



FUNCTIONAL-PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH PROSE

**Yarashova Guldasta**

*Student of SamSIFL*

*E-mail: [guldastayarashova114@gmail.com](mailto:guldastayarashova114@gmail.com)*

*Phone: +998 99 065 37 04*

*Scientific supervisor: **Ablyayeva Venera Vaxidovna***

*Senior teacher of SamSIFL*

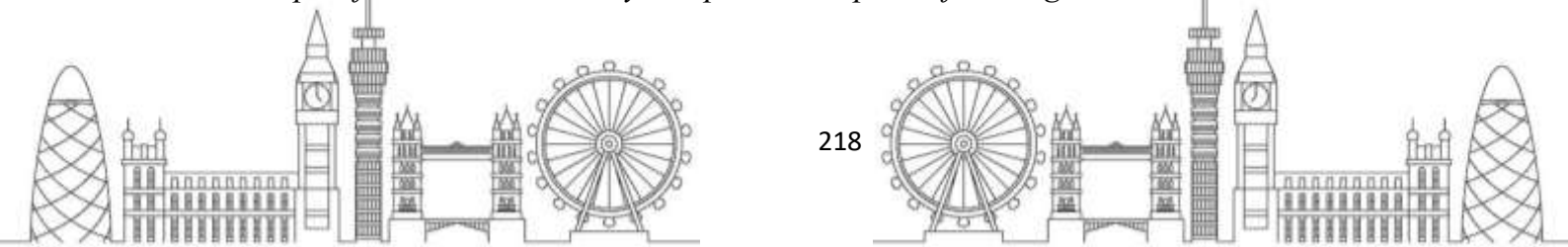
**Annotatsiya**, mazkur maqolada zamonaviy ingliz nasriy matnlarida qo'llaniladigan idiomatik birliklarning funksional-pragmatik xususiyatlari tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotning asosiy maqsadi idiomatik ifodalarning matn ichidagi kommunikativ vazifasi, muallif pozitsiyasini ifodalashdagi roli hamda o'quvchiga ta'sir ko'rsatish mexanizmlarini aniqlashdan iborat. Ish jarayonida badiiy va publitsistik nasr namunalari asosida idiomatik birliklarning kontekstual ma'no hosil qilish xususiyatlari o'rganildi. Tahlil natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, idiomalar nafaqat obrazlilik vositasi, balki pragmatik maqsadga yo'naltirilgan semantik yuklama tashuvchisi sifatida ham namoyon bo'ladi. Ular matnda baholash, emotsional ta'sir va yashirin ma'no ifodalashda muhim ahamiyat kasb etadi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** idiomatik birliklar, funksional-pragmatik tahlil, zamonaviy ingliz nasri, kontekstual ma'no, kommunikativ vazifa, badiiy diskurs.

**Аннотация**, в данной статье анализируются функционально-прагматические особенности идиоматических выражений в современной английской прозе. Основная цель исследования заключается в выявлении коммуникативных функций идиом в тексте, их роли в выражении авторской позиции и воздействии на читателя. Материалом исследования послужили примеры из художественной и публицистической прозы. Особое внимание уделяется контекстуальной реализации переносного значения идиоматических единиц. Результаты анализа показывают, что идиомы выступают не только как средство выразительности, но и как прагматический инструмент передачи оценочности, эмоциональности и скрытого смысла.

**Ключевые слова:** идиоматические выражения, функционально-прагматический анализ, современная английская проза, контекстуальное значение, коммуникативная функция, художественный дискурс.

**Abstract**, this article examines the functional-pragmatic features of idiomatic expressions used in contemporary English prose. The primary aim of the study is to determine the communicative functions of idioms within the text, their role in expressing the author's position, and their impact on the reader. The research is based on selected examples from modern literary and publicistic prose, focusing on the contextual realization





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*of figurative meaning. The findings indicate that idiomatic expressions function not only as stylistic devices but also as pragmatic tools carrying semantic and evaluative load. They contribute significantly to emotional coloring, implicit meaning, and discourse effectiveness in narrative texts.*

**Keywords:** *idiomatic expressions, functional-pragmatic analysis, contemporary English prose, contextual meaning, communicative function, literary discourse.*

