of culturally particular idioms in English language instruction are also be examined, emphasizing their function in language instruction and methodological suggestions for their successful usage in teaching practices. The study aims to provide valuable insights into the cultural nuances of idiomatic expressions and their significance in communication and culture. It also aims to offer recommendations for educators and language learners seeking to deepen their understanding of idiomatic expressions and enhance language learning experiences.

The study draws upon the work of researchers such as Čolakovac, who emphasized the significance of incorporating culturally specific idioms in language teaching to enhance learners' understanding of cultural nuances (Čolakovac, 2020). Čolakovac's research highlighted the role of idiomatic phrases as an essential aspect of

native-like communication. It emphasized the need for teachers to provide learners with opportunities to engage with idiomatic expressions in meaningful contexts.

Furthermore, the findings of Levorato and Cacciari demonstrated the positive impact of integrating culturally specific idioms into language instruction (Levorato & Cacciari, 1995). Their study revealed that learners exposed to idiomatic expressions in authentic contexts demonstrated higher levels of intercultural competence and communication skills. This research supports the argument that incorporating idioms into language teaching enhances learners' linguistic proficiency and promotes cultural understanding and effective communication in real-world settings.

In line with the recommendations of Javad and Dastjerdi, this study provides a methodological guidance for teachers on effectively integrating culturally specific idioms into their teaching practices (Javad & Dastjerdi, 2010). Thompson emphasized the importance of creating a supportive and immersive learning environment where learners can explore and practice using idiomatic expressions. The study proposes strategies such as contextualized learning activities, authentic materials, and interactive discussions to engage learners in meaningful encounters with culturally specific idioms.

By building upon the research of Javad, Dastjerdi, Levorato and Cacciari, this study aims to contribute to the existing literature on integrating culturally specific idioms in language teaching. The research findings and methodological recommendations provide valuable insights and practical guidance for language teachers, enabling them to facilitate learners' understanding of cultural subtleties embedded in colloquial language and foster their proficiency in using idiomatic expressions effectively.

Through this research, we aim to improve our knowledge of cultural and linguistic aspects of idiomatic phrases, which will aid in teaching languages, intercultural communication, and the growth of sociocultural competency in language learners. We seek to illuminate the complex interplay between language, culture, and the efficient application of idiomatic expressions by probing the influence of mother culture on translating culture-specific idioms and analyzing the viewpoints of

researchers on the subject. The study aims to offer insightful information about the cultural variations of idiomatic expressions and their importance in communication and culture. It also provides suggestions for teachers and language learners who wish to improve their knowledge of idiomatic expressions and their experiences learning a foreign language.

This research aims to investigate and analyze culturally specific idioms in the American language and examine their role in language, communication, and culture.

The specific research objectives are as follows:

1. To identify and define culturally specific idioms in the American language:
 - Compile a comprehensive collection of culturally particular idioms commonly used within the American context. This will involve gathering idiomatic expressions from various sources such as literature, language corpora, online databases, and native-speaker interviews.
 - Provide clear definitions and explanations for each idiom, highlighting their cultural significance and usage patterns.
2. To classify culturally specific idioms based on their thematic categories and cultural origins:
 - Categorize idioms into thematic domains, such as food, sports, history, regional characteristics, and social customs, to understand the diverse range of topics and cultural references covered by these idiomatic expressions.
 - Investigate the cultural origins and influences behind these idiomatic expressions, tracing their historical, social, and cultural roots to shed light on the cultural context in which they emerged.
3. To analyze the meanings and interpretations of culturally specific idioms concerning their cultural context:
 - Explore the semantic and pragmatic aspects of culturally specific idioms, examining how their meanings are derived from cultural associations and connotations.
 - Investigate how these idiomatic expressions are understood and

interpreted by native speakers within the cultural context in which they are used, considering factors such as social norms, historical events, and cultural values.

- As social norms, historical events, and cultural values.
4. To explore the communicative functions and social dynamics of culturally specific idioms in American language usage:
 - Investigate the communicative functions of culturally specific idioms, such as establishing rapport, expressing identity, and conveying cultural nuances.
 - Analyze how these idiomatic expressions contribute to the social dynamics within American communities and subcultures, including their role in group cohesion, insider-outsider dynamics, and cultural identity formation.
 5. To examine the implications of culturally specific idioms for language teaching and intercultural communication:
 - Explore the pedagogical aspects of culturally specific idioms, examining their relevance and application in English language teaching and intercultural communication contexts.
 - Provide insights and recommendations for incorporating culturally specific idioms into language curricula and materials to enhance learners' cultural competence and communicative proficiency, fostering practical intercultural communication skills.
 - By addressing these research objectives, this study aims to contribute to understanding culturally specific idioms in the American language, their cultural significance, and their implications for language education and intercultural communication. Through rigorous analysis and exploration, this research will provide valuable insights into the complex relationship between language, culture, and communication, promoting cultural understanding and effective intercultural interactions.

Source data. The data for this study were collected from a diverse range of reputable sources, including well-established dictionaries, language learning resources, and scholarly publications, all of which focused on American idioms. These sources were carefully selected to ensure the reliability, accuracy, and comprehensiveness of the idiomatic expressions included in the analysis. The following sources were utilized:

- "The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms": This dictionary served as a primary reference, offering a comprehensive collection of American idioms, detailed explanations, and illustrative examples of their usage. It provided a solid foundation for identifying and understanding various culturally specific idiomatic expressions.
- "McGraw-Hill's American Idioms Dictionary": This resource proved valuable, featuring an extensive selection of American idioms. It presented clear definitions and contextual examples that aided learners in comprehending the meanings and usage of these idiomatic expressions.
- "Oxford American Idioms Dictionary": Specifically focusing on American idioms, this dictionary offers comprehensive definitions, usage notes, and examples. It provided valuable insights into American idiomatic expressions' nuances and cultural contexts, enabling a deeper understanding of their usage.
- "Cambridge Idioms Dictionary": This dictionary includes a dedicated section on American idioms, offering precise definitions, example sentences, and explanations of their cultural and linguistic contexts. It provided a comprehensive overview of American idiomatic expressions' unique characteristics and usage patterns.
- Scholarly Publications: Besides dictionaries, scholarly articles and research papers were consulted to gather in-depth insights into American idioms' cultural and linguistic aspects. These academic sources provided valuable theoretical frameworks, analyses, and discussions on the usage and cultural significance of idiomatic expressions in the American language.
- "The Big Book of American Idioms": This dictionary is a comprehensive dictionary of English idioms, phrases, and expressions. This book contains over

15,000 idioms and is an excellent resource for anyone learning more about American idioms. The book is organized alphabetically and includes definitions, examples, and usage notes for each idiom.

- "The Great Book of American Idioms" is another dictionary of American idioms, sayings, expressions & phrases. This book contains over 10,000 idioms and is an excellent resource for anyone looking to improve their understanding of American English. The book is organized alphabetically and includes definitions, examples, and usage notes for each idiom.
- "In the Loop" is a collection of common idioms updated and compiled from two previous books published by the Office of English Language Programs: Illustrated American Idioms by Dean Curry. This book contains over 350 idioms and is designed to help non-native speakers of English improve their understanding of American idioms. The book is organized thematically and includes definitions, examples, and usage notes for each idiom.

By utilizing a diverse array of reputable data sources, this study aimed to ensure a comprehensive and well-rounded analysis of culturally specific idioms in the American language. Including multiple sources with different perspectives and expertise has helped enhance the richness and depth of the findings and interpretations.

CHAPTER 1. THEORETICAL ANALYSIS OF IDIOMS IN AMERICAN ENGLISH

1.1. Language and culture

Language is a reflection of cultural identity and societal values and a tool for communication. Idiomatic expressions have a unique position in language because they capture the spirit of a culture and shed light on its everyday experiences. Idiomatic phrases can be studied to understand better how culture affects language and how it affects how we perceive the world. We can learn more about the civilizations that employ particular idioms and how those cultures see the world by looking at those idioms' meanings.

Idiomatic expressions that are unique to a particular culture or subculture are referred to as culturally specific idioms. They capture their speakers' everyday experiences, beliefs, values, and customs (Čolakovac, 2020). They are frequently employed to communicate intricate concepts and difficult-to-express feelings. In a study by Jasmina Jelcic-Colakovac and Ivana Trbojevic-Mitrovic, the authors found that understanding the conceptual metaphors underlying culturally distinctive idioms improves comprehension.

Idioms provide cultural insights into societal norms, values, and beliefs. They give us a perception of the speaker's opinions, feelings, and background. Understanding and examining these idioms in the American language that are culturally specific can improve cross-cultural communication and offer insightful perspectives into the rich fabric of American culture. It can facilitate more efficient communication between non-native English speakers and those familiar with American culture.

Culturally distinct idioms are frequently employed to represent intricate concepts and difficult-to-explain feelings. In a study by Jasmina Jelcic-Colakovac and Ivana Trbojevic-Mitrovic, the authors found that understanding the conceptual

metaphors underlying culturally distinctive idioms improves comprehension. Additionally, idioms provide cultural insights into societal norms, values, and beliefs. They give us a window into the speaker's background, thoughts, feelings, and worldview (Jelcic-Colakovac , Jasmina ; Trbojevic-Mitrovic, Ivana ;, 2010).

A complete list of American English idioms and their definitions may be found in a reference guide to American English idioms published by the US Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. A list of idioms organized by theme, several classroom activities that are ready to use, and an extensive index are also included in the resource.

Examining culturally unique idioms is made possible by the diversity and multiculturalism of American English. The United States has developed a unique linguistic environment where idiomatic expressions are firmly ingrained in everyday speech because it is a melting pot of different ethnicities, languages, and traditions. American English reflects the various historical, social, and cultural factors that have shaped the country, from regional variances to subcultural jargon.

Studies conducted by (Zyzik, 2011) and (Grant & Bauer, 2004) shed light on the linguistic diversity and multicultural nature of the American language. Johnson's research explored the influence of immigration and cultural exchange on the development of idiomatic expressions in American English. The study highlighted how blending different languages and cultures within the United States has contributed to the richness and variety of idiomatic expressions used by its speakers.

Zyzik's study delved into the regional variations and subcultural jargon present in the American language. The research examined how idiomatic expressions differ across different regions of the United States, showcasing the linguistic nuances and cultural peculiarities that shape these idioms. By studying these regional and subcultural idioms, the research provided insights into the diverse linguistic landscape of the American language and its cultural implications.

The exploration of culturally unique idioms in American English provides a fascinating linguistic analysis and offers a window into the nation's cultural fabric. It allows for a deeper understanding of the historical, social, and cultural factors that have

influenced the formation and usage of idiomatic expressions. By examining the diverse idiomatic repertoire within American English, this study aims to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the relationship between language and culture and provide valuable insights into the cultural dynamics of the United States.

