

ŠIAULIAI UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH PHILOLOGY

**MANIFESTATION OF VALUES IN ENGLISH
IDIOMACITY/IDIOMS**
BACHELOR THESIS

Research adviser: Lect. Jūratė Žukauskienė

Student: Ina Šidlauskienė

Šiauliai, 2011

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years researchers have become increasingly interested in idioms or idiomatic expressions. According to Katerina Stathi (2006:27)¹, “Idioms are traditionally defined as linguistic units whose meaning is more than the sum of the meanings of their constituent parts; therefore they are considered classic examples of violation of the principle of compositionality”. This definition has proved to be largely unsatisfactory for capturing the essence of idiomatic expressions. Cognitive linguistics regards idioms and similar phenomena (metaphor, metonymy, constructions, fixed expressions and formulaic language in general) as central and important phenomena for the study of language and the human mind. In the cognitive linguistic framework, idioms, like other linguistic units, are treated as symbolic units, which associate a phonological (formal) representation with a semantic representation; cf. for example Taylor (2002)². At the same time, the term “idiom” is used to refer to two quite different phenomena. First, idioms “in the narrow sense” are expressions whose idiomaticity is semantic; prototypical members are expressions like *kick the bucket*, *pull someone’s leg* and *spill the beans*. Second, idiomaticity is a formal property of expressions and is more or less equated with fixedness of form; here the term refers to expressions like *by and large*, *for better or for worse* etc.; cf. Fillmore et al. (1988)³. Another source reveals a different definition of an idiom: “A speech form or an expression of a given language that is specific to itself grammatically cannot be understood from the individual meanings of its elements.” (Dictionary of the English Language, 2009). It is universally accepted that the English word “idiom” was itself derived from the Greek “ἰδίωμα”⁴. Therefore the word has come to be used to describe the form of speech particular to a people or country and, in a narrower sense, to the forms peculiar to a limited district, group of people, or even the technical vocabulary special to a profession such as medicine, the law or any of the sciences. This narrower sense is also described by the word dialect (Gr. διάλεκτος), which is also of Greek origin. In philosophical terms “an idiom is a collection of different parts (words) forming an entity with a meaning different from its parts.”⁵

It seems that further investigation is needed to reveal the semantic peculiarities of idioms and idiomatic expressions most frequently met in English. There is a wide variety of expressions which are called idioms.

The **subject** of the research will be English idioms.

¹ Katerina, S., *Corpus Linguistics meets Cognitive Linguistics: A framework for the analysis of idioms*. Berlin-Brandenburgische, 2006. <http://search.ebscohost.com> [Accessed 15, January 2010].

² Taylor, John R. 2002. *Cognitive grammar*. Oxford Textbooks in Linguistics. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

³ Types of Idioms http://www1.uni-hamburg.de/metaphern/GCLA06_Theme/Stathi_GCLA06.pdf [Accessed on 10 April, 2010, 21.02]

⁴ McArthur, T., 1996. *The Oxford Companion to the English Language*. Oxford University Press. (p. 455)

⁵ Idiom dictionary <http://www.answers.com/topic/idiom-dictionary> [Accessed on 10 April, 2010, 21.15]

The **aim** of the present paper is to analyze and to classify the English idioms and idiomatic expressions according to the peculiarities of English nature and culture values. To achieve the aim the following objectives have been set:

1. select and overview the theoretical material concerning idioms;
2. to select the idioms and idiomatic expressions from dictionaries and to classify the selected examples according to some defined definite criteria;
3. to show the importance of usage of idioms in the English language.

Methods of the investigation applied in the work are as follows:

1. the method of scientific literature analysis was used to present the theoretical material;
2. the descriptive method was used to analyze and classify the examples;
3. the statistical method allowed to determine the frequency idioms usage among the selected groups of idioms.

The **material** used in the work is data collected from dictionaries and various types of texts.

The **structure** of the paper. The work consists of an introduction, theoretical and practical parts, conclusions, the list of references and sources. The introduction of the work provides a general view of idiomatic expressions and supplies the main aspects of the paper and its structure. The two main parts deal with the usage of idiomatic expressions. The characteristics of this work are presented in the conclusions section of the work.

The **scope** of the work contains 330 idioms selected from English Idioms & Idiomatic Expressions Website (English Idioms & Idiomatic Expressions <http://www.usingenglish.com/>). Accessed on 27 September 2009, 15.03) then checked in Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English (2003), Oxford Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs (1997), Oxford Mini Thesaurus (2003) and Penguin Pocket English Dictionary (1990) and others. Illustrative sentences used in the work have been taken from a book of Salman Rushdie “The Satanic Verses” (1988) and from The English National Corpus. The selected examples found in the sources and dictionaries are given at the end of the work.

The **practical value** of this work is to show the frequency of the usage of idiomatic expressions as well as their place and role in modern English as “a language-in-action” and to reveal the values of the idioms in English culture.

I. LINGUISTIC ASPECTS OF IDIOMATIC STATEMENTS

1.1. Sociolinguistic analysis of idioms

According to Stockwell, P. (2003) sociolinguistics is the study of language within society. The main focus of investigations in this field is on how social causes create differences in languages and the usage of language. Sociolinguistics includes both micro and macro level domains. Common to both areas of investigation is the sociolinguistic search to understand how social factors create linguistic variations. Many individual, cultural and socio-political reasons are recognized as creating this variation.⁶

Analysis of linguistic units as well as idioms or idiomatic expressions is also carried in the sources of sociolinguistics.

The authors of the article Stephanie Caillies and Kirsten Butcher (2007: 79-80) provide evidences that many English idioms have existed for centuries and are still in use today, and new idiomatic expressions or idioms appear in English. According to the sources of idioms - they were created by people of various occupations and activities. Good examples of these may be the Bible and the works of great writers form literary sources of English idioms. Various idioms appear in a colloquial and in a formal style. V. H. Collins (1985) states: "In standard spoken and written English today an idiom is a proved, universal and essential element that, used with care, ornaments and enriches the language."⁷ The knowledge and the correct use of idioms are one-way to distinguish a native speaker from non-native speakers. Native speakers can use idioms naturally and unconsciously.⁸

It is commonly presumed that idiomatic expressions have lost their metaphoricity over time and now exist as frozen metaphors. Idiomatic expression has been defined as a phrase for which the intended meaning is not stemmed from the meaning of the individual words (Swinney & Cutler, 1979).⁹

Gibbs (1997) states that idioms with complex semantic forms could be motivated by several conceptual metaphors. And strong associations exist among idioms and conceptual metaphors, relevant metaphorical knowledge could be activated during idiom processing (Gibbs,

⁶ Stockwell, P., 2003. *Sociolinguistics: A resource book for students*. (2nd ed.). London: Routledge.

⁷ Collins, V. H., *A Book of English Idioms*

⁸ Caillies, S., Processing of Idiomatic Expressions: Evidence for a New Hybrid View *ACCOLADE Université de Reims, France* Kirsten Butcher *National Centre for Atmospheric Research Boulder, CO, USA 25490701*. <http://search.ebscohost.com>[Accessed 13, March 2010].

⁹ Swinney, D. A., & Cutler, A. 1979. The access and processing of idiomatic expressions. *Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behavior*, 18, 523–534.

1997).¹⁰ Although the compositional theories differ in the ways that idiomatic meanings are activated, they both share the assumption that relationships can exist among individual idiomatic meaning of idiomatic parts. This position rejects the idea of idioms as frozen metaphors (Gibbs, 1992) and leads us to memory representation for idiomatic expressions is different than that for words or literal phrases, and whether the understanding of idiomatic expressions can be modelled by a more general theory of comprehension.¹¹

The spreading of cultural beliefs and values, one of whom is female-male relations effected the formation of language. The main aspect of English usage could be mentioned in support of this argument is the use of *man* and *he* as generic terms, that is, as terms referring to the entire species for all humankind. Use of *man* and the male pronouns as generics is usually justified on two grounds: it is an ancient rule of the English grammar; moreover in generalizations, the male terms are meant to include females (Gibbs, 1992).

Writers, like William Caxton, Shakespeare, and Chesterfield used *they* to refer to the species: "Each of them should...make themselves ready" (Caxton). "God send everyone their heart's desire" (Shakespeare); "If a person is born of a gloomy temper <...> they cannot help it" (Gibbs, 1992).

To accept the generic status of the male forms, that *she* should be used so often in generalizations about secretaries, nurses, primary-school teachers, baby-sitters, shoppers, child-minders, and cleaners, just those workers who are most often female. The effect of the use of the false generic is held to be that women are often being made unperceivable by the language, that is, the language has only a negative semantic space for women (Stanley, 1977); women are-MALE. Linguistic evidence could be found to support the argument that those qualities which are assigned to males are held in higher esteem than those appointed to females. Thus it can be complementary to call a girl a tomboy, but it can *never* be complementary to call a boy a sissy.¹² According to the investigation made by Stanley (1977)¹³, Spender (1980)¹⁴ results, thus the term *woman* itself had the negative connotations for most of the culture until the 1970s and holds these connotations in some groups in the early 1990s. The polite term for a woman used to be, and in some circles it still is, *lady*, and there were clear rules for how a lady should behave and talk (Robin Lakoff, 1975).

The given information proves the ways in which males and females are stereotyped within the culture, and the way in which language use can focus attention to stereotypical features.

¹⁰ Gibbs, R. W., Bogdanovich, J. M., Sykes, J. R., & Barr, D. J., 1997. Metaphor in idiom comprehension. *Journal of Memory and Language*, 37, 141–154.

¹¹ Processing of Idiomatic Expressions: Evidence for a New Hybrid View Stéphanie Caillies

¹² derivative of *sister*

¹³ Stanley J P (1977b) "Paradigmatic woman: The prostitute." In Shores & Hines eds (1977) pp303-21

¹⁴ Spender, Dale. 1980. *Man Made Language*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Consequently a change in language use would result a change in the culture's beliefs about men and women respectively. Newsreaders and newspaper reporters in the 1990s are less likely to use male pronouns and more likely to use *they* as a singular term than they were in the 1960s. (Malmkjær, Kirsten., 1991)¹⁵

It could be presumed, that cultural peculiarities of the society, the features of character, even religion as well as inheritance of intercultural features and interchange of language elements certainly effect the formation and usage of sentences, phrases and idioms or idiomatic expressions.

1.2. Lingo-stylistic analysis of idioms

According to Palmer (1982) idioms could be understood as collocations. Consider, for instance, *kick the bucket*, *fly off the handle*. Sometimes they have the meaning of single words (thus, *kick the bucket* equals *die* and *fly off the handle* equals *lose self-control*). Even if an idiom is a single word it does not function like one.

Moreover some idioms have no past tense of *kick the bucket* as **kick-the-bucketed*. It functions as normal sequence of grammatical words, so the past tense form it is *kicked the bucket*.

There are some grammatical restrictions. Idioms contain a verb and a noun, the verb may be placed in the past tense, and the number of the noun can never be changed. It could be *spilled the beans*, but not **spill the bean*, and equally there is no **fly off the handles*, **kick the buckets*, etc. Similarly, with *red herring* the noun may be plural, but the adjective cannot be neither comparative nor superlative (the *-er* or *-est* forms). Therefore it appears *red herrings* but not **redder herring*.

There are also syntactic restrictions. Some idioms have passives. *The law was laid down* and *The beans have been spilled* are all right, but **The bucket was kicked* is not. But never it could be said *It was the - (beans that were spilled* law that was laid down, bucket that was kicked, etc.)*. The restrictions may vary from idiom to idiom.

The phrasal verb is a very common type of an idiom in English. It is the combination of verb plus adverb: *make up*, *give in*, and *put down*. The meaning of these combinations cannot be predicted from the individual verb and adverb often. There is a single verb with the same or a very close meaning - *invent*, *yield*, *quell*. Not all combinations of this kind are idiomatic. *Put down* has a literal meaning. There are others that are both idiomatic and not, e. g. *take in* as in

¹⁵ Malmkjær, Kirsten., 1991. Attitude And of Deliberate Attempts to Change Language Use. The Linguistics Encyclopedia London and New York: Routledge. (348-350p.)

the conjurer *took the audience in*. There are even degrees of idiomaticity since one can *make up* a story, *make up* a fire or *make up* one's face. There are also sequences of a verb plus preposition, such as *look after* and *go for*, and sequences of verb, adverb and preposition, such as *put up with* or *do away with*.

There are partial idioms, where one word has its usual meaning; the other has a meaning that is particular to the particular sequence. Thus *red hair* refers to hair, but not hair that is red in strict colour terms. Therefore even partial idiomaticity can be a matter of degree and may sometimes be a matter of collocational restriction.

It is difficult to decide whether a word or a sequence of words is opaque¹⁶. Word-for-word translations are not equivalent in other languages, so *kick the bucket*, *red herring*, etc. are idioms because they cannot be word for word translated into other languages.

Palmer (1982) reveals that an idiom is an element of a language that holds a unique way of expression based on its "time-honoured" use or an idiom is a fixed group of words or a single word, or even a sentence, with special meaning that cannot be guessed from its constituents. The meaning of it must be learnt as a whole. J. Seidle, as Palmer paraphrases, points out that "idioms are not a separate part of the language which one can choose either to use or omit, but they form an essential part of the general vocabulary of the language."¹⁷

According to Palmer's, F. R., (1982) idiom divisions and explanations, there are idioms which contain verbs, and there are idioms, which are just kind of phrasal verbs. And in further sentences cited from grammar books more classification typology of verbal idioms can be found:

1. **Tournures** - phraseological idioms, of the V + N (P) structure, as *kick the bucket*, *bite the dust*. The name was given by Makkai (1972), and means in French "the turn of the phrase". The example as *toe the line* shows there is little connection between the meanings of the constituent parts and the sense of the whole construction, and non-compositionality of meaning is the key argument for its high degree of idiomaticity.
2. **Phrasal verbs (V + Prep + (NP))**, but only those whose meaning is noncompositional and cannot be directly derived from the senses of the parts.¹⁸
3. **Primary verb idioms** (Ruhl 1976). These are also similar V + NP constructions with a primary verb (*do*, *make*, *get*, *let*, *keep*, *give*, etc.) followed by a noun or a prepositional phrase (*let the cat out of bag*).
4. **Prepositional verbs (V + Prep constructions)** such as *apply for*, *beware of*, etc.), previously not regarded as idiomatic. The choice of a preposition, a verb takes is strictly restricted, or idiosyncratic may cause serious encoding problems for second language learners, who

¹⁶ Opaque – oblique (Routledge Dictionary of Language and Linguistics *Hadumod Bussmann* translated and edited by Gregory Trauth and Kerstin Kazzazi London and New York 2006. p. 837)

¹⁷ Palmer, F. R., 1982. *Semantics*. p. 64-65

¹⁸ Makkai, A., 1972. *Idiom structure in English*. The Hague: Mouton.

are likely to translate the combinations from their own languages.¹⁹

Makkai (1972: 135,172) suggests a system of classification for idioms, according to which idioms can be divided into two broad types: *lexemic idioms* and *sememic idioms*.