### Introduction

Idiomatic expressions have long fascinated linguists precisely because they encode a tremendous amount of information that goes beyond the grammatical. Idiomatic expressions are a reflection of the cultural context in which a language is spoken, the worldview of the speakers, their shared experiences, and even their modes of reasoning. In modern English writing, you see idioms popping up a lot, especially when people talk or in stories that describe scenes. It makes everything feel more real, I guess, particularly in books with dialogue. But its not just some easy trick for writers. In real literary stuff, idioms do more. They slip in these little shades of meaning that color how a moment feels emotionally. And they help you get the characters better, or whats going on around them. Lately, people studying language have been focusing more on how context matters for understanding words. You cant just look at an expression by itself, out of nowhere. It only makes sense in the situation its used. Thats even more true for idioms. Theyre supposed to be these fixed phrases that mean something figurative. But how they work in practice depends on a bunch of things. Like who is saying it, what they mean by it, the setting, their goal. That part gets a bit tricky to pin down sometimes. Lately, a lot of linguistic studies seem to be paying more attention to how context shapes what language really means. You cant just look at words or phrases by themselves, because their actual sense and impact come from the situation theyre used in. This hits home especially with idioms, those fixed figurative phrases we all know. Sure, theyre defined in dictionaries as set expressions, but how they work in talk depends so much on whos saying them, where, and why. Like, the same idiom could be funny in one spot, sarcastic in another, or maybe even show some underlying tension or disapproval somewhere else. So, sticking only to what the dictionary says wont cut it if you want to get how idioms fit into bigger conversations or stories. Idioms do a bunch in building up how characters sound and who they are in narratives. Writers pick certain ones to hint at stuff like social class, how educated someone is, their mood, or even cultural ties. It seems like they can signal closeness between people or push them apart, ramping up relationships or clashes in the plot. In books, especially prose fiction, idioms go way past just fancying up the style. They help make the whole scene feel real and alive. When characters toss in idioms while talking, it sounds like everyday chat, not some scripted lines. Thats big in newer stories, where writers try to nail the rhythm of actual speech, those quick cuts and habits people have. Without them, dialogue might come off stiff or too proper, but idioms keep it loose and natural, like youre overhearing a real





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talk. Whether someone uses them a lot or skips them altogether can show their inner workings or social side without spelling it out<sup>34</sup>. Fiery character might go for bold idioms that pack a punch, while a quieter, one sticks to straight talk. Authors use this to slip in details about schooling, background, surroundings, or what the character stands for. It feels kind of subtle, but effective. Idiomatic expressions are also very effective in the field of irony. There is tension between the expected meaning and the real situation when a common expression is used in an unexpected or contradictory way. This contrast can be used to heighten the dramatic intensity of a conflict, highlight the ridiculousness of a situation, or produce humor. Idiomatic expressions, which distill complex emotions into a brief but powerful statement, can be used to heighten the tension in emotionally charged situations. Because of their succinctness, the author can express complexity without going into great detail. It's also critical to keep in mind that idiomatic expressions are not rigid formulas used by contemporary writers. Although idiomatic expressions have traditionally been categorized as fixed formulas, modern idiomatic expressions are often modified, broken down, or reused in different contexts. Modern writers may vary one part of an expression, mix two common expressions, or use an expression in an unexpected context. Such variations are attention-grabbing and help to refresh expressions that may otherwise become predictable. Such creative uses of idiomatic expressions indicate linguistic flexibility and the dynamic nature of literary language. Idiomatic expressions in prose writing are not just used as ornaments but as pragmatic tools. Modern idiomatic expressions are frequently altered, deconstructed, or repurposed in various contexts, despite the fact that they have historically been classified as fixed formulas. Contemporary authors may mix two common expressions, change one part of an expression, or employ an expression in a surprising way. These variations are eye-catching and serve to revitalize expressions that could otherwise become monotonous<sup>35</sup>. These inventive applications of colloquial expressions demonstrate the adaptability of language and the dynamic character of literary language. In prose writing, idiomatic expressions serve practical purposes in addition to being decorative.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the functional-pragmatic analysis of idiomatic expressions in contemporary English prose shows that idioms play a much deeper role than simply decorating the text. They are not just fixed figurative phrases listed in dictionaries, but dynamic linguistic tools that actively participate in meaning-making within discourse. Their real significance becomes clear only in context, where they interact with the author's intention, the communicative situation, and the reader's interpretation.

The study confirms that idiomatic expressions perform several important communicative functions. They help express the author's attitude, shape character identity,

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<sup>34</sup> Fernando, C. *Idioms and Idiomaticity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996, p. 30.

<sup>35</sup> Gibbs, R. W. *The Poetics of Mind: Figurative Thought, Language, and Understanding*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994, p. 124.





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intensify emotional coloring, and create implicit meanings that require reader involvement. Through idioms, writers can subtly convey evaluation, irony, tension, or humor without lengthy explanations. In this way, idioms contribute to the depth and richness of narrative prose.

Moreover, contemporary authors often modify or creatively adapt idiomatic expressions, which demonstrates the flexibility of language and the evolving nature of literary discourse. Such transformations make the text more expressive and engaging, while also refreshing familiar expressions. This proves that idioms are not rigid structures but living elements of communication that respond to stylistic and pragmatic needs.

Overall, idiomatic expressions in modern English prose function as powerful pragmatic instruments. They strengthen discourse effectiveness, enhance realism in dialogue, and deepen the interaction between the text and the reader. Therefore, studying idioms from a functional-pragmatic perspective allows for a more comprehensive understanding of how meaning is constructed and how literary texts achieve their communicative impact.

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