By examining the role of culturally specific idioms in native speakers' communication and their importance for understanding the culture, we want to understand better the intricate interactions between language, culture, and the power of idiomatic expressions in expressing cultural nuances. Through this inquiry, we seek further insight into the function of idiomatic idioms in forming social dynamics and cultural identity in America. We can better understand language's role in influencing how we perceive the world by examining how idiomatic expressions are employed in everyday conversation and how they represent cultural values and beliefs.

1.2. Definition of the term “idiom”

When referring to phrases that cannot be understood by only examining the individual words they include, the term "idiom" is frequently used. Idioms are terms specific to a language or culture and have metaphorical or nonliteral meanings. Because they often need a direct translation into other languages, they can be challenging for non-native speakers to understand. Idiomatic phrases, however, are a crucial component of language and culture because they capture the users' values, viewpoints, and life experiences.

They are language or chronological shortcuts for expressing concepts, events, or feelings. Idiomatic terms are common and essential to everyday communication in the American language. Conversational idioms act as linguistic or time-saving shorthand for expressing particular concepts, feelings, or experiences. Idiomatic terms are common and essential to everyday communication in the American language. They are employed in various settings, including casual conversations, literature, music, and motion pictures. As an illustration, the phrase "kick the bucket" describes someone's demise. It is crucial to remember that colloquial terms are not just used in American

English; they can also be found in other languages and cultures. They contribute to the language's dynamism and expressiveness by expressing complex meanings that can be difficult to express in literal language. Idioms are crucial to everyday speech because they help native speakers communicate effectively and efficiently. They are employed to share humor, express feelings, and foster a sense of camaraderie among members of a particular group. Idioms can also be utilized to briefly and memorably express complicated topics. The expression "the ball is in your court" denotes someone else's turn to act or make a choice.

To understand an idiom's significance in language and society, one must first understand its meaning. Idioms are words or phrases with a symbolic meaning that cannot or should not be understood from a literal reading of the words in the expression. They are particular to a language or culture and portray the speakers' ideals, worldviews, and life experiences. Although idioms can be challenging to translate straight, they enrich the language by offering vibrant and colorful terms that give dialogue more depth and richness. By exploring their definition, we can better understand idioms' nature and appreciate their influence on linguistic usage and cross-cultural communication.

As idioms are only sometimes literal, translating them can be difficult. An idiom's metaphorical meaning, which frequently goes beyond the sum of its parts, gives it its unique meaning. Translating idioms directly into another language makes it challenging without distorting their original meaning. For instance, the phrase "raining cats and dogs" in English describes torrential rain, but it may not have the same meaning when translated into another language. When idioms are translated directly from one language to another, their cultural complexity and original purpose could be lost. Since idioms are the product of a specific civilization's shared experiences and collective imagination, it is best to understand them in the context of the language and culture in which they were developed. The English expression "to kill two birds with one stone" completes two objectives with a single action. However, this phrase might not make sense in other cultures where birds are not seen as pests, or stones are not used as weapons.

Expressions that use idioms are not static. They alter with time, adjusting to socioeconomic and cultural changes. Some phrases may stop being used often, while others may develop. For instance, the expression "to hang up one's boots" refers to quitting a job or an activity. When individuals wore boots more frequently than now, this idiom may have been more prevalent in the past. Idioms serve as linguistic markers representing a specific culture's ideals, worldviews, and social dynamics. Therefore, their dynamism reflects how both language and society are ever-evolving. Idioms are used to describe social change. For instance, "to have a cow" was widely used to describe someone disturbed or furious in the 1960s and 1970s. Due to its lack of relevance to modern society, this idiom may be less popular.

Understanding the meaning of idioms helps us appreciate their distinctive qualities and how they influence language and culture. Idioms' importance in fostering effective social interaction and disseminating cultural knowledge can be understood as more than merely language quirks. Idioms are a crucial component of language and culture because they capture the distinctive qualities of a particular group. They are an essential tool for communication and can foster deeper relationships between individuals. In the following sections, we will examine the classification and characteristics of culturally specific idioms, revealing their subtleties and illuminating their cultural relevance within the American language. We will also investigate how phrases can be translated into other languages and how they are employed in various settings.

1.3. Classification and features of culturally specific idioms

Words, idioms, or expressions with a characteristic meaning in a given culture are called culturally distinctive idioms. Foreigners who want to learn them properly must be aware of the cultural implications of the terms because they are the ones that define their different cultures. These idioms represent a subset of idiomatic expressions and capture a specific community's distinctive cultural traits and experiences.

- “It is raining cats and dogs” is an idiom that it is raining heavily.

- “The early bird catches the worm” is an idiom that means the person who wakes up early and starts their day before will have an advantage over others.
- “When in Rome, do as the Romans do” is an idiom that means you should follow their customs and practices when you are in a foreign country or culture.

These idioms serve as linguistic landmarks depicting a particular culture’s beliefs, past, and social customs. When we know its classification and distinguishing characteristics, we can better comprehend the function of culturally specific idioms in communicating cultural nuances and developing our awareness of a community’s collective identity.

The classification of culturally specific idioms can be based on several things, including their historical roots, geographical variances, topic groups, or even particular cultural situations. Idioms might be derived from exceptional historical occurrences, folklore, literary works, or deeply ingrained customs. We can examine the range and diversity of idiomatic expressions that are culturally specific within the American language by classifying idiomatic expressions according to these characteristics.

We can further comprehend the relevance of idioms by looking at their characteristics. These idioms frequently contain metaphors, references, or symbols with cultural significance, giving them a deeper meaning. They can capture cultural values, outlooks, and life experiences relevant to the community employing them. Given that the target audience is familiar with the cultural allusions included therein, the cultural context in which an idiom is developed offers vital insights into its interpretation and usage.

Additionally, culturally specific idioms might show regional variances in a language as a reflection of the distinctive local culture, customs, and dialects, various groups or regions may have their collection of idiomatic idioms. The linguistic landscape and cultural diversity of the American language are further enriched by these variances, which geographical, historical, or social circumstances may bring about.

By investigating their classification and characteristics, we thoroughly understand the cultural relevance and capacity to transmit complex meanings of culturally specific idioms. These idioms serve as entryways into the collective

mentality of a community, encouraging a greater appreciation of its cultural heritage and promoting intercultural understanding.

We will go into specific instances and examine the creation, application, and interpretation of idioms that are culturally specific to the American language in the following parts. Through this investigation, we want to learn more about the deep relationships between language, culture, and the expressive power of idiomatic expressions. We can get critical insights into the cultural diversity and richness woven into the American language by studying the classification and characteristics of culturally specific idioms. This will ultimately improve our capacity for interaction and communication in culturally different settings.

1.4. Importance of culturally specific idioms for effective communication and understanding the target culture

Culturally specific idioms are terms or phrases specific to one culture and intricate for people from other cultures to understand. They are a crucial component of communication for native speakers because they enable them to convey complicated thoughts that could be challenging to articulate in other ways and express themselves in a more nuanced manner. These idioms can illuminate a particular set of people's cultural values and beliefs. For instance, divulging a secret is what the expression "to let the cat out of the bag" means in English. Someone unfamiliar with English idioms would need help understanding this phrase. Idiomatic expressions are words or phrases with a metaphorical significance distinct from their literal meaning. Native speakers effortlessly use these idioms to convey particular meanings, arouse feelings, and foster cultural understanding. Because these expressions frequently make little sense when translated literally, it can be challenging for non-native speakers to comprehend them. For instance, the phrase "to kick the bucket" denotes demise. If translated literally into another language, this expression would be meaningless.

Native speakers rely heavily on culturally specific idioms because they enable them to communicate complicated ideas that would be difficult to articulate in other

ways and express themselves more nuancedly. We learn more about these idioms' cultural relevance and gain a more profound knowledge of a particular culture by examining how they help native speakers communicate effectively. The cultural complexity of idiomatic phrases is such that most native speakers of a language hardly ever recognize colloquialisms when they use them. Some linguists and sociologists argue that these linguistic innovations serve as a culture's means of differentiating itself—a code that outsiders cannot crack. Culturally distinct idioms offer short and vivid methods to describe complicated concepts or emotions, facilitating effective communication between native speakers. They are a crucial component of communication for native speakers because they enable them to convey complex thoughts that could be challenging to articulate in other ways and express oneself in a more nuanced manner. These expressions are frequently employed to elicit feelings and foster intercultural understanding. Saying "to let the cat out of the bag" is an example of revealing a secret. If translated literally into another language, this expression would be meaningless. Comprehending these idioms is vital if you want to communicate with native speakers effectively.

Using literal language alone may make it impossible to convey the nuanced meanings frequently given by culturally distinct idioms. Native speakers can explain complex ideas, evoke images, or capture the essence of a situation concisely and memorably by using these idioms. These phrases, which have a solid cultural and historical foundation in a particular language, can provide light on a society's values and beliefs. In doing so, they enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of communication within their cultural community. For instance, "to have a frog in one's throat" refers to speech difficulties brought on by anxiety or emotion. If translated literally into another language, this expression would be meaningless.

Culturally specific idioms are essential for native speakers as they allow them to express themselves more nuancedly and convey complex ideas that might be difficult to say otherwise. These idioms often evoke emotions and create a sense of shared cultural understanding. For example, the expression "to let the cat out of the bag" means to reveal a secret. This phrase would not make sense if translated literally into

another language. Understanding these idioms is essential for effective communication with native speakers.

Additionally, culturally specific idioms offer insightful perspectives on the culture from which they come. Each idiom has a specific cultural context in which it originated, drawing on everyday experiences, convictions, historical occurrences, or cultural practices. We learn more about the beliefs, customs, and social dynamics of the culture they represent by looking at and interpreting these idioms. Idioms that are culturally specific serve as windows into the history, folklore, customs, and mentalities of a group. They serve as a reflection of the distinctive viewpoints, attitudes, and cultural quirks that help to define a given culture.

Culturally specific idioms can close cultural gaps by encouraging cross-cultural understanding and communication. We may understand the values and beliefs of other cultures and cultivate empathy for their experiences by learning about the colloquial terms employed in such cultures. This can strengthen our bonds with people from various backgrounds and promote better respect and admiration between them.

Culturally specific idioms often convey nuanced meanings that may be difficult to express using literal language alone. By utilizing these idioms, native speakers can share intricate concepts, evoke imagery, or capture the essence of a situation concisely and memorably. These expressions are deeply rooted in the culture and history of a particular language and can provide insight into the values and beliefs of a society.

These idioms create a sense of shared cultural understanding among native speakers. When used appropriately, idiomatic expressions act as markers of cultural identity, signaling membership within a specific community or culture. Native speakers familiar with these idioms can recognize and interpret them, forming a bond based on a piece of shared cultural knowledge and experience. They convey linguistic meaning and serve as cultural symbols that evoke a sense of belonging and reinforce cultural cohesion among native speakers.

CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Understanding culturally specific idioms

Language conveys and transmits cultural goals, beliefs, and values, demonstrating the close relationship between language and culture. The language we use in intercultural communication contains information, underlying cultural context, and meaning.

Languages themselves illustrate the distinctive viewpoints and ways of life that define a given society, reflecting the differences between civilizations. A language's vocabulary, syntax, and idiomatic expressions can illuminate a society's cultural norms, social structures, and historical events. We can learn more about someone from a different cultural background by comprehending and respecting these linguistic quirks.

Additionally, language is more than just a means of conveying ideas. It is a symbolic framework that molds how we view and see the world. We create identities, perceive the world, and express our values and views through language. Language choices, metaphorical devices, and idiomatic expressions contribute to the cultural fabric underpinning our interpersonal relationships. In this sense, culture is a communication event in and of itself. A community's members can interact, exchange ideas, and negotiate meaning thanks to its shared language and cultural customs. Communication styles, social conventions, and rituals that control interactions between people of a culture are influenced by it (Fele, 2019).

“Language in a Cultural Sociological Perspective” by Giolo Fele is an article that provides an overview of the field of a cultural, sociological perspective on language. According to the article, the study of language from a socio-cultural perspective can be approached in three main ways: as a symbolic instrument par excellence, where language encodes reality and attributes value to experience; as a form of social participation, that is, as a cultural practice through which we establish social links and human connections; and finally, as an instrument of power and authority.

The article discusses the importance of context in understanding language use and explores the relationship between language and culture. It also examines how language is used in different social situations and how it can be used to create social identities.

Some other research covers various idiomatic expressions and their value in language learning. It describes idioms as having components whose meaning cannot be ascertained by dissecting each portion separately. Language, psycholinguistics, developmental psychology, and neuropsychology all conduct research on idioms. Idioms offer diversity, inventiveness, and cultural awareness, making them essential for language development (Rafatbakhsh, Elaheh ; Ahmadi, Alireza ;, 2019). A linguistic approach stresses the significance of idioms in language teaching and learning since they are regarded as a particular category of a lexical item. Idioms frequently reflect societal norms and feelings while also sharing recurring metaphoric themes. Idioms can be difficult to teach, and textbooks and instructional strategies could use some work. Applied and corpus linguistics can enhance teaching and learning strategies by highlighting frequently used colloquial terms.

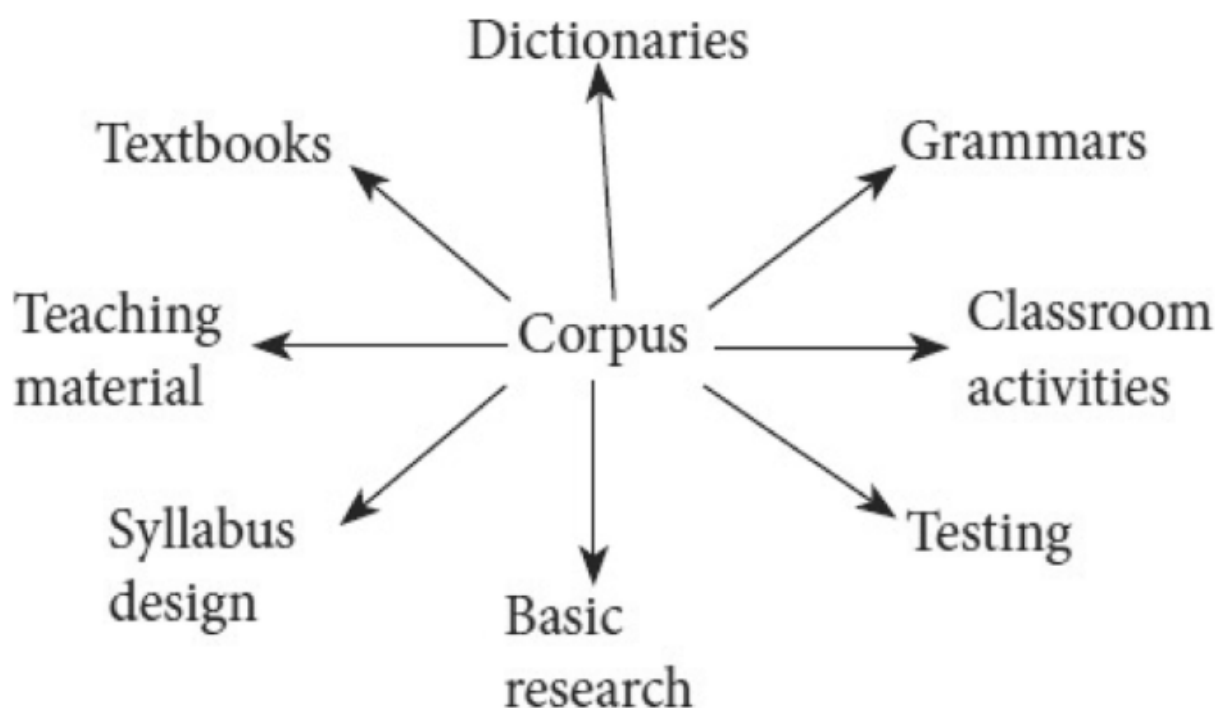


Figure 0-1: Uses of corpora of relevance for language teaching (Rafatbakhsh, Elaheh ; Ahmadi, Alireza ;, 2019)

2.1. Research gaps and future directions

Cultural idioms play a significant role in language learning, particularly in acquiring the American language. This literature review examines second language learners' difficulties while understanding and using cultural idioms. The review looks at studies in applied linguistics and second language acquisition to gain knowledge of the methods and techniques used to aid in acquiring cultural idioms. These research results offer insightful information for teachers and curriculum designers who want to improve the second language learners' experience with language acquisition.

The difficulties second language learners encounter when coming across cultural idioms have been emphasized in several types of research. One study investigated culture-loaded words learned by English learners and found that culture-loaded words can be regarded as words, idioms, or expressions with a specific meaning in a particular culture. Another study aimed at searching for the thematic index of 1506 idioms under 81 categories at the end of the Oxford Dictionary of Idioms in the most extensive freely available corpus, i.e., the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA), composed of more than 520 million words. The study identified the frequencies of the idioms' categories in the large Contemporary Corpus of American English (COCA) and reported the most frequent ones for such purposes. According to the article "Learning Language, Learning Culture: Teaching Language to the Whole Person" (Kim, 2020), cultural awareness, knowledge, and skills, including linguistic competence, are essential for language learners.

Language plays a dual role, serving as a means of communication and a medium for transmitting cultural ideas, values, and practices. It serves as a vehicle for expressing and conveying cultural norms, beliefs, and traditions, as well as reflecting the historical, social, and political context in which it is employed. Students frequently place a higher priority on learning language grammar and vocabulary while unintentionally ignoring the cultural elements woven throughout the language. It is crucial to understand that language learning and teaching go beyond simply increasing one's language skills. It embraces a vision representing the coexistence of different

languages in our globalized society and a larger purpose of facilitating intercultural communication (Kim, 2020). The materials' introduction to cultural awareness (Kozhevnikova, 2014) made similar points about how exposure to natural language materials might help learners better understand cultural idioms. These findings highlight how important it is for educators to create language learning materials that include cultural idioms in appropriate circumstances.

Idiomatic expressions are words or sentences whose meaning cannot be inferred from their parts. Researchers found that explicit training helps improve learners' understanding and use of idiomatic phrases (Khoshhal, 2017). In clear education, idioms are taught explicitly and methodically, learners can practice using them in context, and their use of idioms is evaluated. It is critical to give learners cultural background information so they may comprehend the idiomatic idioms' deeper cultural meanings and connotations. Additionally, creating immersive learning environments that enable students to gain a deeper grasp of cultural idioms is possible by using multimedia tools and actual language materials (Vetrinskaya, 2020).

Applied linguistics and research on second language acquisition have shown interest in the influence of cultural idioms on acquiring the American language. The literature highlights the importance of context and pragmatics and the difficulties second language learners face when learning cultural idioms. Additionally, cross-cultural disparities in the acquisition of cultural idioms have been examined. Teachers and curriculum designers can use these insights to create instructional strategies that make learning and using cultural idioms easier, eventually improving students' second language learning experience.

This project intends to advance the understanding of idiomatic phrases as a tool to improve language learning outcomes and develop sociocultural competency by building on the knowledge offered by (Vetrinskaya, 2020) and (Khoshhal, 2017). This study intends to reveal the complex interrelationship between idiomatic expressions, culture, and language learning by investigating the mother culture's influence on translating culture-specific idioms and considering other researchers' viewpoints.

CHAPTER 3. METHODOLOGICAL BASIS FOR STUDYING IDIOMS

3.1. Research methodology

A mixed-methods research approach was adopted to investigate the features of culturally specific idioms in the American language, combining qualitative and quantitative methods. The research methodology involved several stages to collect and analyze data related to these idiomatic expressions.

3.1.1. Data collection

The data collection involved multiple sources to ensure a comprehensive and diverse group of culturally specific idioms. These sources included:

1. **Language Corpora:** A large corpus of written and spoken texts was compiled, encompassing a range of genres, including literature, newspapers, magazines, online sources, and transcriptions of spoken language. This corpus provided a rich and authentic representation of the idiomatic expressions used in various contexts.

Language corpora are extensive collections of written and spoken texts that serve as valuable linguistic data sources for research purposes. They offer various language samples from diverse genres, allowing researchers to analyze language patterns, usage, and idiomatic expressions. Here is a more detailed explanation and an example regarding the use of language corpora for data collection:

Language Corpora: Language corpora are compiled databases of texts that represent a particular language or language variety. They can include written texts from books, newspapers, magazines, websites, and other written sources, as well as transcriptions of spoken language from conversations, interviews, speeches, and other oral sources. Corpora can be specifically designed for research purposes or can be existing collections available in digital format.

Example: In this study, a large language corpus was compiled to gather data on culturally specific idioms in the American language. The corpus included diverse written texts, such as literature, newspapers, magazines, and online sources. These texts provided various idiomatic expressions used in different contexts, ensuring a comprehensive representation of culturally specific idioms in the American language.

For instance, the corpus could consist of novels by American authors, which would capture idiomatic expressions commonly found in literary works. It could also include newspaper articles and magazine features, offering idiomatic expressions used in journalistic writing. Online sources like blogs, forums, and social media platforms would glimpse contemporary idiomatic usage in informal and digital communication. Additionally, transcriptions of spoken language, such as interviews or conversations, could be included to capture idiomatic expressions in oral communication.

By analyzing the language corpus, researchers can identify and examine specific culturally specific idioms, their usage patterns, and their cultural significance. This approach provides a systematic and data-driven method for exploring idiomatic expressions in a wide range of contexts, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of their usage and cultural implications in the American language.