There are many examples for the exploitation of idioms: that is the canonical form of idioms may be changed in different ways. The modification of idiom could be performed by adding components such as adjectives, genitive and prepositional attributes. So interchanges could be made in relative clauses as well as compounding. This involves the behaviour of idioms on the syntagmatic axis. Also it is a kind of substitution of idiom components by other words or phrases. This involves substitution by synonyms, hyponyms, and hyperonyms on the paradigmatic axis. And finally the wordplay extends into a larger stretch of text.²⁰

To sum up the given information, the main attention could be directed to the classification of idiomatic expressions. Therefore, focusing on various aspects of English idioms we can use different criteria as the basis to classify. They may be classified according to semantic criteria, by their sources, or by their syntactic functions, such as idioms are verbal in nature, nominal in nature, adjectival in nature. They could be classified into three categories: phrase idioms, clause idioms and sentence idioms according to their structures.²¹

1.3. Idiomatic statements in the English language

According to Smith (1925) idioms are of English or foreign origin. And it could hardly be expected to find an abstract thought embodied in them, as well as scientific observation, or aesthetic appreciation, or psychological analysis of any kind. "The subject-matter of idiom is human life and in its simpler aspects, success and failure, and above all human relations the vivid attitudes and feelings of people intensively interested in each other and their common dealings, friendly, hostile feelings, fallings out and makings up, rivalries and over-reaching, reprobation, chastisement, and abuse"(1925:256).

There is much humour in English idiom, but there is little romantic, or makes a direct appeal to the sense of beauty. Humorous understatement, "not half," "I don't think," etc. is one characteristic element in English idiom. (Smith, 1925:258)²²

Smith (1925) classifies the idioms according to their origin, or the speaker, who created them, for instance: the sailors' speech (Smith, 1925: 192) or an example "*A forlorn hope*" is an adoption of the Dutch phrase *verloren hoo*, and the source it was originally taken from and then

¹⁹ Ruhl, Ch., 1976. Idioms and data, Robert J. DiPietro Edward L. Blansitt (eds.), 456-466.

²⁰ Katerina, S., *Corpus Linguistics meets Cognitive Linguistics: A framework for the analysis of idioms*

²¹ Collins 1985, A book of English Idioms. <http://download-book.net/collins-a-book-of-english-idioms-doc.html>

²² Smith, L. P., 1925. *Words and Idioms. Studies in the English Language*. Boston, New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

adapted to English people understanding. The further given examples and the prompts of origin illustrate the previously made assumptions (1925: 194):

1. From hounds and horses phrases have come to enrich the colloquial speech, and of all animals the dog and the horse play the largest parts in idiom: *To keep a dog and bark oneself* (1925: 196)
2. The idiom “*at bay*”, the phrases “hold” or “stand at bay”, is half-translation of the old French idioms *tenir a bay*, “*to hold in suspense*”, and *Eire aux abois*, “*to be at close quarters with the barking*.” (Smith, 1925: 197)
3. Some are from the hunting-field, from the racetrack: *To make the running* (1925: 198)
4. From animals, from cattle, sheep, swine and cats are derived the following: *To follow like sheep* (Smith, 1925: 199)
5. “To rain cats and dogs”, “to lead a cat-and-dog life”, “refer to traditional enmity between these two domestic animals. (ibid)
6. Wild animals “have not provided” us with many idioms, phrases in which wolves appear, like “*to throw to the wolves*”, “*to take the wolf by the ears*” are generally of foreign derivation, “*to keep the wolf from the door*” seems, however, to be an idiom of English origin. (Smith, 1925: 200)
7. Idioms with birds: *To clip the wings of*, *To feather one’s nest*, *A bird’s eye view* (Smith, 1925: 201)
8. Some phrases are from the cock-fighting: *to show the white feather*, *Cock of the walk*, *To be game for* (1925: 202)
9. Phrases with snails, worms and insects figure are mostly from old fables, or translated from French: *The worm will turn*, *To weave spider’s webs*, *In a bee line* (ibid)
10. The wild nature idiom takes no notice; there are a few phrases derived from woods and trees: *To be out of the wood*, *Up a tree*, *Hearts of oak*, *The top of the tree*, *Root and branch* (ibid)
11. From the wind and rain and weather, from clouds, the sun, the moon and the stars, come the following: *To get the wind up* (Smith, 1925: 203)
12. Idioms originated with the words: *wind, rain, weather, clouds, the sun, the moon, the stars*: *to blow over*, *Castles in the air*, *to be in the clouds*, *As right as rain*, *Rain or shine*, *His star has set* (ibid)
13. Idioms from America, where fences take the place of the hedges: *To sit on the fence*. (ibid)
14. There idioms originated from the fruit and vegetable garden: *To play gooseberry*, *to upset the apple cart*. (ibid)

15. The idioms from the flower garden are not numerous: *A bed of roses, Under the rose* (1925: 205)
16. There are idioms connected with houses, buildings: *To bring home to, To show the door to, As safe as houses* (1925: 206)
17. Smith gives examples of phrases and idioms from cooking, kitchen utensils: *To put the lid on, To go to pot, to be in a stew* (1925:207)
18. Many figurative phrases come from food and eating: *To sell like hot cakes, You cannot make an omelette without breaking egg* (1925: 208)
19. “To carry over spilt milk,” is perhaps a phrase originating with the female thinkers of the kitchen, who have expressed much profound wisdom and observation in many kitchen proverbs: *Every pitchers have long ears* (Smith, 1925: 209)
20. The figurative phrases gained from the mill, the blacksmith’s shop, from handicrafts, and the use of various tools: *To put through the mill* (1925: 210), *As hard as nails* (1925: 211)
21. The old long-established sports have enriched the vocabulary. Card games have been played in England for many years. *To play fair, To go beyond the mark* (Smith, 1925: 213)
22. Arts - music, dancing, painting, theatre also provide idioms: *Not so black as he is painted, To blow one’s own trumpet, The dark side of the picture* (1925: 216)
23. Of the learned professions, the medicine has caused the following phrases: *A dose of his own medicine* (1925: 217), “*Up-to-date*” an originally bookkeeping term. (1925: 220).
24. “*Without rhyme or reason*”, “*to smell of the lamp*” are phrases which came into idiomatic expressions from schools or from writing and literary compositions. Geography and history play part in idiom, but the names of places and foreign nations appear as well: *All roads lead to Rome* (1925:221).
25. The phrase “*to save the mark*” (“from “God bless,” or “save the mark”) comes probably from an old formula for revealing an evil. “*A month’s mind*,” common in Ireland and in English dialects, meant originally the commemoration of a deceased person by saying masses a month after his death. (ibid)
26. “*To take for gospel*,” “*to give chapter and verse*,” are probably Protestant idioms; the curious phrasal verb “*to hold forth*” originated among the Nonconformists at the time of the Commonwealth, as a more or less used for preaching. (ibid)
27. The Devil or his euphemistic substitute plays an active and important part in idiomatic speech: *The Devil takes it, Apples of Sodom, A cloud of witness* (Smith, 1925:222)
28. The great influence on the English language of the English translations of the Bible has often been immense. Bible for centuries has been frequently quoted in England, so many idiomatic phrases, often the literal translations of Hebrew and Greek have been added to the

English language: *Egyptian darkness* (Smith, 1925:223) as well as idioms and sayings have been used from The Book of Common Prayer: *Pomps and vanity*(1925:227)

It has been seen how largely English figurative and idiomatic phrases of popular origin are drawn from the interests and occupations of humble life. The phrasemaking, like the word-making, faculty belongs pre-eminently to the unlettered classes, and English best idioms, come not from the library or the drawing room or the “gay parterre”, but from the workshop, the kitchen and the farm-yard. (Smith, 1925: 212)

Through intercultural relations and many translations of idioms, sayings, the English language has borrowed many idioms from various foreign language sources such as: “*To appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober,*” are from Greek history and legend. The “*unwritten law*” is a phrase of Salon’s; “*to hand on the torch,*” “*to sacrifice to the Graces*” and “*Platonic love*” are from Plato’s writings; “*to beg the question*” is from Aristotle, who quotes the Greek proverbs, “*One swallow does not make a summer,*” and “*There's many a sly twixt the cup and the lip.*” The following are from Aesop, or from other Greek fables: “*To blow hot and cold, to cry wolf too often,*” (Smith, 1925: 232).

The Spanish language, described as the language to make love in, owns lovers’ idioms, “to drink the airs” for someone (beber los aires); and a proposal of marriage *decir su dolor* - “to tell one’s woe?” Spanish is rich in idioms and images gained from Catholicism: its rites and symbols. “I am not very Catholic to-day,” is the Spanish equivalent for being “under the weather” (1925: 242).

The traits of national character can be observed in idiomatic expressions. Despite language element of humour and gnomic wisdom, a great part of English idioms could be described as “expressions of determination and vituperation”. They express the national character, found in “the exasperation and acrimony of English idiom a true representation of the spirit of a contentious race”, and the occasions and circumstances are used. “Language is the child of will, not of sensation, and has its origin, not in perception, not in the communication of intellectual concepts”, but in action, in the utterances which accompany human action, which are intended to stimulate social activity in human beings engaged in a common task. Idiom has characteristics of primitive speech. Its main object is not self-expression, but exhortation; the people in audience are more important than the speaker: “what they are to do, or to cease doing, how they are to act” and etc. (1925: 262).

II. IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

The idiom usage in the English literature has been researched by many linguists. Smith was among them (1925: 149 - 237). As in previous sections, there were prompts of the usage of idioms in literature and the origin of sayings. In this following part it is shown in particular sources.

Bradley writes, "*entered the texture of the diction of literature and daily conversation,*" and may now "*fairly be regarded as idioms of the English language.*" These expressions are familiar from Shakespeare's writings, according to Smith (1925) they are his invention; his plays are full of tags from popular speech; the phrase "*there's the rub*" comes from the game of bowls; the idiom, "*out of joint,*" has been found three hundred years before the date of Hamlet, and the phrase "*much ado,*" appears in Coverdale's translation of the Bible. But many phrases seem to bear the stamp of his invention, and few other writers have added idioms to the language, it is a proof, both of his linguistic genius and his popularity, that familiar locutions are derived from his plays. These quotations fused as idioms into colloquial speech. The phrase "*my better half*" ("Horace") is first found in Sidney's Arcadia, and from Milton come expressions like "*confusion worse confounded,*" and "*a dim religious light,*" which may be considered as hovering on the borderland among idiom and quotation. "*Vanity Fair,*" "*The Slough of Despond,*" "*The man with the muckrake,*" are from The Pilgrim's Progress. "*To steal someone's thunder,*" is said to have originated from a protest of the critic and dramatist John Dennis, who had invented for a play of his own a new kind of artificial thunder, which, was used for a performance of Macbeth (1925:229).

"*Sweetness and light*" is a phrase of Swift's made by Matthew Arnold and Browning's title *The Blot on the Scutcheon* was derived from Dryden's phrase, "*a blot on his escutcheon*", "*To fly off at a tangent,*" is found in Humphrey Clinker. "*Leather and prunella*" is from Pope's Essay on Man; "*the madding crowd*" from Gray's Elegy. "*To teach the young idea how to shoot*" is a line of Thom (1925:230) and the phrase "*to swim into one's ken,*" from the famous sonnet of Keats. The same may be said of the line, "*to make the punishment fit the crime,*" from Gilbert's Mikado. "*To be on the side of the angels*" is a saying made popular by Disraeli; "*to drop the pilot*" comes from a well-known cartoon in Punch; and during the late war, the phrase "*one's spiritual home*" became famous to all. "*Dead Sea fruit*" sounds like a phrase from the Bible, but firstly it was found as the title of a novel of Miss Brandon's. Save perhaps for a few phrases like "*on one's native heath*" from Rob Roy, "*to beard the lion in his den,*" from Marmion, Tennyson's "*rift within the lute,*" Emerson's "*man in the street,*" and "*hitch your wagon to a star,*" Stevenson's "*Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*" and Dickens's "*King Charles's*"

head,” and “in a *Pickwickian* sense,”. According to Smith (1925) it is difficult to find any of previously mentioned idioms derived from nineteenth-century writers.

Besides the oriental idioms from the Bible, the English language contains a large deposit of proverbs, gnomic phrases and figurative expressions which have been taken from classical times, and borrowed and adapted into the speech of those European nations which share in the common inheritance of Greek and Latin culture. “*The Golden Age*,” come from Greek mythology; and echoes from Homer are found in the following: *Homeric laughter*, *On the knees of the Penelope’s web*. “*Wait and see*” is a phrase which is found in Defoe, and was used by Dickens (1925: 232).

When the same idioms according to a linguist Smith (1925) both in French and English are found, it is not clear whether the English idioms are translated from the French or some of them have sprung up independently in each language. According to Smith (1925) it does not seem that the French should not have taken over many English idioms; but the German language has been the subject to the influence of English literature, and some phrases, which are current in both languages, may be borrowings from English: “*Not to be able to see the wood for the trees*”, “*To get wind of*” (1925: 237).