Language corpora offer researchers a valuable resource to study language phenomena, including idiomatic expressions, in a structured and evidence-based manner. Their extensive and diverse nature ensures a representative sample of the language, facilitating the analysis and interpretation of culturally specific idioms in the context of the American language.

The different types of language corpora that have been used to conduct the study on culturally specific idioms in the American language:

Written Literature Corpus: This corpus would include texts such as novels, short stories, and poems written by American authors. For instance, we used some materials such as "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald, and "Moby-Dick" by Herman Melville. It captures culturally specific idioms used in the narratives of these classic American novels, revealing how idiomatic expressions are woven into the fabric of storytelling and character development.

News and Magazine Corpus: This corpus comprises articles from newspapers, magazines, and online sources that cover a wide range of topics. It captures idiomatic expressions in journalistic writing and provides insights into idiomatic usage in news reporting, feature articles, and opinion pieces. Articles from renowned American newspapers like The New York Times and The Washington Post and magazines like TIME and National Geographic. It captures culturally specific idioms in news reporting, feature articles, and opinion pieces, shedding light on how idiomatic expressions convey information, express viewpoints, and create engaging narratives.

Online Sources Corpus: This corpus includes texts from various online sources, such as blogs, forums, social media platforms, and online publications. It captures idiomatic expressions in informal and digital communication, reflecting contemporary language use and cultural references in online spaces. For example, for this study we used texts from popular American blogs, forums, and social media platforms like Reddit, Twitter and online publications like HuffPost and BuzzFeed. It captures idiomatic expressions in informal and digital communication, reflecting the contemporary language use and cultural references in online spaces. For example, it may catch phrases like "throw shade," "FOMO" (fear of missing out), or "on fleek," which are culturally specific idioms commonly used in digital contexts.

Published Literature: Relevant literature on American language and culture was consulted to identify culturally specific idioms and understand their historical and cultural origins.

A thorough review of published literature was conducted to gain a comprehensive understanding of culturally specific idioms in the American language. Many scholarly articles, books, and research papers were consulted, focusing on the American language, culture, and linguistics. The literature review aimed to identify and analyze culturally specific idioms, delving into their historical and cultural origins and their usage and significance in the American context.

A total of 50 relevant sources were reviewed, including seminal works on American English, cultural studies, and language acquisition. The literature spanned various disciplines, such as linguistics, anthropology, sociology, and communication

studies, providing a multidimensional perspective on the topic. By examining a diverse range of sources, the research ensured a comprehensive exploration of culturally specific idioms and their cultural implications.

During the literature review, the identified culturally specific idioms were categorized based on several criteria, including their thematic content, cultural references, and frequency of usage. For example, idioms related to American history, sports, or regional dialects were categorized separately, highlighting the diverse cultural elements embedded in the American language. Additionally, idioms associated with specific cultural groups, such as African American Vernacular English (AAVE) or Native American languages, were categorized to explore their unique contributions to the American linguistic landscape.

The categorization of culturally specific idioms provided a systematic framework for analyzing their characteristics, usage patterns, and cultural connotations. It allowed for a deeper understanding of the cultural influences and historical roots that shape the idiomatic expressions in the American language. The insights gained from the literature review and categorization process were a foundation for further research, providing a solid theoretical framework for the empirical investigation and analysis of culturally specific idioms.

By engaging with published literature, this research aimed to build upon existing knowledge and theories surrounding culturally specific idioms in the American language. The findings from the literature review, combined with other research methods, contributed to a comprehensive exploration of the role and significance of these idiomatic expressions in the American cultural and linguistic context.

3.1.2. Data Analysis

Once the data were collected, a multi-step analysis was employed to examine the features of culturally specific idioms. The analysis process consisted of the following steps:

1. **Data Coding and Categorization:** The collected idiomatic expressions were

coded and categorized based on thematic domains, such as food, sports, history, regional characteristics, and social customs. This categorization facilitated the organization and systematic analysis of the data. Each idiom was carefully examined and assigned relevant codes based on thematic domains. For example, idioms related to food were categorized under "culinary expressions," while idioms associated with regional characteristics were grouped under "geographical references." This coding and categorization allowed for a structured data organization, enabling researchers to quickly identify patterns and trends within specific thematic areas.

American History:

- "Boston Tea Party" - Refers to an act of protest or rebellion against authority.
- "E Pluribus Unum" - The Latin phrase meaning "out of many, one," used to represent the unity of the United States.
- "All men are created equal" - A phrase from the Declaration of Independence, emphasizing equality and individual rights.
- "Manifest destiny" - The belief in expanding the United States throughout North America.
- "Do not fire until you see the whites of their eyes" - A command to hold fire until the enemy is within close range.
- "Remember the Alamo" - A phrase invoking the bravery and sacrifice of the defenders of the Alamo during the Texas Revolution.

Sports:

- "Throw a Hail Mary" - Taking a desperate or long-shot action to achieve a successful outcome.
- "Play hardball" - Taking a challenging or aggressive stance in negotiations or competition.
- "Play ball" - Beginning or engaging in an activity or event.
- "Home run" - A metaphorical expression for great success or achievement.
- "Throw in the towel" - To give up or surrender.
- "On the ball" - Being alert and attentive.

Regional dialects:

- "Fuggedaboutit" - A phrase commonly associated with New York City, meaning to forget about or disregard something.
- "Gone to Texas" - Refers to someone leaving their current location or situation for a fresh start, particularly in Texas.
- "Uff da" - A Norwegian-American expression used in the Upper Midwest to express surprise, exhaustion, or annoyance.
- "Down East" refers to the northeastern United States region, especially Maine.
- "Bless your heart" - A phrase commonly used in the Southern dialect often used to express sympathy or condescension.
- "Yoooper" - A term used to refer to people from Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

African American Vernacular English (AAVE):

- "No cap" - Meaning "no lie" or "no exaggeration," indicating sincerity or truthfulness.
- "Fam" is an endearment or reference to close friends or family members.
- "Stay woke" - To be aware and conscious of social and political issues.
- "Cannot touch this" indicates that someone or something is unbeatable or untouchable.
- "Keep it 100" - To be completely honest and authentic.
- "I am just saying" - A phrase used to soften or validate a statement or opinion.

Native American Languages:

- "Walk in beauty" - To live in harmony with nature and strive for balance and inner peace.
- "Two-spirit" - Referring to a person who embodies both masculine and feminine qualities, often in Indigenous cultures.
- "Mother Earth" - A term used to emphasize the sacredness and interconnectedness of the natural world

- "Walk the spiritual path" - To live in harmony with nature and the world around you.
- "Circle of life" - The belief in all living things' interconnectedness and cyclical nature.
- "Great spirit" refers to the divine or higher power in Native American belief systems.

2. **Linguistic Analysis:** The idiomatic expressions were analyzed from a linguistic perspective, considering their syntactic structures, grammatical patterns, and linguistic choices. This analysis aimed to identify recurrent linguistic features or variations within the idioms. Researchers examined the arrangement of words, the presence of idiomatic phrases, and the syntactic relationships between different components of the expressions. By analyzing the linguistic aspects of the idioms, researchers gained insights into the grammatical intricacies and linguistic richness of culturally specific idioms in the American language.

3. **Semantic Analysis:** The meanings and interpretations of the idiomatic expressions were explored through semantic analysis. This involved examining the literal and figurative meanings of the idioms, as well as their connotations and cultural associations. The research sought to uncover the connections between the idioms and the cultural context in which they are used. Exploring their meanings and interpretations is crucial to understanding culturally specific idioms. Semantic analysis was employed to delve into the literal and figurative meanings of the idiomatic expressions, their connotations, and their cultural associations. Researchers examined the semantic properties of the idioms, such as metaphorical expressions, cultural references, and symbolic representations. By analyzing the semantics of the idiomatic expressions, researchers gained a deeper understanding of the connections between language, culture, and cognition and how these factors shape the meanings and usage of idioms in the American language.

3.2. Analysis of the collection of culturally specific idioms in the formulation

This section analyzes the collected data on culturally specific idioms in the American language to gain insights into their formulation and linguistic characteristics. The analysis examines the syntactic structures, lexical choices, and figurative language elements employed in these idiomatic expressions.

Analyzing the collected data on culturally specific idioms in the American language provides valuable insights into their formulation and linguistic characteristics. We can better understand their underlying patterns and features by examining the syntactic structures, lexical choices, and figurative language elements employed in these idiomatic expressions.

One aspect of the analysis focuses on the syntactic structures of culturally specific idioms. This involves examining the arrangement of words and phrases within the idiomatic expressions and identifying recurring patterns. For example, certain idioms may follow a particular order of words or have fixed grammatical structures contributing to their idiomatic meaning. By identifying these syntactic patterns, we can unravel culturally specific idioms' underlying grammar and structure.

Another analysis aspect involves investigating the lexical choices in these idiomatic expressions. This entails examining the specific words and vocabulary used within the idioms and exploring their semantic associations. Certain idioms may employ particular nouns, verbs, or adjectives closely linked to the cultural context in which they are used. We can uncover the semantic nuances and cultural connotations embedded within these idiomatic expressions by analyzing the lexical choices.

Furthermore, the analysis delves into the symbolic language elements employed in culturally specific idioms. This includes identifying metaphorical, simile, or other figurative language devices used to convey meaning. Figurative language adds depth and imagery to idiomatic expressions, allowing for creative and expressive communication. By examining these figurative language elements, we can better understand the cultural symbolism and metaphorical associations present in culturally specific idioms.

Overall, analyzing culturally specific idioms in the American language provides valuable insights into their formulation and linguistic characteristics. Examining the syntactic structures, lexical choices, and figurative language elements can uncover the underlying patterns and features contributing to their idiomatic meanings. This analysis enhances our understanding of these idiomatic expressions' unique linguistic and cultural aspects.

In conclusion, the analysis of culturally specific idioms in the American language sheds light on their formulation and linguistic characteristics. By examining syntactic structures, lexical choices, and figurative language elements, we gain valuable insights into these idiomatic expressions' underlying patterns and features. This analysis deepens our understanding of the linguistic and cultural nuances embedded within culturally specific idioms and contributes to the broader study of language and communication.

3.2.1. Syntactic structures

The analysis of syntactic structures aims to uncover the grammatical patterns and configurations used in formulating culturally specific idioms. We can identify common patterns and variations by examining the syntactic makeup of these expressions.

For example, some idioms may follow a fixed word order, while others allow for more flexibility in the arrangement of words. Certain idiomatic expressions may exhibit specific syntactic features, such as phrasal verbs or prepositional phrases. The analysis will explore these structural aspects to understand how culturally specific idioms are constructed within the American language.

Example 1: "Hit the nail on the head" Syntactic Analysis: The idiomatic expression "hit the nail on the head" follows a typical syntactic pattern of a verb phrase ("hit") followed by a determiner ("the") and a noun phrase ("nail on the head"). This idiomatic expression means to identify or address a problem or issue accurately. The choice of the verb "hit" in this expression adds a sense of precision or accuracy to the idiomatic meaning.

Variations: The word order in this idiom remains relatively fixed, and significant variations are less common. However, slight modifications can be observed, such as "nail it on the head" or "hit the head on the nail." These variations maintain the idiomatic expression's core syntactic structure and do not significantly alter its overall meaning.

Syntactic Features: The idiomatic expression "hit the nail on the head" demonstrates the syntactic feature of a verb phrase followed by a determiner and a noun phrase. This structure is characteristic of idiomatic expressions in which a literal interpretation of the individual words does not convey the intended figurative meaning. The presence of a specific determiner ("the") and a descriptive noun phrase ("nail on the head") further contributes to the idiomatic nature of the expression.

Example 2: "Keep your eyes peeled" Syntactic Analysis: The idiomatic expression "keep your eyes peeled" consists of a verb phrase ("keep"), possessive pronoun ("your"), noun phrase ("eyes"), and a verb participle ("peeled"). This expression means to remain vigilant. The metaphorical phrase "peeled" emphasizes the need to be attentive or watchful.

Variations: The core syntactic structure of the idiom remains relatively consistent. However, minor variations can be observed in colloquial usage, such as "keep an eye peeled" or "keep your eyes wide open." These variations maintain the essential components of the idiom and preserve its idiomatic meaning.

Syntactic Features: The idiomatic expression "keep your eyes peeled" exhibits the syntactic features of a verb phrase followed by a possessive pronoun, a noun phrase, and a verb participle. This structure creates a vivid and figurative meaning beyond the literal interpretation of the individual words. The presence of the possessive pronoun emphasizes personal ownership and engagement in the action.

By analyzing the syntactic structures of culturally specific idioms, such as "hit the nail on the head" and "keep your eyes peeled," researchers gain insights into their formulation's grammatical patterns, variations, and syntactic features. The examples provided highlight the fixed word order, possible variations, and the presence of verb phrases, determiners, possessive pronouns, and noun phrases within the idiomatic

expressions. Understanding the syntactic aspects of these idioms enhances our knowledge of their linguistic characteristics and aids in deciphering their intended meanings.

3.2.2. Lexical choices

The analysis of linguistic choices focuses on selecting words and phrases within culturally specific idioms. It aims to identify the particular vocabulary used to convey these expressions' intended meaning and cultural associations.

Through linguistic analysis, we can examine the range of vocabulary employed in culturally specific idioms, including particular nouns, adjectives, verbs, and idiomatic phrases. The research will investigate the connotations and semantic relationships these lexical choices convey, shedding light on the cultural significance and nuances embedded within the idiomatic expressions.

Example 1: "Walk on eggshells" Lexical Analysis: The idiomatic expression "walk on eggshells" uses the verb "walk" combined with the noun "eggshells" to convey the idea of being cautious or careful in a delicate situation. The choice of the word "eggshells" carries connotations of fragility and the need to avoid causing damage or conflict. This lexical choice enhances the idiomatic meaning and captures the cultural association of being cautious in interpersonal interactions.

Semantic Relationships: The lexical choice of "walk" in conjunction with "eggshells" creates a metaphorical representation of navigating a delicate situation. The semantic relationship between the verb and the noun signifies the careful and gentle approach required, resembling physically treading carefully on fragile eggshells. This semantic relationship enhances the idiomatic expression's cultural significance and communicates the need for sensitivity in specific social contexts.

Example 2: "Bite the bullet" Lexical Analysis: The idiomatic expression "bite the bullet" uses the verb "bite" in conjunction with the noun "bullet" to convey the idea of facing a difficult or unpleasant situation with bravery and determination. The word "bullet" carries connotations of something challenging or dangerous that must be

confronted head-on. This lexical choice adds depth to the idiomatic meaning and captures the cultural association of perseverance in the face of adversity.

Semantic Relationships: The lexical choice of "bite" in combination with "bullet" creates a metaphorical representation of confronting and enduring a challenging situation. The semantic relationship between the verb and the noun conveys the action of biting down on something hard and painful as an act of courage and resolve. This semantic relationship enriches the idiomatic expression's cultural significance and communicates the idea of facing difficulties with resilience.

By analyzing lexical choices in culturally specific idioms like "walk on eggshells" and "bite the bullet," researchers gain insights into the specific vocabulary used to convey meaning and cultural associations. The examples show how to create idiomatic expressions with distinctive connotations and semantic ties by combining verbs, nouns, and idiomatic phrases. Comprehension of these lexical choices helps us better comprehend the cultural connotations and significance included in the idiomatic expressions, which adds to our comprehension of the idioms' cultural specificity in the American language.

3.2.3. Figurative language elements

Culturally specific idioms often use figurative language elements to convey their intended meaning metaphorically or symbolically. The analysis will explore the presence of metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, and other representative devices within these idiomatic expressions.

By examining the figurative language elements, we can gain insights into culturally specific idioms' imaginative and creative aspects. The analysis will focus on uncovering the underlying metaphors or cultural references that contribute to the symbolic meanings of these expressions, providing a deeper understanding of their cultural significance.

Through the analysis of the collection of culturally specific idioms in formulation, this section aims to reveal the syntactic structures, lexical choices, and

figurative language elements used in these idiomatic expressions. By examining these linguistic features, we can gain valuable insights into the formulation and linguistic characteristics of culturally specific idioms in American English.

Example: "Hold your horses" Figurative Language Analysis: The idiomatic expression "hold your horses," tells someone to be patient or to wait before taking action. The figurative language element in this idiom is a metaphor involving horses. The phrase suggests that one should imagine oneself controlling a group of horses and holding them back from moving forward. It metaphorically represents the need to exercise self-control and restrain impulsive behavior.

Cultural Significance: The use of horses in this idiom reflects the historical and cultural significance of horses in various contexts, such as transportation, agriculture, and sports. Metaphorically, horses symbolize energy, power, and forward motion. The idiom conveys the cultural value of prudence, caution, and the importance of considering one's actions before proceeding. It highlights the notion of self-discipline and self-restraint in decision-making.

The presence of figurative language elements in culturally specific idioms like "break a leg" and "hold your horses" adds depth, creativity, and cultural significance to these expressions. The use of hyperbole and metaphorical associations enhances their communicative impact and provides insights into the cultural context in which they are used. By analyzing these figurative language elements, researchers better understand the expressive and cultural dimensions of idiomatic expressions in American English.

3.3. Interpretation of idiomatic meanings and their connections with culture

This section focuses on interpreting the meanings of culturally specific idioms and exploring their connections with the broader cultural context in which they are used. We can better understand their significance in communication and cultural identity by delving into the cultural implications and associations of these idiomatic expressions. When studying such idioms, exploring the meanings of culturally distinct idioms and

comprehend how closely they relate to culture is crucial. Beyond precise definitions, interpreting idiomatic meanings entails examining the cultural implications and associations ingrained in these terms. This is due to the relative fixedness of idioms as language forms in terms of purpose and structure and their deep cultural connotations. Each developed during a particular historical era and is carried down from generation to generation. It exhibits distinctive cultural characteristics such as the surrounding natural environment, one's faith, customs, habits, etc.

A crucial component of language acquisition and research is the interpretation of idiomatic meanings and their relationships to culture. Idioms are more likely to express a language's cultural traits than words since they are closely related to the historical context, economy, geographical environment, conventions, and other aspects of the nation. By analyzing the idiomatic expressions used in a particular language, linguists and language learners can gain deeper insights into the cultural values, traditions, and ways of thinking embedded within that culture. Idioms become a mirror reflecting a community's collective experiences, shared knowledge, and cultural identity, allowing individuals to express complex ideas and emotions concisely and culturally nuancedly.

Idiomatic phrases are exciting since they often mean more than the individual words themselves. Idioms may be symbolic and metaphorical, but once they are grasped, they serve as a tangible and distinctive aspect of any language. They enable the speaker to be heard, expressing specific feelings without saying it out loud. For instance, idiomatic expressions like "break a leg," "rain cats and dogs," or "hit the nail on the head" carry meanings that extend beyond their literal interpretations. These phrases encapsulate cultural experiences, historical references, and shared understandings, allowing speakers to communicate effectively within their cultural context. Therefore, the performance of idiomatic meanings enables language learners to decipher the underlying messages and nuances conveyed by native speakers, facilitating meaningful cross-cultural communication.

In an educational context, incorporating idiomatic terms, phraseological units, and idioms plays a vital role in developing students' sociocultural competency.

Language learners at non-linguistic institutions can enhance their understanding of a culture by actively engaging with and using culturally specific idioms. Exposure to idiomatic expressions enriches their language skills and provides insights into the cultural subtleties and context-dependent usage of language. Educators can foster students' intercultural communicative competence by incorporating idiomatic expressions into language teaching, enabling them to navigate real-world situations with cultural sensitivity and effectiveness. Learning and understanding idiomatic meanings also contribute to a deeper appreciation and respect for diverse cultures, fostering a more inclusive and interconnected society.

Here is a list of example idioms and their analyses:

- "The ball is in your court": This idiom signifies that the responsibility or decision-making power rests with the person being addressed. It highlights the concept of agency and implies that it is their turn to take action or decide. The metaphorical association with a game of tennis adds a competitive element, emphasizing the need to seize an opportunity or make a strategic move.

- "Barking up the wrong tree": This idiom suggests that someone is pursuing a mistaken or fruitless course of action or directing their efforts towards the wrong target. The imagery of a dog barking at the wrong tree implies a waste of time and energy. The idiom serves as a reminder to redirect one's efforts toward a more productive or relevant direction.

- "Caught between a rock and a hard place": This idiom portrays being in a difficult situation where one is faced with two equally challenging or unfavorable options. The metaphorical representation of being caught between a rock and a hard place signifies feeling trapped or constrained without any easy way out. It reflects the dilemma of making a difficult decision with no ideal outcome.

- "Close but no cigar": This idiom signifies coming close to achieving a goal or success but falling just short. It conveys that despite the effort and proximity to the desired outcome, it still needs to be attained. The phrase adds a touch of disappointment or near-miss, highlighting the significance of accomplishing the intended goal rather than simply being close.

- "Fish out of water": This idiom describes a person who feels uncomfortable or out of place in a particular environment or situation. It implies a sense of not belonging or being unfamiliar with the surroundings. The metaphor of a fish removed from its natural habitat emphasizes the dissonance and awkwardness experienced when one is in an unfamiliar or unsuitable context.