A variety of idioms were converted to colloquial speech. The taste of the eighteenth century condemned it, regarding idiomatic phrases as vulgarisms, and as offences against logic and human reason. Even Addison, while using idioms in his prose, warned poets against their use, and Dr. Johnson attempted to banish them from the English language, often defining them as “*low*” and “*ungrammatical*” in his Dictionary, and declaring that he had laboured to refine language to grammatical purity, and to clear it from colloquial barbarisms, immoral idioms, and irregular combinations. Landor states that every good writer uses many idioms because they are the life and spirit of a language (1925: 264).

Since the time of Dryden, the number of idioms in the English language has increased, and in the nineteenth century, great additions were made to vocabulary. The study of older literature restored not only words but also many old turns of phrase which had been half forgotten; and (1925: 274) the great body of Shakespearean expressions became a part of the tissue of language. Scott’s novels made us familiar with many Scottish phrases. The lexicography of the last century is made notable, besides, by the enormous increase of phrasal verbs which, in that period, have sprung to life (Smith, 1925: 275).

Idiom may be regarded as the sister of poetry, for “like poetry retranslates our concepts into living experiences, and breathes that atmosphere of animal sensation which keeps the poet in his flights. There is a smell in native earth, better than all the perfumes in the East”(Smith 1925:277); and idiom contains a deposit of metaphors and phrases from the popular life of

Europe, its idiomatic richness of the French literary language of the best French authors: Montaigne, La Fontaine, Moliere, and Mde. de Sevigne. Idiomatic debt in English to Shakespeare and the English Bible has already been suggested. Standard English has been enriched by popular phrases, expression or idioms from the conversations in Sir Walter Scott's novels (1925: 277).

It is possible to invent a new word, to write a line of poetry which will increase the number of English quotations, but to add a new idiom to the language seems to require powers possessed only by Shakespeare, and by thousands of illiterate men and women whose names will never be known. (Smith, 1925: 231)

III. MANIFESTATION OF VALUES IN IDIOMATIC STATEMENTS AND OTHER PECULIARITIES

Data of this study includes 330 selected idioms which reveal various values. They have been selected from English Idioms & Idiomatic Expressions Website²³ (English Idioms & Idiomatic Expressions <http://www.usingenglish.com/>). Accessed on 27 September 2009, 15.03), and later checked in dictionaries such as NTSC's English Idioms dictionary (1998), Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms (1993), Longman Idioms Dictionary (1998), Longman American Idioms Dictionary (1999) Anglų kalbos idiomos (2005) and others.

As it was mentioned above in the section "Linguistic aspects of idiomatic statements", according to the origin, the idioms of different values are divided into the following 10 sections and consequently the groups are compared. Conceptual metaphor theory (CTM) by George Lakoff and Mark Johnsen (2003)²⁴ was helpful to group idioms according to their image components. Andreas Langotz (2006)²⁵ also classifies and groups idioms according this theory. Grouping idioms according their compositional literal meaning (Langotz, 2006:169) have been tried as well. Additional explanations were found from dictionary of etymological knowledge and cultural symbols.

British National Corpus is also used to select the examples of sentences with the chosen idiomatic expressions from scientific, literary or colloquial language texts. All the examples are presented below. The definitions are provided only for the selected idioms from the list of 330 idioms according to their usage, recognition or identification and frequency in various types of texts.

In the course of time the English language has obtained a lot of grammatical structures, new words from the surrounding countries as it is known from the British nations' national history. While investigating them a lot of features have been disclosed.

As in the previous sections the grammatical and cultural peculiarities of the idiom usage were widely revealed. This part is devoted for the investigation of different values hidden in the English idioms. The values of idioms have been widely investigated in various types of scientific articles and books.

The following examples are given for your consideration:

²³ English Idioms & Idiomatic Expressions <http://www.usingenglish.com/reference/idioms/z.html>. Accessed on 27 September 2009, 15.03.

²⁴ George Lakoff and Mark Johnsen (2003) *Metaphors we live by*. London: The university of Chicago press.

²⁵ Langlotz, A., (2006) *Idiomatic Creativity*. Amsterdam:Jon Benjamins Publishing Company.

3.1. Idiomatic statements referring to good behaviour

A lot of idioms and expressions could be found in English language manifesting goodness as well as good actions or a good behaviour. Encyclopaedia of “Word and phrase Origins” helps to enclose the origins as well as their historical or linguistic values. Some of the idioms can be understood quite literally, but some are to be looked up in the dictionaries or other sources, where they are explained. More detailed explanations can be seen in the appendix IV, as it is a lack of space to explain everyone in this section.

1. Actions speak louder than words - This idiom means that what people actually do is more important than what they say - people can promise things but then fail to deliver. (EIIIE)²⁶ American president used this saying, but it dates back to the early 1700s.(Word and phrase Origins, 2008:8)²⁷

(1)E.g. *He added that he, unlike his opponents, did not apply for exemption from military service - actions speak louder than words. (ENC)*²⁸

2. Come to grips - *If you come to grips with a problem or issue, you face up to it and deal with it. (EIIIE)*

(2)E.g. *They believe that any newcomer would take months to come to grips with what has gone wrong at Ferranti and would as a consequence be worse placed to negotiate a rescue for the group. (ENC)*

3. Square the circle - When someone is squaring the circle, they are trying to do something impossible. (EIIIE) It is mathematically impossible to square the circle, as mathematicians discovered centuries ago. Therefore, just as long ago, people began to use the expression figuratively to describe someone undertaking any futile, impossible task.” (Hendrickson 2008: 786)

(3)E.g. (...) *and party men saw it too; hence the contentiousness of the various schemes to square the circle by fusing the two coalition partners into one organization. (ENC)*

(4)E.g. *Politicians of all persuasions entertain the hope that their brand of constitutional reconstruction can set things right so enabling the state to recover, square the circle, and create the conditions for both economic growth and social cohesion. (ENC)*

4. As you sow, so shall you reap

32. Hail-fellow-well-met

5. Bear fruit

33. Heap coals on someone's head

6. Beat swords into ploughshares

34. Hit the bull's-eye

7. Bless your pointy little head

35. Hold the baby

²⁶ English Idioms & Idiomatic Expressions <<http://www.usingenglish.com/reference/idioms/z.html>>. Accessed on 27 September 2009, 15.03.

²⁷ The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins, 2008. Hendrickson, R. Facts On File, New York

²⁸ Examples are given from English National Corpus <http://www.natcorp.ox.ac.uk/>[Accessed 06, May 2010].

- | | |
|---|---|
| 8. <i>Blood is worth bottling</i> | 36. <i>Hold the bag</i> |
| 9. <i>Bouquet of orchids</i> | 37. <i>Hold the fort</i> |
| 10. <i>Breadwinner</i> | 38. <i>Juggle frogs</i> |
| 11. <i>Break the back of the beast</i> | 39. <i>Keep your nose to the grindstone</i> |
| 12. <i>Breathe life into</i> | 40. <i>Knight in shining armour</i> |
| 13. <i>Come up trumps</i> | 41. <i>Labour of love</i> |
| 14. <i>Cut the Gordian knot</i> | 42. <i>Many hands make light work</i> |
| 15. <i>Dead level best</i> | 43. <i>No good deed goes unpunished</i> |
| 16. <i>Dot all the it's and cross all the</i> | 44. <i>One good turn deserves another</i> |
| 17. <i>Drop a dime</i> | 45. <i>Pastoral care</i> |
| 18. <i>From the bottom of your heart</i> | 46. <i>Rice missionary</i> |
| 19. <i>Get the ball rolling</i> | 47. <i>Save someone's bacon</i> |
| 20. <i>Get the show on the road</i> | 48. <i>Serve your country</i> |
| 21. <i>Get to grips</i> | 49. <i>Sow the seeds</i> |
| 22. <i>Get your ducks in a row</i> | 50. <i>Sweat blood</i> |
| 23. <i>Give me a hand</i> | 51. <i>Take someone under your wing</i> |
| 24. <i>Give someone a leg up</i> | 52. <i>Take the heat</i> |
| 25. <i>Go the distance</i> | 53. <i>The common weal</i> |
| 26. <i>Go the extra mile</i> | 54. <i>Through thick and thin</i> |
| 27. <i>Go to the wire</i> | 55. <i>Throw someone a line</i> |
| 28. <i>Good Samaritan</i> | 56. <i>Turn water into wine</i> |
| 29. <i>Grasp the nettle</i> | 57. <i>Work your socks off</i> |
| 30. <i>Get your teeth into</i> | 58. <i>Work your tail off</i> |
| 31. <i>Good as gold</i> | |

3.2. Use of idiomatic expressions related to female activities

All the humanity can be divided into male and female human beings. During the centuries the attitude towards the woman, her behaviour, duties have changed, and the psychologists provide lots of explanations and scientific evidences of gender differentiation psychologically. Also the explanations of various sources, which were investigated during the collection of the idioms, reveal the historical evidence how in different centuries women were treated as well as their everyday life, their activities and etc.

- 1. Glass ceiling** - The glass ceiling is the discrimination that prevents women and minorities from getting promoted to the highest levels of companies and organisations. (EIIIIE)

(5)E.g. *On January 14th the unlikely figure of Bob Dole, the Senate Republican leader, took time off from the Gulf to call for a statutory commission to find out why women have not broken through the “glass ceiling” that keeps them from top management jobs. (ENC)*

(6)E.g. *The administration’s left hand may continue to fight it as a quota measure, while its right comes close to endorsing quotas to break the glass ceiling. (ENC)*

2. Hand that rocks the cradle - Women have a great power and influence because they have the greatest influence over the development of children- the hand that rocks the cradle. (EIIE)

(7)E.g. *And the film released earlier this year, The Hand That Rocks The Cradle, about a nanny who infiltrates a family threatening to harm the couple's child, preys on a mother's worst fear. (ENC)*

(8)E.g. *I know that the hand that rocks the cradle is supposed to be steady 24 hours a day, but that does not always hold. (ENC)*

3. Scarlet woman - This idiom is used as a pejorative term for a sexually promiscuous woman, especially an adulterous. (EIIE) It can be also found in the Bible: “woman in scarlet <...>” (Rev. 17:4)

(9)E.g. *What I really wrote to tell you is that the Ballet Club Committee says that the Scarlet Woman must be changed - so please do two new designs for me to choose from - and help me! (ENC)*

(10)E.g. *Soldiers, returning wearily from war, reach a village where they are warmly welcomed by maidens, and their leader succumbs to the charms of the Scarlet Woman. (ENC)*

4. *Agony aunt*

5. *All my eye and Peggy Martin*

6. *Always a bridesmaid, never a bride*

7. *As the actress said to the bishop*

8. *Be up the spout*

9. *Big girl’s blouse*

10. *Bun in the oven*

11. *Dutch wife*

12. *Girl Friday*

13. *Going Jesse*

14. *Grass widow*

15. *In the club*

16. *In the family way*

17. *It ain’t over till the fat lady sings*

18. *Jane Doe*

19. *Keep mum*

20. *Like a fish needs a bicycle*

21. *Nervous Nellie*

22. *Painted Jezebel*

23. *Plain Jane*

24. *Scarlet woman*

25. *Up the duff*

26. *Up the stick*

27. *Wallflower*

3.2.1. Use of idiomatic expressions related to women activities. Names

Among the valuable cultural inheritance are the names. They can symbolise something, they can reveal the historical facts or they are to show the main characters of well known literary works. Investigation of names can lead to the origin of the English people. Research of idioms containing names can give us more connotations, because the idioms cannot be understood literary. These idioms can be regarded as opaque (Langlotz, 2006:169)

1. Jane Doe - Jane Doe is a name given to an unidentified female who may be party to legal proceedings, or to an unidentified person in hospital, or dead. (EIIIE)

(11)E.g. *The signature at the bottom, clinched it: Jane Doe - which is a synonym for The-Woman-in-the-Street.* (ENC)

2. Agony aunt

6. Nervous Nellie

3. All my eye and Peggy Martin

7. Painted Jezebel

4. Girl Friday

8. Plain Jane

5. Going Jesse

9. Yesterday's woman

3.2.2. Use of idiomatic expressions related to women activities, features

Idioms can also reveal the main activities and the common features of women in their daily routine and everyday life. The fact that those activities can be disclosed from the given idioms may reveal what was common in the historical society and nowadays, because the idioms are still formed and used widely.

1. Up the stick - (UK) If a woman is up the stick, she's pregnant. (EIIIE)

(14)E.g. *She picked up the stick and hurled it, skimming it low over the shallow pools left by the tide.* (ENC)

(15)E.g. *Instantly 20 soldiers buried their massively muscled pincers in my stick, possibly never to let go, while dozens more swarmed up the stick causing me to let go with alacrity.* (ENC)

2. Wallflower - (UK) A woman politician given an unimportant government position so that the government can pretend it takes women seriously is a wallflower (EIIIE)

(16) E.g. *I felt very much the wallflower as I crept out of the room without speaking to anyone, my books held tightly against my chest in a way which, I was to learn, was feminine and wrong for a man.* (ENC)

(17)E.g. *Anyway, I would have thought Souness is the wrong person to go round criticising physical play - he was hardly a wallflower as a player.* (ENC)

3. Be up the spout

10. Jane Doe

4. *Bun in the oven.*

5. *Girl Friday*

6. *Grass widow*

7. *Hand that rocks the cradle*

8. *In the club*

9. *In the family way*

11. *Like a fish needs a bicycle*

12. *Painted Jezebel*

13. *Plain Jane*

14. *Scarlet woman*

15. *Up the duff*

3.2.3. Use of idiomatic expressions related to women activities. Things, phenomena

The natural environment of dwellings is unthinkable without things, and phenomena which happens or exists around them or inside the human mind. This group contains idioms with the concept of things, as they have the same meaning.