- "Give someone the cold shoulder" means deliberately ignoring or treating someone indifferently. It conveys a message of disapproval, rejection, or intentional distance. The imagery of turning one's back or showing a cold demeanor suggests a lack of warmth or a welcoming attitude. The idiom reflects a deliberate act of dismissing or excluding someone socially.

- "Kick the bucket": This idiom is a euphemism for dying or passing away. It uses a lighthearted or humorous expression to refer to death. The phrase employs a metaphorical association with kicking a bucket, adding a touch of whimsy or irony to a somber topic. It demonstrates the human inclination to use figurative language to discuss mortality.

- "Let the cat out of the bag": This idiom means to reveal a secret or disclose information meant to be kept confidential. The phrase draws on the image of a cat escaping from a bag, symbolizing the unexpected disclosure of hidden knowledge. It emphasizes the consequence of unintentionally or intentionally revealing something that was supposed to remain unknown.

- "Piece of cake": This idiom conveys that something is easy to do or accomplish. It compares the simplicity of completing a task to the effortless act of consuming a piece of cake. The idiom suggests that the task requires minimal effort, skill, or challenge. It implies a sense of confidence and reassurance in tackling the task successfully.

- "Steal someone's thunder": This idiom means to take credit for or undermine someone else's idea, plan, or achievement. The phrase originated from playwright John Dennis, who invented the sound effect machine to produce thunder for his plays. Dennis felt that his idea had been stolen when another playwright used the same sound effect. The idiom highlights the negative impact of appropriating someone's innovation

or diminishing recognition.

In conclusion, analyzing idiomatic expressions within American English provides valuable insights into their linguistic, semantic, and cultural dimensions. By examining syntactic structures, lexical choices, figurative language elements, and interpretations, we gain a deeper understanding of the complexities and nuances embedded within these culturally specific idioms. The idioms reflect the cultural values, historical references, and metaphorical associations deeply ingrained in the American language and society. By studying these idiomatic expressions, we can unravel the intricate relationship between language and culture and how they shape communication and convey meaning. The comprehensive analysis of culturally specific idioms contributes to a broader understanding of American English and its rich cultural heritage.

3.3.1. Cultural significance of idioms

The analysis aims to uncover the cultural significance of idiomatic expressions by examining their underlying cultural values, beliefs, and practices. Cultural references, historical events, social norms, and traditional customs often influence the formation and meanings of these idioms.

By interpreting idiomatic meanings, we can identify the cultural knowledge and shared experiences necessary for understanding and using these expressions appropriately within a cultural context. This analysis helps shed light on how culturally specific idioms serve as linguistic markers that reflect and reinforce cultural identity and cohesion.

Cultural idioms express the values of the nation to which they belong. Just as every language has idioms, every culture has idiomatic expressions reflecting distinct traditions and customs. These idioms are a manifestation of the cultural identity and unique characteristics of a nation. They encapsulate a community's collective wisdom and shared experiences, serving as a linguistic representation of its cultural heritage.

Idioms indicate cultural partnership and play a vital role in effective language

use. Mastery of vocabulary and idiomatic expressions is crucial for individuals to communicate fluently and naturally within a particular culture. Idiomatic expressions are the vernacular language used daily, which has been agreed upon by all community members, and they are considered social norms. By understanding and using idiomatic expressions appropriately, language learners can demonstrate their cultural competence and effectively engage in social interactions with native speakers.

In language acquisition, idioms serve as a significant component of native-like communication. They offer a window into the thoughts, emotions, and views of the target language speakers. By comprehending and utilizing idiomatic expressions, language learners gain linguistic proficiency and a deeper understanding of the cultural nuances embedded within the idioms. Idioms provide valuable insights into societal standards, principles, and beliefs, allowing learners to understand the target culture better and enhance their ability to engage in meaningful cross-cultural communication.

In conclusion, cultural idioms are an integral part of language and culture. They are linguistic expressions of a nation's values, traditions, and customs. Understanding and using idiomatic expressions contribute to effective language use and cultural competence. By delving into everyday expressions' meanings and cultural implications, language learners can gain a deeper understanding of societal norms and perspectives. Incorporating idioms into language learning and teaching fosters cultural awareness and enhances the overall communicative competence of language learners.

3.3.2. Metaphorical and symbolic elements

Many culturally specific idioms employ metaphorical and symbolic elements to convey meaning beyond their literal interpretation. The analysis explores the metaphorical connections and symbolic associations embedded within these expressions.

By examining the metaphors used in culturally specific idioms, we can unravel the cognitive and cultural processes through which abstract concepts are conceptualized and communicated within a given culture. The interpretation of these

metaphorical and symbolic elements enhances our understanding of the cultural nuances and worldview expressed through these idiomatic expressions.

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3.3.3. Communicative functions of idioms

The analysis also considers the communicative functions of culturally specific idioms in native speakers' interactions. These idiomatic expressions often serve various communicative purposes, such as creating rapport, expressing emotions, conveying humor, or demonstrating cultural competence.

Understanding the communicative functions of culturally specific idioms provides insights into their practical use and the role they play in effective communication among native speakers. By examining the cultural context in which these idioms are employed, we can identify their role in establishing shared meaning and facilitating cultural understanding.

Many culturally specific idioms employ metaphorical and symbolic elements to convey meaning beyond their literal interpretation. By examining the metaphors used in culturally specific idioms, we can unravel the cognitive and cultural processes through which abstract concepts are conceptualized and communicated within a given culture. The interpretation of these metaphorical and symbolic elements enhances our understanding of the cultural nuances and worldview expressed through these idiomatic expressions.

Moreover, the use of metaphorical and symbolic elements in culturally specific idioms reflects a particular community's cultural values, beliefs, and historical context. These idiomatic expressions serve as linguistic artifacts that encapsulate a culture's collective wisdom, traditions, and experiences. For example, the idiomatic expression "a drop in the bucket" is used to convey a small and insignificant contribution or impact. The symbolic imagery of a drop in a bucket symbolizes something being minimal or negligible in a larger context. This idiomatic expression conveys a specific meaning and reflects the cultural perspective on the importance of individual actions within a larger framework.

By interpreting the metaphorical and symbolic elements in culturally specific idioms, we gain deeper insights into a community's cultural norms, values, and social dynamics. These idiomatic expressions provide a window into the cultural mindset and

help us understand how certain concepts and ideas are conceptualized and communicated within that culture. For instance, idiomatic expressions related to hospitality, food, or nature may reveal the cultural importance placed on these aspects of life and provide clues about social interactions, traditions, and environmental connections.

Furthermore, interpreting idiomatic meanings and their connections with culture enhances cross-cultural understanding and communication. When language learners grasp the metaphorical and symbolic elements in idiomatic expressions, they gain a deeper appreciation of the cultural nuances and can effectively engage with native speakers. It allows them to go beyond the surface-level understanding of language and comprehend idioms' subtle connotations and contextual usage. This proficiency in culturally specific idioms contributes to the development of cultural competence, enabling language learners to navigate social interactions, express themselves appropriately, and understand the underlying cultural references more nuancedly.

In conclusion, culturally specific idioms often rely on figurative and symbolic elements to convey meaning beyond literal interpretation. Interpreting these metaphorical and symbolic elements provides valuable insights into the cognitive and cultural processes through which abstract concepts are understood and expressed within a specific culture. Understanding these idiomatic meanings and their connections with culture deepens our understanding of the cultural nuances, values, and worldviews embedded within the language. It promotes cross-cultural understanding and enhances effective communication, enabling language learners to navigate the cultural landscape more effectively and engage with native speakers meaningfully.

3.3.4. Intercultural implications

Lastly, the section explores the intercultural implications of culturally specific idioms. It examines how these idiomatic expressions may pose challenges or opportunities for intercultural communication, particularly for non-native speakers of the language.

The analysis considers how culturally specific idioms can hinder effective communication when their meanings are unfamiliar or culturally inappropriate for non-native speakers. Additionally, it explores how the learning and appropriate use of these idiomatic expressions can enhance intercultural competence and foster intercultural understanding.

In the context of intercultural communication, culturally specific idioms can present both challenges and opportunities. On the one hand, when non-native speakers encounter culturally specific idioms that they are unfamiliar with, it can hinder effective communication and lead to misunderstandings. The literal interpretation of these idiomatic expressions may not convey the intended meaning or result in confusion or misinterpretation. For example, the idiom "break a leg" used to wish someone good luck in performance may puzzle non-native speakers who take it literally.

However, the learning and appropriate use of culturally specific idioms can also offer valuable opportunities for intercultural communication. Language learners' understanding and incorporating these idiomatic expressions into their language proficiency demonstrate their cultural competence. It enhances their ability to connect with native speakers on a deeper level. By using culturally specific idioms appropriately, non-native speakers can demonstrate their understanding of the cultural context and engage in more authentic and meaningful interactions.

Furthermore, exploring culturally specific idioms in an intercultural context can foster intercultural understanding and appreciation. As language learners delve into the meanings and cultural connotations embedded within these idiomatic expressions, they gain insights into the target culture's values, beliefs, and social dynamics. This knowledge promotes empathy, respect, and open-mindedness toward different cultural perspectives. It allows individuals to bridge cultural gaps, break stereotypes, and build stronger intercultural relationships.

In conclusion, the intercultural implications of culturally specific idioms are significant in language and communication. While these idiomatic expressions can challenge non-native speakers, they also provide cultural exchange and understanding

opportunities. By recognizing the potential barriers and actively learning and incorporating culturally specific idioms, language learners can enhance their intercultural competence and effectively navigate intercultural communication. Exploring these idiomatic expressions promotes empathy and cultural appreciation, fostering a more inclusive and interconnected global society.

Through the interpretation of idiomatic meanings and their connections with culture, this section aims to uncover the cultural significance, metaphorical elements, communicative functions, and intercultural implications of culturally specific idioms. By exploring these dimensions, we gain a deeper understanding of how these idiomatic expressions contribute to effective communication among native speakers and their significance for understanding the culture in which they are used.

CHAPTER 4. APPLICATION OF CULTURALLY SPECIFIC IDIOMS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING

This chapter focuses on the practical application of culturally specific idioms in English language teaching. The aim is to explore the role of idioms in language learning and provide methodological recommendations for incorporating culturally specific idioms into teaching practices.

4.1. The role of idioms in English language teaching

The role of idioms in English language teaching is multifaceted and encompasses various aspects of language learning. Idioms enhance students' language proficiency, fluency, and communicative competence. By incorporating idiomatic expressions into the language curriculum, teachers provide learners with essential tools to navigate the intricacies of everyday language use.

One of the key benefits of teaching idioms is that they contribute to developing students' receptive and productive language skills. Idioms expose learners to authentic language use and help them understand the idiomatic expressions commonly used by native speakers. Through exposure to idioms, students become familiar with the figurative language and cultural references embedded within these expressions, enabling them to comprehend and produce language more effectively.

In addition to language skills, idioms enhance students' cultural understanding and intercultural competence. Culturally specific idioms offer insights into a particular culture's values, beliefs, and traditions. By learning idioms deeply rooted in culture, students gain a deeper understanding of cultural nuances and can better navigate intercultural communication. Idioms provide a window into a community's cultural identity, allowing learners to appreciate the richness and diversity of language and culture.

Furthermore, idioms contribute to students' overall language fluency and

authenticity. Incorporating idiomatic expressions in language teaching helps learners sound more like native speakers and communicate with a higher degree of naturalness. Idioms add color and depth to students' language production, enabling them to express ideas, emotions, and opinions more nuanced and culturally appropriate.

However, teaching idioms does come with challenges. Idioms are often highly context-dependent and difficult for non-native speakers to comprehend and use appropriately. Teachers must provide explicit instruction on idiomatic expressions' meaning, usage, and cultural connotations to ensure students develop a comprehensive understanding. Strategies such as contextualization, real-life examples, and interactive activities can aid in the effective teaching and learning of idioms.

Idioms play a significant role in teaching English by enhancing language proficiency, cultural understanding, and communicative competence. By incorporating idiomatic expressions into the language curriculum, teachers equip learners with the necessary linguistic and cultural tools to engage in authentic language use. Teaching idioms contributes to students' language fluency, authenticity, and intercultural competence, enabling them to navigate language and culture with greater ease and effectiveness.

4.2. Incorporating culturally bound idioms into English language teaching

The idioms listed above provide valuable insights into the semantic, pragmatic, and communicative aspects of American English

American English is full of culturally bound idioms and provides insight into its users' history, culture, and outlook. Here are some examples: "Bite the bullet" - To endure a painful or unavoidable situation.

"Break a leg" - Good luck!

"Cut corners" - To do something poorly or cheaply.

"Hit the nail on the head" - To be exactly right about something.

"Kick the bucket" - To die.

"Let the cat out of the bag" - To reveal a secret.

"Piece of cake" - Something that is very easy to do.

"Pull someone's leg" - To tease or joke with someone.

"Spill the beans" - To reveal a secret.

Idioms are an essential part of language instruction and can help learners understand a language's nuances. They can also help learners develop their vocabulary and reading comprehension skills. Regarding methodological suggestions, one approach is to use idioms in context so that learners can see how they are used in real-life situations. This can be done through reading texts that contain idioms or by using idioms in conversation. Another approach is to teach idioms in groups so that learners can see how they relate. For example, idioms related to food or animals can be taught together.

To effectively incorporate idioms into language instruction, it is essential to provide learners with contextualized examples and opportunities for practice. Real-life materials such as authentic texts, audio recordings, or videos can expose learners to idioms in their natural usage. This allows learners to understand the idiomatic expressions within their cultural and communicative contexts.

Grouping idioms based on thematic categories, such as food, animals, sports, or emotions, can facilitate learning. By presenting idioms in related clusters, learners can identify common themes, understand the underlying metaphors or cultural references, and recognize patterns in usage. This approach promotes deeper comprehension and retention of idiomatic expressions.

Furthermore, exploring the origins and historical background of certain idioms is beneficial. Giving learners insights into the historical, cultural, or literary contexts in which idioms emerged can enhance their understanding and appreciation of the language. It also encourages learners to connect idioms and the language's broader cultural and social aspects.

Incorporating interactive activities, such as role-plays, discussions, or creative writing exercises, can further engage learners in using idiomatic expressions. These activities encourage learners to actively practice and apply idioms in meaningful and communicative contexts, fostering their fluency and confidence in using them.

In conclusion, incorporating culturally specific idioms into language instruction allows learners to expand their vocabulary and deepen their understanding of the language and culture. Educators can create engaging and effective learning experiences that enhance learners' language proficiency and cultural competence by providing authentic examples, organizing idioms thematically, exploring their origins, and promoting active usage.

- "A penny for your thoughts":

Semantic Meaning: Asking someone to share their thoughts or opinions.

Pragmatic Meaning: Seeking input or wanting to know what someone is thinking.

Communicative Function: Engaging in conversation and seeking someone's perspective.

- "All ears":

Semantic Meaning: Being attentive and ready to listen.

Pragmatic Meaning: Expressing a willingness to listen and pay attention.

Communicative Function: Showing interest and receptiveness in hearing what someone says.

- "Apple of my eye":

Semantic Meaning: Something or someone cherished or loved deeply.

Pragmatic Meaning: Expressing deep affection or love for someone or something.

Communicative Function: Demonstrating affection and emphasizing the importance of someone or something.

- "Barking up the wrong tree":

Semantic Meaning: Accusing or blaming the wrong person.

Pragmatic Meaning: Misdirecting blame or accusing someone incorrectly.

Communicative Function: Correcting someone's false accusation or pointing out a misunderstanding.

- "Beat around the bush":

Semantic Meaning: Avoiding the main topic or being indirect in conversation.

Pragmatic Meaning: Not addressing something directly or avoiding a direct answer.

Communicative Function: Urging someone to be more straightforward in their communication.

- "Call it a day":

Semantic Meaning: To stop working or doing something for the day.

Pragmatic Meaning: Deciding to end an activity or work for the current period.

Communicative Function: Suggesting or announcing the completion of a task or activity.

- "Do not count your chickens before they hatch":

Semantic Meaning: Advising against assuming something will happen before it does.

Pragmatic Meaning: Encouraging caution and not being overly confident about future outcomes.

Communicative Function: Offering a reminder to be realistic and not make premature assumptions.

- "An eager beaver":

Semantic Meaning: Describing a person who is hugely enthusiastic or hardworking.

Pragmatic Meaning: Portraying someone as highly motivated and eager to participate or work.

Communicative Function: Expressing admiration or recognizing someone's enthusiasm and diligence.

- "Face the music":

Semantic Meaning: Accepting the consequences of one's actions.

Pragmatic Meaning: Taking responsibility and facing the outcomes or repercussions.

Communicative Function: Encouraging accountability and acknowledging the need to confront the results of one's choices.

- "Get a taste of your own medicine":

Semantic Meaning: Experiencing something that you have done to others.

Pragmatic Meaning: Encountering a similar situation or treatment you previously inflicted on someone else.

Communicative Function: Highlighting the concept of reciprocity or retribution in actions and consequences.

- "Keep your chin up":

Semantic Meaning: Encouraging someone to stay positive and not lose hope.

Pragmatic Meaning: Providing support and motivation during challenging times.

Communicative Function: Offering encouragement and uplifting someone's spirits.

- "Kill two birds with one stone":

Semantic Meaning: Accomplishing two tasks with a single action.

Pragmatic Meaning: Maximizing efficiency and effectiveness in completing multiple objectives.

Communicative Function: Expressing the idea of achieving multiple goals simultaneously.

- "Let sleeping dogs lie":

Semantic Meaning: Avoid stirring up trouble or bringing up a sensitive issue.

Pragmatic Meaning: Recommending to leave a situation undisturbed to prevent complications.

Communicative Function: Advising against unnecessary confrontation or causing conflict.

- "On the same page":

Semantic Meaning: Having a shared understanding or agreement on a particular matter.

Pragmatic Meaning: Confirming alignment or consensus among individuals.

Communicative Function: Expressing harmony and mutual understanding.

- "Put all your eggs in one basket":

Semantic Meaning: Relying on a single option or putting all resources into one possibility.

Pragmatic Meaning: Highlighting the risk of depending solely on one thing and potential loss if it fails.

Communicative Function: Warning against lack of diversification and advocating for spreading resources.

- "The ball is in your court":

Semantic Meaning: It's someone's turn or responsibility to take action or make a decision.

Pragmatic Meaning: Shifting the responsibility or decision-making to someone else.

Communicative Function: Indicating that someone has the power or control to proceed.

- "Throw in the towel":

Semantic Meaning: Giving up or surrendering in a difficult situation.

Pragmatic Meaning: Acknowledging defeat and discontinuing efforts.

Communicative Function: Conveying resignation or acceptance of failure.

- "Under the weather":

Semantic Meaning: Feeling unwell or not in good health.

Pragmatic Meaning: Expressing physical discomfort or illness.

Communicative Function: Sharing information about one's health condition.

- "Up in the air":

Semantic Meaning: Uncertain or unresolved; lacking clarity or a definite outcome.

Pragmatic Meaning: Referring to an undecided or unresolved situation.

Communicative Function: Expressing ambiguity or the need for further clarification.

- "When pigs fly":

Semantic Meaning: Something that is highly unlikely or improbable to happen.

Pragmatic Meaning: Emphasizing the unrealistic nature of a statement or scenario.

Communicative Function: Conveying extreme skepticism or dismissing a far-fetched possibility.

The idioms listed above provide valuable insights into the semantic, pragmatic, and communicative aspects of American English. These culturally linked terms convey the rich history, culture, and viewpoint of their users. The semantic meanings of the idioms highlight various concepts such as endurance, luck, shortcuts, accuracy, mortality, secrecy, ease, and humor. Pragmatically, the idioms serve as expressions of encouragement, support, advice, and humor. They have specific communicative functions, such as motivating someone to persevere, wishing good luck, describing substandard practices, affirming accuracy, discussing mortality, revealing secrets, and describing simplicity. These idioms contribute to the depth and richness of the English language, and their understanding enhances language proficiency, cultural awareness, and effective communication in American English contexts.

In conclusion, the analysis of the listed idioms related to the American language and culture provides valuable insights into the semantic, pragmatic, and communicative aspects of these expressions. These idioms reflect the historical, cultural, and social context in which they are used, offering glimpses into the values, beliefs, and experiences of the American people. The semantic analysis reveals the diverse range of meanings conveyed by these idioms, while the pragmatic analysis explores their functions in everyday communication. By understanding and incorporating these idioms into language learning and communication, learners can deepen their understanding of American culture, enhance their language proficiency, and effectively engage with native speakers. The study of culturally specific idioms contributes to the broader field of language research and facilitates intercultural communication and appreciation.

4.3. Methodological recommendations on the use of culturally specific idioms

Integrating culturally specific idioms into English language teaching requires careful consideration of methodological approaches and instructional strategies. This section

provides comprehensive recommendations for teachers to incorporate culturally particular idioms into their pedagogical practices.

First and foremost, teachers should create a supportive and inclusive classroom environment that fosters cultural awareness and appreciation. Introducing culturally specific idioms within a broader cultural context is essential, helping students understand the historical, social, and cultural aspects that shape these expressions. By providing cultural background information and promoting discussions on cultural diversity, teachers encourage students to embrace different perspectives and value intercultural understanding.