1. *Dutch wife* - A Dutch wife is a long pillow or a hot water bottle. (EIIE) “Dutch wife - the pillow of an Englishman in the tropics who takes no native mistress; or a framework used in beds to support the legs.” (Hendrickson, 2008: 267) This idiom consists of two words, one of them is “wife”, another is “Dutch” , and this word is used in many English idioms having humorous meaning, because the Englishmen did not like the newcomers and invaders, nevertheless a lot of Dutch words and expressions are in the English language nowadays. This idiom was chosen to illustrate it, as it is vivid the relation of Englishmen with women and newcomers.

(18)E.g. *He was entertained by the Viceroy whose press officer reported the lunch with Sjahrir and 'his buxom, blonde Dutch wife: "Sjahrir must be the smallest statesman since Dolfuss, the Austrian pocket premier." (ENC)*

2. *All my eye and Peggy Martin*

3. *As the actress said to the bishop*

4. *Glass ceiling*

5. *Going Jesse*

6. *It ain't over till the fat lady sings*

7. *Yesterday's woman*

8. *Keep mum*

9. *Like a fish needs a bicycle*

10. *Nervous Nellie*

11. *Wallflower*

The investigation results are shown in the **Figure 1** below:

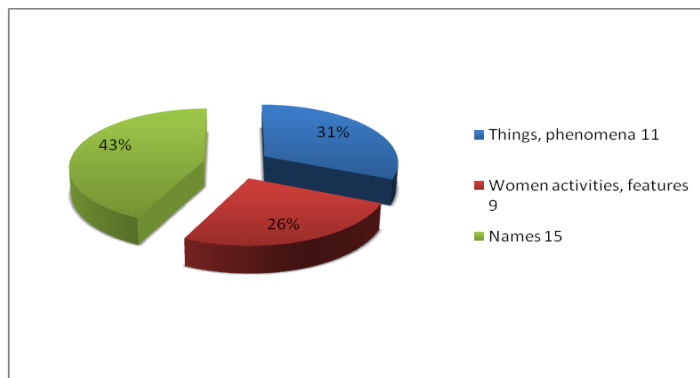


Figure No. 1. Use of idiomatic expressions related to female activities.

Figure 1 demonstrates the results of investigation of the use of idiomatic expressions related to female activities. The majority of examples were of idioms where women's activities and features were 15 or 43%. The idioms of things and phenomena were picked adequately 11, or 31 %. Less frequently were found the examples of idioms with the names, as it is apparent in a given figure 1, there were 9 occasions or 26%.

3. 3. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities

Investigated idioms reveal the various aspects of man's life in the past and nowadays. There could be seen more good or sympathetic characters, or the idioms which could be used to describe both genders. Also it can be seen as a strong and dominating gender if to investigate the idioms originated in previous centuries.

1. Any Tom, Dick or Harry - If something could be done by any Tom, Dick or Harry, it could be done by absolutely anyone. (EIIE)

(19)E.g. *Never mind about A area, in B area it was plain to any Tom, Dick or Harry.* (ENC)

(20)E.g. *I don't let any Tom, Dick or Harry save my life.* (ENC)

2. Jobs for the boys - Where people give jobs, contracts, etc, to their friends and associates, these are jobs for the boys(EIIE)

(21)E.g. *<...> if it's doing so well, oh and you wouldn't have been on that long under a Labour Government, of course, it would've been jobs for the boys, they'd've slipped you in I'm sure.* (ENC)

(22)E.g. *Councillor John Murphy told The Scotsman last week that he had proof to back up "jobs for the boys" claims in Monklands.* (ENC)

3. Prodigal son - A prodigal son is a young man who wastes a lot on money on a lavish lifestyle.

If the prodigal son returns, they return to a better way of living. (EIIE) „When the Prodigal Son returns home in the biblical story (Luke 15:23) his father prepares a great feast for him

saying: “Bring hither the fatted calf and kill it.” The story gives us the old expression to kill the fatted calf, to make a sumptuous feast to welcome someone“(Hendrickson, 2008:475)

(23) *E.g. Some theologians have suggested that the essence of the gospel is nothing more than forgiveness as it is enshrined in the story of the prodigal Son. (ENC)*

(24) *E.g. Alan Rough was born and bred in the Gorbals in Glasgow and had his upbringing in a closely knit family that supported the prodigal son from Ballater Street Primary School, to Partick Thistle Amateurs and ultimately to the Scottish International team. (ENC)*

- | | |
|--|---|
| 4. <i>All talk and no trousers.</i> | 35. <i>Man of letters</i> |
| 5. <i>Apron strings</i> | 36. <i>Man of means</i> |
| 6. <i>Before you can say Jack Robinson</i> | 37. <i>Man of parts</i> |
| 7. <i>Bob's your uncle</i> | 38. <i>Man of straw</i> |
| 8. <i>Cock in the henhouse</i> | 39. <i>Man of the cloth</i> |
| 9. <i>Cock of the walk</i> | 40. <i>Man on the Clapham omnibus</i> |
| 10. <i>Doubting Thomas</i> | 41. <i>Man proposes, God disposes</i> |
| 11. <i>Dutch uncle</i> | 42. <i>Man upstairs</i> |
| 12. <i>Every man and his dog</i> | 43. <i>Man's best friend</i> |
| 13. <i>Every man for himself</i> | 44. <i>Man's man</i> |
| 14. <i>Every man has his price</i> | 45. <i>Mummy's boy</i> |
| 15. <i>Every man jack</i> | 46. <i>New man</i> |
| 16. <i>Every Tom, Dick and Harry</i> | 47. <i>New sheriff in town</i> |
| 17. <i>Everybody and their uncle</i> | 48. <i>One-man band</i> |
| 18. <i>For Pete's sake</i> | 49. <i>Patience of Job</i> |
| 19. <i>Fortune knocks once at every man's door</i> | 50. <i>Peeping Tom</i> |
| 20. <i>Grease monkey</i> | 51. <i>Prince charming</i> |
| 21. <i>In like Flynn</i> | 52. <i>Renaissance man</i> |
| 22. <i>Is Saul also among the prophets?</i> | 53. <i>Rip van Winkle</i> |
| 23. <i>Jack Frost</i> | 54. <i>Smart Alec</i> |
| 24. <i>Jack the Lad</i> | 55. <i>The Mountie always gets his man</i> |
| 25. <i>Jack-of-all-trades</i> | 56. <i>To a man</i> |
| 26. <i>Jersey justice</i> | 57. <i>To a T</i> |
| 27. <i>John Doe</i> | 58. <i>Uncle Sam</i> |
| 28. <i>John Q Public</i> | 59. <i>Who wears the pants?</i> |
| 29. <i>Johnny on the spot</i> | 60. <i>Who wears the trousers?</i> |
| 30. <i>Johnny-come-lately</i> | 61. <i>Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free</i> |
| 31. <i>Jumping Judas!</i> | |

32. *Man Friday*

33. *Man in the street*

34. *Man of his word*

62. *Yes-man*

63. *Yesterday's man or Yesterday's woman*

3. 3. 1. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities. Names

The same features as in women idioms containing section can be seen, but this group reveals more idioms, and this fact discloses that idioms with men names were more numerous among the idioms containing names.

1. *In like Flynn* - Refers to Errol Flynn's popularity with women in the 4's. His ability to attract women was well known throughout the world. ("In like flint" is also used.) (EIIE)

(25) *E.g. Acquittals on both occasions added to his screen reputation as a charming rogue and the phrase "in like Flynn" became popular among servicemen boasting of the pleasure they had had and given in their latest sexual conquests. (ENC)*

2. *Smart Alec* - A smart Alec is a conceited person who likes to show off how clever and knowledgeable they are.(EIIE)

(26) *E.g. A suited smart alec, riding shotgun on rugby union's suddenly careering shamateur bandwagon, this week told a group of British international players that they should soon be able to charge £1,500 for a solitary interview. (ENC)*

(27) *E.g. Merton here really plays up his loutish commoner pose: the gloomy tabloid man, violently opposed to Hislop's irritating broadsheet smart alec. (ENC)*

3. *Jekyll and Hyde* - Someone who has a Jekyll and Hyde personality has a pleasant and a very unpleasant side to the character. (EIIE) "This idiom comes from R.L. Stevenson's book "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" in which Dr. Jekyll finds a drug that changes him into a person called Mr. Hyde, who has all of Dr. Jekyll's most evil qualities."(Summers 1999:173)

(12)*E.g. He was Jekyll and Hyde to himself, swallowing the compounds and mixtures of his own fantasies and terrors and watching what happened. (ENC)*

(13)*E.g. Lonely: The spiritual isolation of the disease is lonely enough but adds to this the "Jekyll and Hyde" behaviour (depending upon whether or not a drink or drug has been taken that day) causing untold damage to family and other relationships and the loneliness becomes intense. (ENC)*

4. *Any Tom, Dick or Harry*

5. *Before you can say Jack Robinson*

6. *Bob's your uncle*

15. *Jersey justice*

16. *John Doe*

17. *John Q Public*

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 7. <i>Doubting Thomas</i> | 18. <i>Johnny on the spot</i> |
| 8. <i>Dutch uncle</i> | 19. <i>Johnny-come-lately</i> |
| 9. <i>Every man jack</i> | 20. <i>Jumping Judas!</i> |
| 10. <i>Every Tom, Dick and Harry</i> | 21. <i>Man Friday</i> |
| 11. <i>For Pete's sake</i> | 22. <i>Patience of Job</i> |
| 12. <i>Is Saul also among the prophets?</i> | 23. <i>Peeping Tom</i> |
| 13. <i>Jack Frost</i> | 24. <i>Rip van Winkle</i> |
| 14. <i>Jack the Lad</i> | 25. <i>Uncle Sam</i> |

3. 3. 2. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities

The sphere of the activities can be seen from the investigation of the idioms with the men activity connotation: what activities they were engaged in, their daily jobs, entertainment facts and etc.

1. Apron strings - A man who is tied to a woman's apron strings is excessively dependent on her, especially when it is his mother's apron strings. (EIIE)

(28)E.g. *In the end she proved, and many women police officers are proving, that it is now the men who are holding on to their apron strings.* (ENC)

(29)E.g. *Despite her indulgence of him, she had kept him very much tied to her apron strings and had had great difficulty in relinquishing him to a wife.* (ENC)

2. Jack the Lad - A confident and not very serious young man who behaves as he wants to without thinking about other people is a Jack the Lad. (EIIE)

(30)E.g. *Jenny's Jack the Lad is addressed by her as "my lad", and she firmly refuses to rush into bed with him.* (ENC)

(31)E.g. *The singer Steve Mariner was a bloke in the choir with a really high voice who thought he was Jack The Lad.* (ENC)

3. Prince charming - A prince charming is the perfect man in a woman's life. (EIIE)

(32)E.g. *As shadows start to threaten and corpses pile up, she wonders whether her Prince Charming is really the big bad wolf.* (ENC)

(33)E.g. *And four or five years later another card arrived, from San Diego, saying she was married and blissfully happy, that she had found her Prince Charming and life was great.* (ENC)

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4. <i>Cock in the henhouse</i> | 10. <i>Man's man</i> |
| 5. <i>Cock of the walk</i> | 11. <i>Mummy's boy</i> |
| 6. <i>In like Flynn</i> | 12. <i>New man</i> |
| 7. <i>Jobs for the boys</i> | 13. <i>Prodigal son</i> |

8. *John Doe*

9. *Man Friday*

14. *Rip van Winkle*

15. *Why buy the cow when you can
get the milk for free*

4. 3. 3. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities. Things, phenomena

During the investigation of idioms related to male activities, it occurred that there are a lot of connotations or words related with phenomena or simply the names of things used in the men's daily routine.

1. *Every man has his price* – Anyone's opinion or support can be bought; everyone's principles have a limit. (EIIIE) "Some cynic other than Sir Robert Walpole coined this phrase. The British prime minister said something entirely different and referred only to corrupt members of Parliament, according to William Coxe in his *Memoirs of Sir Robert Walpole* (1798). Wrote Coxe of Sir Robert: "Flowery oratory he despised. He ascribed to the interested view of themselves or their relatives the declarations of pretended patriots, of whom he said, "All those men have their price. " " (Hendrickson, 2008: 288)

(34) *E.g. Common sense and what little knowledge of history I have tells me that every man has his price.* (ENC)

(35) *E.g. BTW, if there are cameras...how about flogging the tape to Jez beadle (every man has his price, and mines a grand to publicly humiliate old thunder boots)* (ENC)

2. *To a T* - If something is done to a T, it is done perfectly. (EIIIE) "**Suits you to a "T."** Most dictionaries attribute the expression to the accuracy of the draftsman's T-square, but this is impossible, according to the *O.E.D.* - for the phrase was around many years before the T-square got its name. The expression has been used to indicate exactness or perfection since at least the early 17th century and is probably an abbreviation of the older expression, *to a tittle*. *Tittle* or *titil* was the English name for small strokes or points made in writing the letters of the alphabet, a corruption of the word seen today in the Spanish *tilde*. Thus *to a tittle* meant to a dot, precisely, and was used this way more than a century before someone shortened it to *to a T*." (2008: 801)

(36) *E.g. Howey has got it off to a T: so far, she has thrown many of her top opponents with it, including Emanuella Pierantozzi, the Italian world title-holder, who only just managed to twist out and avoid a score in the last world championships.* (ENC)

(37)E.g. *I've called it R P to distinguish it from Spearman's which we're gonna do next week, but you can convert the value of R to a T score and if you've got a T score you can look it up in T tables to work out whether it's significant. (ENC)*

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 3. <i>Any Tom, Dick or Harry.</i> | 14. <i>Jack Frost</i> |
| 4. <i>Before you can say Jack Robinson</i> | 15. <i>Jersey justice</i> |
| 5. <i>Bob's your uncle</i> | 16. <i>Jobs for the boys</i> |
| 6. <i>Every man and his dog</i> | 17. <i>Johnny on the spot</i> |
| 7. <i>Every man for himself</i> | 18. <i>Jumping Judas!</i> |
| 8. <i>Every man jack</i> | 19. <i>Man of means</i> |
| 9. <i>Every Tom, Dick and Harry</i> | 20. <i>Man proposes, God disposes</i> |
| 10. <i>Everybody and their uncle</i> | 21. <i>Man's best friend</i> |
| 11. <i>For Pete's sake</i> | 22. <i>New sheriff in town</i> |
| 12. <i>Fortune knocks once at every man's door</i> | 23. <i>One-man band</i> |
| 13. <i>Is Saul also among the prophets?</i> | 24. <i>Patience of Job</i> |
| | 25. <i>To a man</i> |
| | 26. <i>Uncle Sam</i> |

The investigation results are shown in the **Figure 2** below:

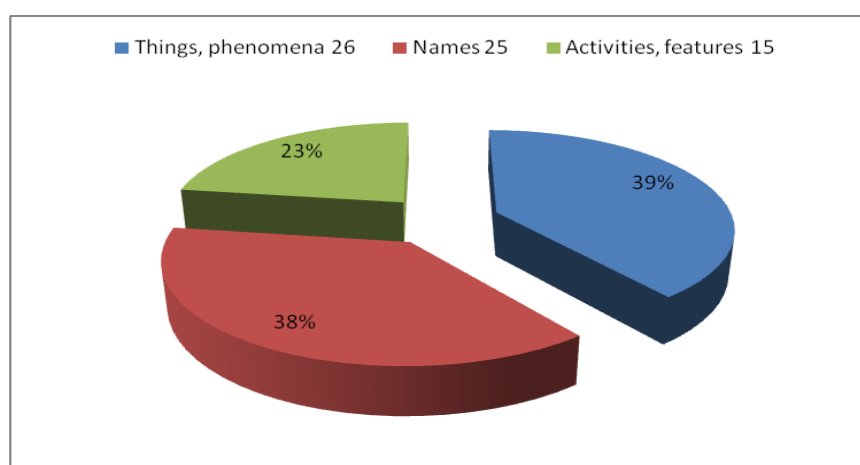


Figure No. 2. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities.

Figure 2 discloses the results of investigation of the use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities. The majority of examples were of idioms of things and phenomena: 26 or 39%. 25 idioms with the names have been picked or adequately it is 38 %. Less frequently the examples where of men activities and features were found, as it is apparent in a given figure 2, there were 15 occasions or 23%.

3.4. Idioms referring to human beings ignoring sex

Grouping idioms under this subheading was performed in order to investigate those sayings and to know the number of idioms from the selected examples which can fall into this group.

1. **As the actress said to the bishop** - (UK) This idiom is used to highlight a sexual reference, deliberate or accidental. (EIIIE) “An innuendo scabrously added to an entirely innocent remark, as in “It’s too stiff for me to manage it-as the actress said to the bishop” or, conversely, “I can’t see what I’m doing - as the bishop said to the actress”. Certainly in RAF use c. 1944–7, but prob. going back to Edwardian days; only very slightly ob. by 1975, it is likely to outlive most of us. (Partridge, 1986: 31)
2. **Man of letters** - A man of letters is someone who is an expert in the arts and literature, and often a writer too. (EIIIE) “First attested in English in 1645, *man of letter* may come from the French *homme de lettres*. Originally the term meant “a scholar, a man of learning,” but today it is mostly applied to authors, critics, or literary scholars“(2008: 536)
(38)E.g. *Obviously the other side of the gap had to be blocked in, and to represent the 1840s the choice fell on Timofey Granovsky, in his time a renowned liberal professor and public speaker, and to a lesser extent a man of letters.* (ENC)
(39)E.g. *Kermode is referring to the demise of the man of letters, or the “bookman” as he became known in late-Victorian England and his replacement by the professionalized university critic.* (ENC)
3. **Man of the cloth** - A man of the cloth is a priest. (EIIIE) “It wasn’t until the 17th century that *man of the cloth* was applied to a clergyman of any faith. Until then the term had meant anyone wearing any uniform in his work“(2008: 537)
(40)E.g. *A job centre is praying for help from a higher power...after being asked to find work for a man of the cloth.* (ENC)
(41)E.g. *Steve Parcell might look like any other vicar but to the Gloucesters he’s Captain Parcell and a man of the cloth.* (ENC)
4. **Nervous Nellie** - Someone excessively worried or apprehensive is a nervous Nellie (or Nelly). (EIIIE) “An unduly timid or anxious person, as in He’s a real nervous Nellie, calling the doctor about every little symptom. This term does not allude to a particular person named Nellie; rather, the name was probably chosen for the sake of alliteration. (Ammer, 1992: 703)
5. **Renaissance man** - A Renaissance man is a person who is talented in a number of different areas, especially when their talents include both the sciences and the arts. (EIIIE) “He is an intelligent and well-educated man who knows a lot about many different subjects. He’s a poet, astronomer, and musician - an all-round Renaissance man.”(IDI, 2002:323)

(42)E.g. *The computerized drumbeats were overlaid with real instruments - all, incidentally, played by Omar, a regular soul renaissance man also blessed with a singular singing voice.*
(ENC)

(43)E.g. *Many just call him a Renaissance Man, or the man famous for his loud suits.* (ENC)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <i>Agony aunt</i> | 18. <i>Johnny-come-lately</i> |
| 2. <i>All my eye and Peggy Martin</i> | 19. <i>Man Friday</i> |
| 3. <i>All talk and no trousers</i> | 20. <i>Man in the street</i> |
| 4. <i>Always a bridesmaid, never a bride</i> | 21. <i>Man of his word</i> |
| 5. <i>Any Tom, Dick or Harry</i> | 22. <i>Man of means</i> |
| 6. <i>Big girl's blouse</i> | 23. <i>Man of parts</i> |
| 7. <i>Doubting Thomas</i> | 24. <i>Man of straw</i> |
| 8. <i>Dutch uncle</i> | 25. <i>Man on the Clapham omnibus</i> |
| 9. <i>Fortune knocks once at every man's door</i> | 26. <i>One-man band</i> |
| 10. <i>Girl Friday</i> | 27. <i>Peeping Tom</i> |
| 11. <i>Glass ceiling</i> | 28. <i>Prodigal son</i> |
| 12. <i>Grease monkey</i> | 29. <i>Smart Alec</i> |
| 13. <i>Is Saul also among the prophets?</i> | 30. <i>The Mountie always gets his man</i> |
| 14. <i>Jack-of-all-trades</i> | 31. <i>Uncle Sam</i> |
| 15. <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i> | 32. <i>Who wears the pants?</i> |
| 16. <i>John Q Public</i> | 33. <i>Who wears the trousers?</i> |
| 17. <i>Johnny on the spot</i> | 34. <i>Yes-man</i> |
| | 35. <i>Yesterday's man or Yesterday's woman</i> |

The investigation results are shown in the **Figure No. 3** below:

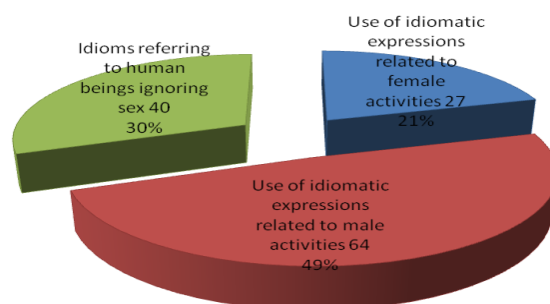


Figure No. 3. Use of idioms referring to human beings.

Figure 3 demonstrates the results of investigation of the use of idiomatic expressions referring to human beings. The majority of examples were of idioms related to male activities: 64

or adequately 49%. 40 idioms referring to human beings have been picked and accordingly it is 30%. The examples of idiomatic expressions related to female activities were found less frequently as it is apparent in a given figure 3; there were 27 occasions or 21%.

3.5. Use of idiomatic statements related to spiritual development

The numerous amounts of idioms with connotation *spiritual development* reveal the fact that this sphere in the life of Englishmen was quite dominating.

1. *A little learning is a dangerous thing* - A small amount of knowledge can cause people to think they are more expert than they really are. E.g. He said he'd done a course on home electrics, but when he tried to mend my table lamp, he fused all the lights! I think a little learning is a dangerous thing. (EIIE) "Partial or superficial knowledge, information, leads to more serious errors than complete ignorance."(2009:359)

(44)E.g. *A little learning is a dangerous thing - but great wisdom comes with much learning.*
(ENC)

2. *Baptism of fire* - A baptism of fire was a soldier's first experience of shooting. Any unpleasant experience undergone, usually where it is also a learning experience is a baptism of fire. (EIIE) "A first experience of something, usually something difficult or unpleasant."(1993:21)

(45)E.g. *This week the hearing reached a milestone with the first session of full cross-examination - a baptism of fire for the Department of Energy, which surprised everyone by agreeing to be interrogated on the full gamut of Whitehall's current thinking on energy policy.* (ENC)

3. *Nose in the air* - If someone has their nose in the air, they behave in a way that is meant to show that they are superior to others. (EIIE) Or to be conceited or aloof (Spears, 2000: 297)

(46)E.g. *She gave the mother cat a final pat, sighed, put her nose in the air, and followed Thérèse out of the stable.* (ENC)

(47)E.g. *With quite a difficult job, I said this is a I said your mother is living in a fantasy world, of course, I see the stupid bitch prancing around Stowmarket with her silly nose in the air!*
(ENC)

4. *Sell your soul* - If someone sells their soul, they betray the most precious beliefs. (EIIE)

(48)E.g. *Just thought you ought to know before you sell your soul; you can't get it back.* (ENC)

(49)E.g. *But you can't sell your soul without a hefty penalty and for eternal youth read everlasting life as every bump and scratch sees the women crack up like second-hand cars.*
(ENC)

5. *A rolling stone gathers no moss*
6. *Still tongue keeps a wise head*
7. *A Absence makes the heart grow fonder*
8. *All that glitters is not gold*
9. *Armchair critic*
10. *Be careful what you wish for*
11. *Beauty is only skin deep*
12. *Bite your tongue*
13. *Bleeding heart*
14. *Blow the cobwebs away*
15. *Blow your own horn*
16. *Blow your own trumpet*
17. *Bright as a button*
18. *By heart*
19. *Call the dogs off*
20. *Change of heart*
21. *Chew on a bone*
22. *Chew the cud*
23. *Come out of your shell*
24. *Cool as a cat*
25. *Curiosity killed the cat*
26. *Cut down the tall poppies*
27. *Deep pockets but short arms*
28. *Derring-do*
29. *Devil finds work for idle hands*
30. *Discretion is the better part of valour*
31. *Do as you would be done by*
32. *Dog eat dog*
33. *Don't sweat the small stuff*
34. *Don't throw bricks when you live in a
glass house*
35. *Don't trouble trouble until trouble
troubles you*
36. *Don't wash your dirty laundry in public*
37. *Ducks in a row*
90. *Memory like a sieve*
91. *Memory like an elephant*
92. *Mind over matter*
93. *Mind your P's and Q's*
94. *Monkey see, monkey do*
95. *More haste, less speed*
96. *Nerves of steel*
97. *No spine*
98. *No time like the present*
99. *Nothing ventured, nothing gained*
100. *Off the rails*
101. *Once bitten, twice shy*
102. *Parrot fashion*
103. *Pass the time of day*
104. *Pen is mightier than the sword*
105. *Penny pincher*
106. *People who live in glass houses should
not throw stones*
107. *Pour oil on troubled waters*
108. *Presence of mind*
109. *Put your best foot forward*
110. *Put your hand on your heart*
111. *Put your money where your mouth is*
112. *Put your shoulder to the wheel*
113. *Put yourself in someone's shoes*
114. *Pyrrhic victory*
115. *Real trouper*
116. *Rest on your laurels*
117. *Rise from the ashes*
118. *Road to Damascus*
119. *Rome was not built in a day*
120. *Rough diamond*
121. *Run circles around someone*
122. *Safe pair of hands*
123. *Saying is one thing; doing is another*

38. *Early bird catches the worm*
39. *Fine words butter no parsnips*
40. *Fool me once, shame on you; fool me
twice, shame on me*
41. *Get a grip*
42. *Get a handle on*
43. *Have a heart*
44. *He that travels far knows much*
45. *Get your head around something*
46. *He who hesitates is lost*
47. *Head is in the clouds*
48. *Headstrong*
49. *Heart of glass*
50. *Heart of gold*
51. *Heart of steel*
52. *Hit the books*
53. *Hold your tongue*
54. *Idle hands are the devil's handiwork*
55. *If wishes were horses, beggars would ride*
56. *If you fly with the crows, you get shot with
the crows*
57. *If you lie down with dogs, you will get up
with fleas*
58. *If you lie down with the Devil, you will
wake up in hell*
59. *If you'll pardon my French*
60. *In all honesty*
61. *In the swim Jog my memory Keep abreast*
62. *Keep it under your hat*
63. *Keep your chin up*
64. *Keep your cool*
65. *Keep your ear to the ground*
66. *Keep your hair on*
67. *Keep your head*
68. *Keep your pecker up*
124. *Scales fall from your eyes*
125. *Sea legs*
126. *Second wind*
127. *See the light*
128. *Seeing is believing*
129. *Separate the sheep from the goats*
130. *Separate the wheat from the chaff*
131. *Show your true colours*
132. *Shrinking violet*
133. *Silence is golden*
134. *Slowly, slowly catchy monkey*
135. *Smell a rat*
136. *Sound as a pound*
137. *Stew in your own juices*
138. *Stick your neck out*
139. *Stick-in-the-mud*
140. *Stiff upper lip*
141. *Still waters run deep*
142. *Straight face*
143. *Strain every nerve*
144. *Strike while the iron is hot*
145. *Stubborn as a mule*
146. *Take the rough with the smooth*
147. *Take your hat off to somebody*
148. *Teach your grandmother to suck eggs*
149. *Tell them where the dog died*
150. *Tempt providence*
151. *The apple does not fall far from the tree*
152. *The bigger they are, the harder they fall*
153. *Thick-skinned*
154. *Thin line*
155. *Thin-skinned*
156. *Think outside the box*
157. *Third time's the charm*
158. *Tidy desk, tidy mind*