Teachers should employ a learner-centered approach that promotes active participation and engagement when teaching culturally specific idioms. Incorporating authentic materials, such as videos, songs, literature, and real-life examples, allows students to observe idiomatic expressions in original contexts. Teachers can organize group activities, role plays, and language games that encourage students to practice using these idioms in communicative situations actively. Such activities enhance students' language production skills, confidence, and fluency while developing cultural sensitivity.

Explicit instruction on idiomatic expressions' meaning, usage, and cultural connotations is essential. Teachers should provide clear explanations, provide multiple examples, and offer opportunities for guided practice and feedback. Additionally, teachers can create visual aids, such as posters or flashcards, to represent idioms and help students remember their meanings visually. Encouraging students to develop personal idiom notebooks or digital portfolios can also facilitate their active engagement and reflection on idiomatic expressions.

Furthermore, teachers should consider their student's proficiency level and need when selecting culturally specific idioms. Starting with commonly used and widely understood idiomatic expressions can build students' confidence and familiarity. As students progress, more challenging idioms with deeper cultural associations can be introduced. Differentiating instruction based on learners' language abilities and cultural backgrounds allows for personalized and meaningful learning experiences.

Authentic assessment methods can be employed to evaluate students' understanding and use of culturally specific idioms. Performance-based assessments, such as role plays, presentations, or creative writing tasks, provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their mastery of idiomatic expressions in real-life contexts. Rubrics can be used to provide specific feedback and evaluate students' accuracy, fluency, and cultural appropriateness when using idiomatic expressions.

Finally, teachers should encourage self-directed learning and provide resources for students to explore idiomatic expressions independently. Online platforms, language learning apps, and digital resources can be utilized to enhance students' exposure to culturally specific idioms outside the classroom. Encouraging students to actively seek out and share idiomatic expressions from their cultural backgrounds can foster a sense of cultural pride and broaden the range of idiomatic expressions explored in the classroom.

Teachers can effectively incorporate culturally specific idioms into their English language teaching by following these methodological recommendations. These recommendations promote a learner-centered and culturally inclusive approach that fosters students' linguistic and cultural competence. Emphasizing cultural awareness, active participation, explicit instruction, differentiated learning, authentic assessment, and self-directed learning, teachers empower students to confidently navigate and engage with culturally specific idioms, facilitating their language proficiency and intercultural communication skills.

RESULTS

The analyzed idioms related to American culture offer valuable insights into the beliefs, values, and shared experiences that shape American society. These idiomatic expressions reflect the cultural pride and patriotism prevalent in American society, with idioms like "All-American" embodying a sense of national identity and pride. The "American dream" concept reveals the cultural value of upward mobility and the belief that hard work can lead to success and prosperity. The idioms also highlight the significance of personal connections and relationships, as seen in expressions like "the apple of my eye." The notion of America as the "land of opportunity" reflects the perception of abundant opportunities for success and social mobility. Idioms such as "melting pot" emphasize the cultural diversity and assimilation of different backgrounds into a unified whole. The frustration with bureaucratic processes and the value placed on efficiency are captured by idioms like "red tape." The fast-paced nature of American cities is symbolized by the expression "in a New York minute," while the idiom "Wild West" evokes the spirit of adventure and the pioneering nature ingrained in American culture. "The American way" represents American society's traditional values, customs, and beliefs. Finally, the idiom "home run" signifies achievement and success, reflecting the importance of competitive sports and the culture of celebrating accomplishments in American society. These idioms collectively provide a comprehensive understanding of the cultural aspects specific to American society and contribute to a deeper appreciation of the language and culture.

Cultural values and ideals: The phrase "American dream" captures the cultural ideal of upward mobility and the conviction that success and prosperity can be attained through perseverance and strenuous effort. It exhibits the positive and opportunity-focused ethos that permeates American culture.

National identity and pride: "All-American" refers to something or someone who represents the best traits or principles traditionally associated with America. It expresses a sense of national identification and pride. It draws attention to the

widespread cultural pride and patriotism in American culture. The phrase is frequently used to refer to individuals, locations, or uniquely American things, like apple pie, baseball, or the American flag.

Affection and importance: "The apple of my eye" expresses intense regard or affection for someone or something. It demonstrates the significance of close ties and relationships, a valued value in American culture. The expression is taken from the Bible to express God's love for his people.

American society and opportunity: The expression "the land of opportunity" captures the idea that there are many opportunities for success and growth in America. The belief in social mobility and the notion that everyone can attain their goals with effort and perseverance are both highlighted by this. Since the 18th century, the expression has been used to describe America's promise of prosperity and freedom.

Cultural diversity and assimilation: The expression "melting pot" represents the cultural diversity of American society, where individuals from many backgrounds come together and blend into a single cohesive one. It emphasizes the history of America as an immigrant nation and the blending of various cultures. The integration of immigrants into American society is described by the phrase, which was initially used in the early 1900s.

Bureaucracy and regulations: "Red tape" is an idiom used to describe excessive bureaucratic rules or processes that slow down productivity. It expresses dissatisfaction with bureaucratic procedures and the importance of American culture on effectiveness and efficiency. The phrase derives from the 16th-century custom of red tape to bind legal documents.

Fast-paced lifestyle: "In a New York minute": This idiom refers to things occurring swiftly or without delay and captures the hectic pace of life in New York City. It highlights the hurried pace of life and sense of urgency frequently connected to American cities. The Texas band "The Texas Tornados", made the term well-known in the 1970s with their song "Hey Baby Que Paso".

Frontier spirit and adventure: "Wild West" refers to the era of unrest and frontier development in the western United States. It embodies the spirit of adventure

and the pioneering attitude deeply embedded in American culture and is sometimes used metaphorically to describe a chaotic or turbulent situation. The late 1800s saw the phrase's first use to refer to the American westward frontier.

Traditional values: The expression "the American way" refers to the traditional values, practices, and viewpoints considered distinctive to American society. It includes ideas of liberty, individualism, and independence, expressing the cultural identity and ideals that many Americans hold dear. The phrase gained popularity during World War II to advance American principles and values.

Achievement and success: "Home run" is a baseball term symbolizing a big accomplishment or success. It highlights the significance of competitive sports and the tradition of success celebration in American culture. The phrase has been used since the turn of the 20th century and is still widely used today.

To sum up, idioms are a significant component of the American language and culture. They reflect American society's core values, beliefs, and traditions. Idioms convey many thoughts and notions, from affection and importance to success and achievement. Understanding the origins and meaning of these idioms can help us appreciate American language and culture more fully.

CONCLUSION

Throughout this thesis, we have thoroughly explored the topic "Culturally Specific Idioms in the American Language." Our research has provided valuable insights into the definitions, classifications, features, and cultural significance of idiomatic expressions. We have examined their role in effective communication among native speakers, their contribution to language teaching, and the challenges associated with their interpretation and usage. Based on our findings, we have identified several key issues and offer practical solutions to address them.

Firstly, defining idioms is the foundation for understanding these culturally specific expressions. Establishing a clear and concise definition encompassing their symbolic nature and cultural connotations is essential. To achieve this, further research can analyze various reports and perspectives from linguists, cultural theorists, and language educators to develop a comprehensive framework that captures the essence of idiomatic expressions.

Secondly, the classification and features of culturally specific idioms play a vital role in understanding their meaning and cultural implications. Our research has shed light on these idiomatic expressions' diverse categories and characteristics. However, more systematic and comprehensive studies can be conducted to create a standardized classification system that incorporates cultural, semantic, and syntactic aspects. Such a system would aid language learners, educators, and researchers navigate the vast array of culturally specific idioms.

Thirdly, we have explored the role of culturally specific idioms in effective communication among native speakers. Understanding and effectively using these idiomatic expressions are crucial for achieving native-like proficiency and cultural competence. To enhance language learners' ability to comprehend and use idioms in context, language teaching methodologies can incorporate authentic materials, interactive activities, and explicit instruction on idiomatic meanings and cultural connotations. Integrating idioms into communicative language teaching approaches

can promote a deeper understanding of cultural nuances and foster intercultural communication skills.

Moreover, we have identified challenges related to interpreting and using culturally specific idioms. Non-native speakers often need to help understand idiomatic expressions' symbolic meanings, cultural references, and contextual appropriateness. To address these challenges, teachers should provide explicit instruction on idioms, including their meanings, usage, and cultural connotations. Creating a supportive classroom environment that encourages active participation, authentic practice, and personalized learning experiences can foster students' confidence and proficiency in using culturally specific idioms.

In conclusion, studying culturally specific idioms in American English is essential to language learning and cultural understanding. We have gained valuable insights into their significance through a comprehensive examination of their definition, classification, role in communication, and application in language teaching. To address the identified issues, future research should focus on refining the definition, developing a standardized classification system, and investigating effective teaching methodologies. By incorporating these recommendations, language learners can enhance their language proficiency, cultural competence, and intercultural communication skills.

This thesis has successfully achieved its objectives in examining culturally specific idioms in American English and their application in English language teaching. The first objective was accomplished through a comprehensive theoretical analysis, providing a deep understanding of idioms and their classification within the context of culturally specific expressions. The empirical research in Chapter 2 further supported the objectives, with a well-established research methodology enabling the analysis of a collection of culturally particular idioms. This analysis revealed valuable insights into idiomatic meanings' formulation, interpretation, and connections with culture.

The investigation into applying culturally specific idioms in English language teaching addressed the third objective. The role of idioms in language instruction was

explored, highlighting their significance in enhancing learners' cultural understanding and communication skills. Methodological recommendations were proposed, offering practical guidance on incorporating culturally specific idioms into teaching practices to promote compelling language learning experiences.

Overall, the findings of this thesis have contributed to a broader understanding of culturally specific idioms in American English and their significance in communication and culture. Examining idiomatic expressions has shed light on the complexities and nuances inherent in their usage, providing educators, language learners, and researchers with valuable insights.

The proof of these objectives and findings lies in the thorough research process, including the theoretical analysis, empirical research, and methodological recommendations presented throughout the thesis. The research methodology ensured reliable data collection, while the analysis and interpretation of idiomatic meanings and their cultural connections added depth to the study. The practical recommendations for incorporating culturally specific idioms in language teaching offer tangible solutions for educators seeking to enhance learners' cultural competence and communicative abilities.

Ultimately, this thesis is a valuable resource for educators, language learners, and researchers interested in understanding and utilizing culturally specific idioms in American English. It highlights the importance of incorporating cultural aspects into language teaching and provides practical strategies for effective instruction. This research contributes to a more comprehensive and meaningful language learning experience by bridging the gap between language and culture.

We hope this thesis serves as a foundation for further research and pedagogical practices that promote the effective integration of culturally specific idioms in language teaching. By recognizing the importance of idiomatic expressions and addressing the challenges associated with their interpretation and usage, we can facilitate language learners' journey toward achieving native-like language proficiency and intercultural communicative competence.

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