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| 69. <i>Keep your shirt on!</i> | 159. <i>Time and tide wait for no man</i> |
| 70. <i>Keep your wig on!</i> | 160. <i>To a fault</i> |
| 71. <i>Know which side one's bread is buttered on</i> | 161. <i>To err is human, to forgive divine</i> |
| 72. <i>Know which way the wind blows</i> | 162. <i>To have the courage of your convictions</i> |
| 73. <i>Know your onions</i> | 163. <i>Turn a new leaf</i> |
| 74. <i>Laughter is the best medicine</i> | 164. <i>Turn the other cheek</i> |
| 75. <i>Learn the ropes</i> | 165. <i>Two-edged sword</i> |
| 76. <i>Leopard can't change its spots</i> | 166. <i>Ugly duckling</i> |
| 77. <i>Let the chips fall where they may</i> | 167. <i>Vicar of Bray</i> |
| 78. <i>Let your hair down</i> | 168. <i>Walk a mile in my shoes</i> |
| 79. <i>Like the back of your hand</i> | 169. <i>Walking encyclopaedia</i> |
| 80. <i>Lily-livered</i> | 170. <i>White feather</i> |
| 81. <i>Lock the stable door after the horse has bolted</i> | 171. <i>Wood for the trees</i> |
| 82. <i>Look before you leap</i> | 172. <i>Yellow streak</i> |
| 83. <i>Look on the bright side</i> | 173. <i>Yellow-bellied</i> |
| 84. <i>Loose lips sink ships</i> | 174. <i>You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink</i> |
| 85. <i>Lose the plot</i> | 175. <i>You can't unring a bell</i> |
| 86. <i>Lose your bottle</i> | 176. <i>You reap what you sow</i> |
| 87. <i>Make headway</i> | 177. <i>You've got rocks in your head</i> |
| 88. <i>Many a slip twixt cup and lip</i> | 178. <i>You've made your bed- you'll have to lie in it</i> |
| 89. <i>Melt your heart</i> | 179. <i>Zip your lip</i> |

3.5.1. Use of idiomatic statements related to religion

This subdivision reveals the idioms containing the meaning of Christian notion. English culture was founded on Christian beliefs, as for the centuries Englishmen professed Christian beliefs, therefore it could be presumed, that the traces of pagan or any unknown religions could occur, as the religions are connected and overflow each other through the centuries.

1. **Good Samaritan** - A good Samaritan is a person who helps others in need. (EIII) "The good Samaritan is nameless in the biblical story (Luke 10:30–35) told by Christ; he is only referred to as "a Samaritan" and Christ tells how he helped a man who had been assaulted and left half dead by robbers, how he cared for the stranger and paid for his room in an inn after two holy men passed him without helping. This anonymous man of Samaria, a district of ancient Palestine, the northern kingdom of the Hebrews, became over the centuries the good

Samaritan, lending his name to the countless kind, helpful, philanthropic people who do good for others with no thought of worldly gain. The Samaritans are also a religious community who claim that they are descendants of the 10 tribes of Israel and that their religion contains the true undiluted teachings of Moses. These Samaritans, who broke with the Jews in about 458 b. c. but are said to observe the Torah even more scrupulously than orthodox Jews, are now represented by a few families living in Jordan. There are also 650 Samaritans in Israel, half living on Mount Gerizim, overlooking Nablus, and the others residing in Holon, near Tel Aviv. They all speak an ancient Hebrew dialect”.(2008: 357)

(50)*E.g. Davis from Richmond road in Oxford knocked her unconscious, threw her cycle into the river and then posed as a good Samaritan, pretending to comfort her, before attacking her again and trying to strangle her. (ENC)*

2. **Pastoral care** - This is used in education to describe the aspect of care offered to pupils that cover things besides learning. (EIIE)

(51)*E.g. The schools, because of their size and because of the problems presented by pupils of all abilities coming from all kinds of backgrounds, needed to pay attention to problems of “pastoral care”. (ENC)*

(52)*E.g. I had agreed to do a study of the pastoral care system for the school as the 'price' for this freedom to roam. (ENC)*

3. **Separate the wheat from the chaff** - If you separate the sheep from the goats, you sort out the good from the bad. (EIIE) Or another meaning is ” to choose the things or people that are of high quality from a group of mixed quality” (CIDI, 2002:421)

(53)*E.g. This gives the courts a useful power to separate the wheat from the chaff among the pending cases. (ENC)*

4. *As the actress said to the bishop*

5. *Baptism of fire*

6. *Bear fruit*

7. *Devil finds work for idle hands*

8. *Do as you would be done by*

9. *Go the extra mile*

10. *Is Saul also among the prophets?*

11. *Jumping Judas!*

12. *Leopard can't change its spots*

13. *Man proposes, God disposes*

14. *Man upstairs*

15. *Patience of Job*

16. *Rice missionary*

17. *Road to Damascus*

18. *Scales fall from your eyes*

19. *Scarlet woman*

20. *Sell your soul*

21. *Separate the sheep from the goats*

22. *To err is human, to forgive divine*

23. *Turn the other cheek*

24. *Vicar of Bray*

3.5.2. Use of idiomatic statements related to evil

This subgroup contains only one idiom, as it has been chosen only one example related to “devil” as the most evil creature in the Christian world. And the devil symbolises the embodiment of all the evil on the earth. However more idioms may be referred to this group, as the concept of evil has a wider altitude of notions, but in this case it was narrowed by the concept of evil meaning and referring to “devil”. And from the only one occasion of usage it could be presumed, that the word “devil” is not widely used in idiom formation.

1. *Idle hands are the devil’s handiwork* - When someone is not busy, or being productive, trouble is bound to follow. (EIIE)

The investigation results are shown in the **Figure No. 4** below:

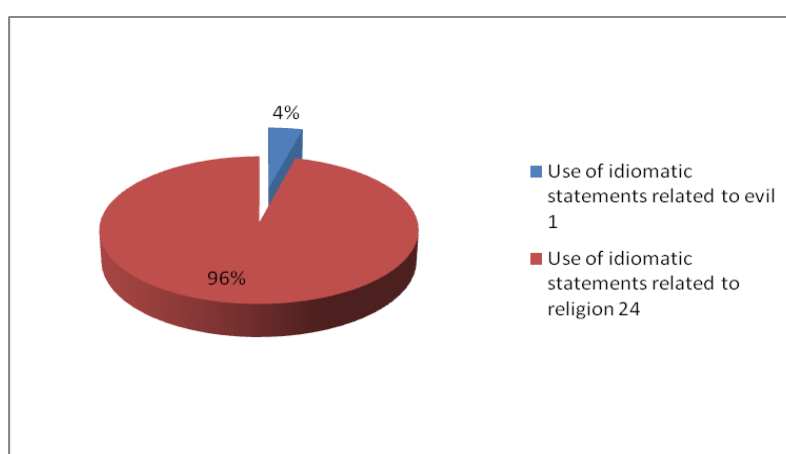


Figure No. 4. Use of idiomatic statements related to spiritual development.

Figure 4 demonstrates the results of investigation of the use of idiomatic expressions related to spiritual development. The majority of examples were of idioms related to religion: 24 or adequately 96%. Less frequently were found the examples of idiomatic expressions related to evil, as it is apparent in a given figure 4, there was 1 occasion or 4%.

3.6. Use of idiomatic statements related to animal world

Human beings are not the only animated objects in the world. There are all kinds of animals throughout the world. Some animals live far away, and people are not so familiar with them, and those animal terms are seldom used in languages. But some other animals live near to human beings, such as domestic animals; as a result, human beings clearly know their habits and

characteristics. It is clear that people often associate certain qualities with certain creatures. These qualities often arouse certain reactions or emotions (Ji-xian, 2007:71).²⁹

1. Cock of the walk - A man who is excessively confident and thinks he's better than other people is the cock of the walk. (EIIE) "The pecking order among hens, according to the famous study made by biologist W. C. Allee, has a definite prestige pattern: Hens, like many humans, male and female, freely peck at other hens below their rank and submit to pecking from those above them. Although hens rarely peck at roosters in the barnyard, where the rooster is the cock of the walk, it was widely believed in the 17th century that they often pulled feathers from young roosters below them in the pecking order. This led to the comparison of domineering wives to aggressive hens. Samuel Butler defined the term first, Dryden complained that he was henpecked, and Steele called Socrates "the undoubted head of the Sect of the Hen- pecked." There was even a noun *henpeck*, for a wife who domineered her husband, and Byron, in *Don Juan*, wrote his celebrated couplet: "But, oh! ye lords of ladies intellectual, / Inform us truly, have they not hen- pecked you all." (2008: 398)

(54)E.g. *So in two years flat, after riding on the crest of a wave, people who had been cock of the walk in ICI suddenly found themselves at the bottom of the league.* (ENC)

2. Parrot fashion - If you learn something parrot fashion, you learn it word for word. A parrot is a bird from South America that can talk. (EIIE)

(55)E.g. *The extent to which these young people were able to read and write, even when claiming that ability, was often limited to stringing together a few simple words - the Lord's Prayer might be learned "parrot fashion".* (ENC)

(56)E.g. *Er I think we learnt it probably in different ways, we learnt it more parrot fashion than they do today.* (ENC)

3. Smell a rat - If you smell a rat, you know instinctively that something is wrong or that someone is lying to you. (EIIE) "No one can say with certainty how this expression originated, but the allusion may be to a cat smelling a rat while being unable to see it. Terriers and other rat-hunting dogs could also be the inspiration. The expression dates back to about 1780, but long before that *to smell* was used figuratively for "to suspect or discern intuitively," as when Shakespeare writes "Do you smell a fault?" in *King Lear*. St. Hilarion, the Syrian hermit who died about 371, could allegedly tell a person's vices or virtues simply by smelling his person or clothing. Some people really have been able to **smell a rat**. One legendary underground worker for the New York City Transit Authority was renowned for smelling out dead rats, the odour of which has ruined many a business. John "Smelly" Kelly, also known as "Sniffy," patrolled the New York City subway system for years, his uncanny sense of smell enabling

²⁹ Study of idiomatic origins in cultural perspective. ZHANG Ji-xian., Oct.. 2007, vol.4, No. 10 (Serial No. 46), p. 71.

him to detect everything from gas leaks to the decomposing corpses of poisoned rats that crawled into the walls of stores adjoining the subway. Smelly Kelly was one of those rare people who could say with certainty, “I smell a rat.”(2008: 444)

(57)E.g. “Fine by me, but won’t Bryant smell a rat when he sees me walking out with all this?” (ENC)

(58)E.g. “As Dysart’s employee and Mallender’s daughter, who could be better placed to smell a rat?” (ENC)

3. Call the dogs off

4. Cock in the henhouse

5. Cool as a cat

6. Curiosity killed the cat

7. Dog eat dog

8. Ducks in a row

9. Get your ducks in a row

10. Grease monkey

11. Hit the bull’s-eye

12. Juggle frogs

13. Leopard can’t change its spots

14. Like a fish needs a bicycle

15. Man’s best friend

16. Memory like an elephant

17. Monkey see, monkey does

18. Separate the sheep from the goats

19. Slowly, slowly catchy monkey

20. Stubborn as a mule

21. Ugly duckling

22. Work your tail off

3.7. Use of idiomatic statements related to plant world

The natural environment has also left deep imprints in English culture, as well as the cultural inheritance from other countries. Therefore the given idioms contain the terms of plants, and the origin of these idioms can reveal the deep roots of the English culture in the ancient cultural life or Christian beliefs.

1. Rest on your laurels - If someone rests on their laurels, they rely on their past achievements, rather than trying to achieve things now. (EIII) “to enjoy one’s success and not try to achieve more” (2000:340)

(59)E.g. “You can’t rest on your laurels”. (ENC)

(60)E.g. “The message to all of us must be “A good start, boys, but don’t rest on your laurels”. (ENC)

2. Sow the seeds - When people sow the seeds, they start something that will have a much greater impact in the future. (EIII) Or “to do something that will cause an unpleasant situation in the future” (2002:342)

(61)E.g. “Like gardeners, they must cast out the evil weeds and plough the matted earth into long fields and sow the seeds of future harvests.” (ENC)

3. Bouquet of orchids

6. Know your onions

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 4. <i>Cut down the tall poppies</i> | 7. <i>Separate the wheat from the chaff</i> |
| 5. <i>Rice missionary</i> | 8. <i>The apple does not fall far from the tree</i> |

3.8. Use of idiomatic statements related to things, phenomena

The idioms of natural environment cognition also contain various things and phenomena in people's daily life and inhabitations. Semantics of the whole sayings are found beyond the literal meaning of the idioms.

1. Heart of glass - When someone has a heart of glass, they are easily affected emotionally.

(EIIE) "An uncultured, uncouth person who has good and useful qualities" (2009:484)

(62)E.g. "*This band is a heart of glass, flags all a flutter in a gentle breeze, beautiful babies being born into the world.*" (ENC)

2. Rough diamond - A rough diamond is a person who might be a bit rude but who is good underneath it all. (EIIE)

(63)E.g. "*A rough diamond in his earlier years, he has now become a sophisticated centre who was drafted into the Irish World Cup squad, although he languished on the bench and was never called upon.*" (ENC)

3. White feather - If someone shows a white feather, they are cowards. (EIIE) **Show the white feather.** A cock with any white feathers was believed to be poorly bred and too cowardly for cock fighting in days past. This led to the old expression *to show the white feather*, "to exhibit cowardice." (2008: 755)

(64)E.g. "*Several people were called up er they were given a white feather for exactly the reason that you mentioned.*" (ENC)

(65)E.g. "*If you were in London erm you were called up give you a white feather cos you were going in the army.*" (ENC)

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4. <i>Heart of gold</i> | 7. <i>Lose your bottle</i> |
| 5. <i>Heart of steel</i> | 8. <i>Two-edged sword</i> |
| 6. <i>Hit the books</i> | |

3.9. Use of idiomatic statements related to time

The time cognition is a very important notion in the idioms. The given examples reveal the fact how people appreciate the time:

1. He who hesitates is lost - If one waits too long, the opportunity vanishes. (EIIE)"<...>unless you grasp an opportunity quickly, either someone else will, or it will be lost. (2009:278)

(66)E.g. “Thus his conduct very well illustrates the maxim “Look before you leap”; and if his final decision was made when the trend of circumstances was making it harder to leave home, he might well have recalled “He who hesitates is lost”.” (ENC)

2. **More haste, less speed** - The faster you try to do something, the more likely you are to make mistakes that make you take longer than it would had you planned it. (EIIE) “Prov. Act quickly, but not so quickly that you make careless mistakes.”(Spears, 2005:444)

(67)E.g. “There are many old sayings and proverbs that point to the wisdom of thought before action, such as “look before you leap”, “more haste, less speed”, “second thoughts are best”, and so on.” (ENC)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 3. Don't trouble trouble until trouble troubles you | 7. No time like the present |
| 4. Fortune knocks once at every man's door | 8. Rome was not built in a day |
| 5. You can't unring a bell | 9. Strike while the iron is hot |
| 6. Yesterday's man or Yesterday's woman | 10. Time and tide wait for no man |

3.10. Use of idiomatic statements related to irony

The ironic usage “originates with the idea of suppressed mirth - biting one's tongue to prevent an outburst of laughter”. (Marshallsay: 2005)³⁰ Speakers can accomplish a variety of social functions through the humour occasionally obtained in the use of conventional phrase. Other typical social functions of humour such as to belittle, to soften a negative criticism, to demonstrate a wit or mastery, or to reduce social tension are enabled by some conventional phrases. Speakers invoke a form of verbal irony through the use of conventional phrases (Burger 2007: 821)³¹

1. **Man of straw** - A weak person that can easily be beaten or changed is a man of straw. (EIIE)
A man made of straw would certainly be one without a heart or conscience, so that this expression is apt for “an unscrupulous person who will do anything for gain.” However, the words may refer to real “straw men,” who in the past loitered near English courts with a straw in one of their shoes - this indicating that they would be willing to give false testimony or swear to anything in court for enough money.(2008: 536)

(68)E.g. “For instance, he said that the expression “by hook or by croo” came from the period of Charles II when there were two judges called Hook and Crook and “a man of straw” he discovered, was one who could be brought to bear false witness - recognisable by the straw in his shoes.” (ENC)

2. **No spine** - If someone has no spine, they lack courage or are cowardly. (EIIE)

³⁰ Nick Marshallsay (2005), The body language phrasebook, Collins & Brown.

³¹ Burger, H., *Phraseology*, vol. 2., (2007), Walter de Gruyter GmbH&Co, Berlin, Germany. (p. 821)

(69)E.g. *“The first tentacle pore on the arm has no spine associated, the next five or so pores have one and subsequent ones have two.” (ENC)*

3. Peeping Tom - A peeping Tom is someone who tries to look through other people's windows without being seen in order to spy on people in their homes. (EIII) According to a later version of the original story, Lady Godiva had but one admirer when she rode nude through the streets of Coventry. The earlier story has everyone in town feasting their eyes on Godiva, but here the plot thickens. The later version says that a more cunning Lady Godiva issued a proclamation ordering all persons to stay indoors and shutter their windows, so that she could ride naked through Coventry, Lord Leofric would remit the town's oppressive taxes, and she could remain modest as well. But enter stage left **Peeping Tom**, the unfortunate town tailor, or butcher. It is said “stage left” because Peeping Tom must have lived on the left - hand side of Hertfords Street—assuming that Lady Godiva rode side-saddle. At any rate, **Peeping Tom** peeped, ruined Lady Godiva's plan, and was struck blind for his peeping - cruel and unusual punishment for merely being human and living in a strategic location.(2008: 639)

(70)E.g. *“Unfortunately, soon after that a copper spotted him doing his Peeping Tom bit, followed him inside the studios and looked very strangely at all this expensive gear lying around.” (ENC)*

4. *Always a bridesmaid, never a bride*

5. *Apron strings*

6. *Armchair critic*

7. *Big girl's blouse*

8. *Blow your own horn*

9. *Blow your own trumpet*

10. *Deep pockets but short arms*

11. *Dutch uncle*

12. *If wishes were horses, beggars would ride*

13. *If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas*

14. *If you lie down with the Devil, you will wake up in hell*

15. *Yes-man*

16. *Jack the Lad*

17. *Lily-livered*

18. *Lock the stable door after the horse has bolted*

19. *Man of the cloth*

20. *Mummy's boy*

21. *No good deed goes unpunished*

22. *Painted Jezebel*

23. *Penny pincher*

24. *Plain Jane*

25. *Teach your grandmother to suck eggs*

26. *Thin-skinned*

27. *Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free*

28. *You've got rocks in your head*

29. *Thick-skinned*

The investigation results are shown in the **Figure No. 5** below:

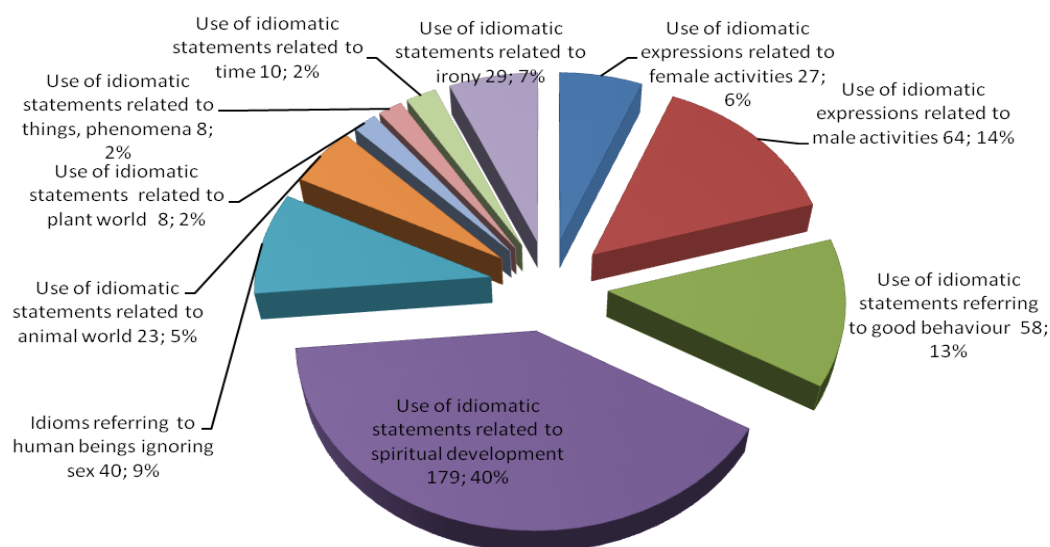


Figure No. 5. **Manifestation of values in idiomatic statements and other peculiarities.**

Figure 5 demonstrates the results of investigation of the use of idiomatic expressions and their distribution to 10 categories. The majority of examples were of idioms related to spiritual development 179 or adequately 40%. 58 idioms referring to good behaviour were picked and it is 13 %. Less frequently found the examples of idiomatic expressions related to male activities, as it is apparent in a given figure 5, there were 64 occasions or 14%. The least frequently used occasions were of related to time 10 and 2%, then related to things and phenomena 8 and accordingly 2% and the idiomatic statements related to plant world are 8 and 2%. Almost the same amount of idiom occasions were found of idioms related to animal world 23 and 5%, then 27 idioms related to female activities it is 6% and the idioms related to irony – 29 and 7% and finally 9% of occasions were fond of idioms referring to human beings referring to human beings ignoring sex i.e. 40.

The frequency of usage of idioms was shown in the given above figures. The most dominant group of idioms was related to spiritual development and it proposes the presumption of dominating values in English idiomatic expressions. As it is vivid from the Figure 5 irony usage in English idioms is not so numerous – only 7% of 330 idioms. Comparing the amounts of usage idiomatic expressions of gender classification, the mostly found were the idioms related to male activities, then idioms ignoring sex, and then the least amount of percent of idiomatic expressions related to male activities. The usage of idioms containing the words and expressions from animal or plant world reveals the fact of decreasing usage.

Seemingly, all above presented idioms and the classification have examples of the usage in various types of texts. This research shows that English idioms or idiomatic expressions are used quite often in colloquial, scientific, literature language and carry a figurative meaning.

IV. IDIOMS IN SALMAN RUSHDIE'S NOVEL "THE SATANIC VERSES"

Previously investigated and classified examples of idioms in the thesis have been found in the famous nowadays writer Salman Rushdie literary text "The Satanic Verses" (1988)³². It helps to reveal the fact of the usage of idioms and their popularity. Seemingly the usage of them enriches English vocabulary of spoken language as well as literary texts not only some hundred years ago, but nowadays also.

Further given examples are given for your consideration:

3.1. Idiomatic statements referring to good behaviour

- (1) **Breadwinner** - "breadwinner" (1988: 259);
- (2) **Good Samaritan** - "good-samaritan" (1988: 187);
- (3) **Good as gold** - "good as goddamn gold." (1988: 18);
- (4) **Hold the baby** - "holding the baby." (1988: 79);
- (5) **Take someone under your wing** - "<...>why shouldn't he take the daughters of Allah under his wing as well" (1988: 124);
- (6) "<...> the two daughters of Haji Sufyan had taken him under their wing," (1988: 296);
- (7) "Mishal (...) gathering them together beneath the wing of her gentleness." (1988: 508).

3.2. Use of idiomatic expressions related to female activities

- (8) **Bun in the oven** - "with the bun in the oven" (1988: 427);
- (9) **Girl Friday** - "Man-Friday" (1988: 461);
- (10) **Keep mum** - "kept mum" (1988: 342).

3.2.1. Use of idiomatic expressions related to female activities. Names

- (11) **Girl Friday** - "Man-Friday" (1988: 461).

3.3. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities

- (12) **Bob's your uncle** - "bob's your uncle" (1988: 275);
- (13) **For Pete's sake** - "for Pete's sake" (1988: 435);
- (14) "for Pete's sake" (1988: 12);

³² Rushdie, S., 1988. *The Satanic Verses*. Viking Press. United Kingdom. Pages 547.

- (15) ““For Pete’s sake,” she added.” (1988: 57);
- (16) “for Pete’s sake come home.” (1988: 65);
- (17) “for Pete’s sake” (1988: 115);
- (18) **Man Friday** – “a Man-Friday” (1988: 461);
- (19) **Man in the street** – “The kids in the Street” (1988: 300);
- (20) “people in the street” (1988: 337);
- (21) **New man** – “a new man” (1988: 33).

3.3.1. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities. Names

- (22) **Man Friday** – “a Man-Friday” (1988: 461).

3. 3. 3. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities. Things, phenomena

- (23) **For Pete’s sake** – “for Pete’s sake” (1988: 435);
- (24) “for Pete’s sake” (1988: 12);
- (25) ““For Pete’s sake,” she added” (1988: 57);
- (26) “for Pete’s sake come home.” (1988: 65);
- (27) “for Pete’s sake” (1988: 115);
- (28) **To a man** – “to a man” (1988: 188).

3. 5. Use of idiomatic statements related to spiritual development

- (29) **Get a grip** – “<...> she lost her grip” (1988: 508);
- (30) “Saladin Chamcha took a grip on himself”. (1988: 75);
- (31) **Have a heart** – “he hadn’t had a heart.” (1988: 333);
- (32) **Hold your tongue** “held his tongue” (1988: 56);
- (33) “(I held my tongue.)” (1988: 267);
- (34) **Look on the bright side** – “to look on the bright side” (1988: 517);
- (35) **Nose in the air** – “nose in the air” (1988: 291);
- (36) **Pen is mightier than the sword** – “the pen is mightier than the sword” (1988: 106);
- (37) **Sell your soul** – “sell your soul” (1988: 286);
- (38) **Stiff upper lip** – “stiff upper lip” (1988: 262);
- (39) **To a fault** - “to a fault” (1988: 234).

3. 5.1. Use of idiomatic statements related to religion

(40) *Good Samaritan* – “*good-samaritan*”(1988:18).

The investigation results are shown in the **Figure No. 6** below:

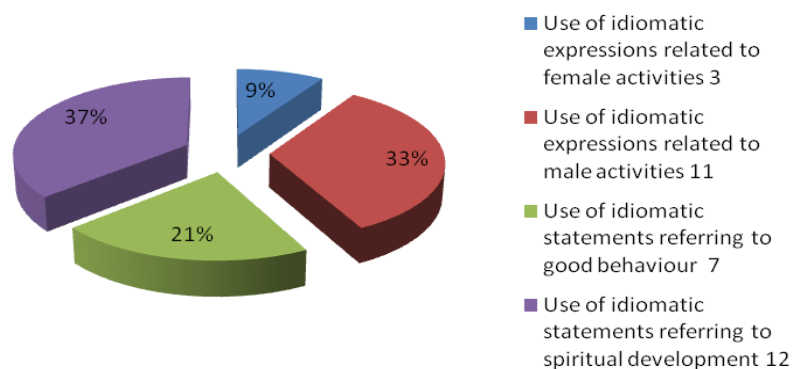


Figure No. 6. Idioms in Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses".

Figure 6 demonstrates the results of investigation of the use of idiomatic expressions in the Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses". The majority of examples were of idioms related to spiritual development. There are 12 idioms or adequately 37%. 11 idioms referring to male activities were picked and accordingly it is 33%. Less frequently have been found the examples of idiomatic expressions related to good behaviour, as it is apparent in a given figure 6, there were 7 occasions or 21%. Finally, the least amount of idiomatic expressions occasions have been found related to female activities 3 and 9% accordingly.

The finding of the idioms in a famous nowadays writer's novel reveals the fact that the idioms are valued and still are used in order to make the language more persuasive and figurative.

CONCLUSIONS

Having analyzed lots of grammatical books concerning idioms, the aim of the paper has been drawn in the introduction section. Consequently the theoretical background of the idioms and idiomatic expressions such as the grammatical and the semantic structures were provided in this work. Semantic functions in the cultural background of English culture of the object have been analyzed in detail. A large number of examples were presented in order to make the theory more understandable. In the Practical part of the paper the analysis of the examples was given. The diagrams to illustrate and generalize the material were also presented in this work.

1. The introduction provides the determinations of idioms. The main characteristics of idioms are widely concerned with the semantic figurative field of linguistics which is very meaningful. The idioms can carry the same meaning in different contexts, as they are perceived not literary and at the same time they can be comprehended as whole expressions.

2. It has been asserted that many English idioms have existed for centuries and are still in use today, and new idiomatic expressions or idioms appear in English. According to the sources of idioms - they were created by people of various occupations and activities. It have been presumed, that cultural peculiarities of the society, the features of character, even religion as well as inheritance of intercultural features and interchange of language elements effect the formation and usage of idioms or idiomatic expressions.

3. In linguistics idioms have various approaches, which are shown by their derivation and classification, according to Palmer, F. R., (1982) there are idiom divisions and explanations, there are idioms, which contain verbs, and there are idioms, which are just phrasal verbs. They could be classified into three categories: phrase idioms, clause idioms and sentence idioms according to their structures.

4. The investigation of the English literature has also proved practical usage of idioms in literary texts. Widely known writers, Shakespeare, for example, included originally created idioms in their texts.

5. By analysing Smith's idiom classification by their origin and the speaker who created them, revealed the main values in English idioms.

6. According to Gibbs (1997) idioms with complex semantic forms could be motivated by several conceptual metaphors and strong associations exist among idioms and conceptual metaphors. Conceptual metaphor theory (CTM) by George Lakoff and Mark Johnsen (2003)³³ was helpful to group idioms according to their image components. After the investigation of grouping idioms according their compositional literal meaning (Langotz, 2006:169) have been

³³ George Lakoff and Mark Johnsen (2003) *Metaphors we live by*. London: The university of Chicago press.

tried as well in the work.

7. The aim of the present research paper was to analyze and to classify the English idioms and idiomatic expressions according to the peculiarities of English nature and culture values. The 330 examples of idioms have been selected from the Internet Idiom dictionary and then checked in various dictionaries.

8. The selected examples were classified into 10 groups, the majority of idioms fell into the group “Idiomatic statements related to spiritual development” and it provides the presumption of the dominating values in English idioms.

9. Searching the English National Corpus shows that idioms are used in various types of articles and that not all of them are used in the scientific articles as they usually have the figurative meaning and they are used in emotive, colloquial language.

10. Previously classified examples of idioms in the thesis have been found in the famous nowadays writer Salman Rushdie literary text “The Satanic Verses” (1988). In the book of 574 pages have been found 40 examples. It helps to reveal the fact of the usage of idioms and their popularity.

11. The investigation of grammar material, cultural aspects of English language and its origin, as well as the investigation and classification of idioms containing moral values reveals the fact that the idioms are valued and still are used in order to make the language more persuasive and figurative.

Finally it is important to admit that further investigation of idiomatic expressions origin would reveal more hidden facts from history, presumptions of language formation origin and it would help them to popularise, because there were found the fact that even native speakers using the idioms does not know the real meaning and their origin of this language phenomena(Gibbs: 1989)³⁴.

³⁴ Gibbs, R. W., Nayak, N. P., &Cutting, C.(1989). *How to kick the bucket and not to decompose:Analyzability and idiom processing*. Journal of Memory of Language, 28, (p. 576-593).

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APPENDIX 1

Idioms in alphabetical order

1. ***A little learning is a dangerous thing*** - *A small amount of knowledge can cause people to think they are more expert than they really are e.g. he said he'd done a course on home electrics, but when he tried to mend my table lamp, he fused all the lights! I think a little learning is a dangerous thing(2009:359)*
2. ***A rolling stone gathers no moss*** - *People say this to mean that an ambitious person is more successful than a person not trying to achieve anything. Originally it meant the opposite and was critical of people trying to get ahead.(2009:482)*
3. ***A still tongue keeps a wise head*** - *Wise people don't talk much*
4. ***Absence makes the heart grow fonder*** - *This idiom means that when people are apart, their love grows stronger.(1998:1)*
5. ***Actions speak louder than words*** - *This idiom means that what people actually do is more important than what they say- people can promise things but then fail to deliver.(1993:4)*
6. ***Agony aunt*** - *An agony aunt is a newspaper columnist who gives advice to people having problems, especially personal ones.(2008:559)*
7. ***All my eye and Peggy Martin*** - *(UK) An idiom that appears to have gone out of use but was prevalent in the English north Midlands of Staffordshire, Cheshire and Derbyshire from at least the turn of the 20th century until the early 1950s or so. The idiom's meaning is literally something said or written that is unbelievable, rumour, over embellished, the result of malicious village gossip etc.(1986:10)*
8. ***All talk and no trousers*** - *(UK) Someone who is all talk and no trousers, talks about doing big, important things, but doesn't take any action.*
9. ***All that glitters is not gold*** - *This means that appearances can be deceptive and things that look or sound valuable can be worthless. ("All that glistens is not gold" is an alternative.)(1993:7)(2000:8)*
10. ***Always a bridesmaid, never a bride*** - *If someone is always a bridesmaid, never a bride, they never manage to fulfil their ambition- they get close, but never manage the recognition, etc, they crave.*
11. ***Any Tom, Dick or Harry*** - *If something could be done by any Tom, Dick or Harry, it could be done by absolutely anyone.(1998: 396)*
12. ***Apron strings*** - *A man who is tied to a woman's apron strings is excessively dependent on her, especially when it is his mother's apron strings.(1998:7)*

13. **Armchair critic** - An armchair critic is someone who offers advice but never shows that they could actually do any better. (2004:9)
14. **As you sow, so shall you reap** - This means that if you do bad things to people, bad things will happen to you or good things if you do good things.(2002:321)
15. **As the actress said to the bishop** - (UK) This idiom is used to highlight a sexual reference, deliberate or accidental.(1986:31)
16. **Baptism of fire** - A baptism of fire was a soldier's first experience of shooting. Any unpleasant experience undergone, usually where it is also a learning experience is a baptism of fire.(1993:21)
17. **Be careful what you wish for** - If you get things that you desire, there may be unforeseen and unpleasant consequences. ("Be careful what you wish for, lest it come true." and "Be careful what you wish for; you may receive it." are also used.)
18. **Be up the spout** - (UK) If a woman is up the spout, she is pregnant.(2002:366)
19. **Bear fruit** - If something bears fruit, it produces positive results.(2009:57)
20. **Beat swords into ploughshares** - If people beat swords into ploughshares, they spend money on humanitarian purposes rather than weapons. (The American English spelling is "plowshares")(2004:340)
21. **Beauty is only skin deep** - This idiom means that appearances can be deceptive and something that seems or looks good may turn out to be bad.(2009:58)
22. **Before you can say Jack Robinson** - The term Jack Robinson represents "a short amount of time". When you do something before you can say Jack Robinson, you do it very quickly.(2009:59)
23. **Big girl's blouse** - A person who is very weak or fussy is a big girl's blouse. (2002:32)
24. **Bite your tongue** - If you bite your tongue, you refrain from speaking because it is socially or otherwise better not to.(2005:43)
25. **By heart** - If you learn something by heart, you learn it word for word. (2000:236)
26. **Bleeding heart** - A bleeding heart is a person who is excessively sympathetic towards other people. (2002:37)
27. **Bless your pointy little head** - This expression is used as to patronise someone, especially when they don't realise that they're not very clever. ("Bless your pointes little head" is also used.)
28. **Blood is worth bottling** - (AU) If an Australian says to you "Your blood is worth bottling", he/she is complimenting or praising you for doing something or being someone very special.
29. **Blow your own horn** - If you blow your own horn, you boast about your achievements and abilities. ('Blow your own trumpet' is an alternative form.)(2002:468)

30. **Blow your/one's own trumpet** - If someone blows their own trumpet, they boast about their talents and achievements. ('Blow your own horn' is an alternative form.)(1993:30)
31. **Blow the cobwebs away** - If you blow the cobwebs away, you make sweeping changes to something to bring fresh views and ideas in.(2010:31)
32. **Bob's your uncle** - (UK) This idiom means that something will be successful: Just tell him that I gave you his name and Bob's your uncle- he'll help you. (2009:73)
33. **Bouquet of orchids** - If someone deserves a bouquet of orchids, they have done something worthy of praise.
34. **Breadwinner** - Used to describe the person that earns the most money. For example – She's the breadwinner in the family.(2004:85)
35. **Break the back of the beast** - If you break the back of the beast, you accomplish a challenge.
36. **Breathe life into** - If you breathe life into something, you give people involved more energy and enthusiasm again. ('Breathe new life' is also used.) (1992:132)
37. **Bright as a button** - A person who is as bright as a button is very intelligent or smart.(2000:13,1)
38. **Bun in the oven** - If a woman has a bun in the oven, she is pregnant. (2002:54)
39. **Call the dogs off** - If someone calls off their dogs, they stop attacking or criticising someone. (1993:41)
40. **Change of heart** - If you change the way you think or feel about something, you have a change of heart. (1999:53)
41. **Chew on a bone** - If someone is chewing on a bone, he or she is thinking about something intently.
42. **Chew the cud** - If you chew the cud, you think carefully about something.(2009:100)
43. **Cock in the henhouse** - This is used to describe a male in an all-female environment.
44. **Cock of the walk** - A man who is excessively confident and thinks he's better than other people is the cock of the walk. (1993:51)
45. **Come out of your shell** - If someone comes out of their shell, they stop being shy and withdrawn and become more friendly and sociable. (1993:53)
46. **Come to grips** - If you come to grips with a problem or issue, you face up to it and deal with it.(1993:55)
47. **Come up trumps** - When someone is said to have "come up trumps", they have completed an activity successfully or produced a good result, especially when they were not expected to. (2000:72)
48. **Cool as a cat** - To act fine when you are actually scared or nervous.

49. **Curiosity killed the cat** - As cats are naturally curious animals, we use this expression to suggest to people that excessive curiosity is not necessarily a good thing, especially where it is not their business.(2009:125)
50. **Cut down the tall poppies** - (AU) If people cut down the tall poppies, they criticise people who stand out from the crowd.(1998:76)
51. **Cut the Gordian knot** - If someone cuts the Gordian knot, they solve a very complex problem in a simple way.(2009:128)
52. **Dead level best** - If you try your dead level best, you try as hard as you possibly could to do something.
53. **Deep pockets but short arms** - Someone who has money but never puts his hand in his pocket to pay for anything has deep pockets but short arms.
54. **Derring-do** - If a person shows derring-do, they show great courage.(1986:339)
55. **Devil finds work for idle hands** - When people say that the devil finds work for idle hands, they mean that if people don't have anything to do with their time, they are more likely to get involved in trouble and criminality.(2002:96)
56. **Discretion is the better part of valour** - This idiom means that it is often better to think carefully and not act than to do something that may cause problems. (2009:143)
57. **Do as you would be done by** - Treat and respect others as you would hope to be respected and treated by them. (2009:145)
58. **Dog eat dog** - In a dog eat dog world, there is intense competition and rivalry, where everybody thinks only of himself or herself.(1993:69)
59. **Don't sweat the small stuff** - (USA) This is used to tell people not to worry about trivial or unimportant issues. (2002:358)
60. **Don't throw bricks when you live in a glass house** - Don't call others out on actions that you, yourself do. Don't be a hypocrite.
61. **Don't trouble trouble until trouble troubles you** - Don't go looking for trouble or problems- let them come to you.
62. **Don't wash your dirty laundry in public** - (UK) People, especially couples, who argue in front of others or involve others in their personal problems and crises, are said to be washing their dirty laundry in public; making public things that are best left private. (In American English, "don't air your dirty laundry in public" is used.)
63. **Dot all the i's and cross all the t's** - If you dot all the i's and cross all the t's, you do something very carefully and thoroughly.
64. **Doubting Thomas** - A Doubting Thomas is someone who only believes what they see themselves, not what they are told. (2009:155)

65. **Drop a dime** - (USA) *If you drop a dime, you inform the police about someone's illegal activities. (1992:289)*
66. **Ducks in a row** - (USA) *If you have your ducks in a row, you are well-organized. (1998:96)*
67. **Dutch uncle** - *A Dutch uncle is a person who gives unwelcome advice. (1993:75)*
68. **Dutch wife** - *A Dutch wife is a long pillow or a hot water bottle. (2008:267)*
69. **Early bird catches the worm** - *The early bird catches the worm means that if you start something early, you stand a better chance of success. (2009:161)*
70. **Every man and his dog** - *A lot of people - as in sending out invitations to a large number of people.*
71. **Every man for himself** - *If it's every man for himself, then people are trying to save themselves from a difficult situation without trying to help anyone else. (2009:161)*
72. **Every man has his price** - *Anyone's opinion or support can be bought, everyone's principles have a limit. (2004:182)*
73. **Every man jack** - *If every man jack was involved in something, it is an emphatic way of saying that absolutely everybody was involved. (1993:79)*
74. **Every Tom, Dick and Harry** - *If every Tom, Dick and Harry knows about something, then it is common knowledge. (1993:79)*
75. **Everybody and their uncle** - *This basically means a lot of people or too many people; everybody and their uncle were there.*
76. **Fine words butter no parsnips** - *This idiom means that it's easy to talk, but talk is not action. (2009:187)*
77. **Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me** - *This means that you should learn from your mistakes and not allow people to take advantage of you repeatedly.*
78. **For Pete's sake** - *This is used as an exclamation to show exasperation or irritation. (2005:226)*
79. **Fortune knocks once at every man's door** - *Everyone gets one good chance in a lifetime.*
80. **From the bottom of your heart** - *If someone does something from the bottom of their heart, then they do it with genuine emotion and feeling. (2009:208)*
81. **Get a grip** - *If you get a grip, you control your emotions so that they don't overwhelm you. (2002:164)*
82. **Get a handle on** - *When you get a handle on something, you come to understand it. (2000:132)*
83. **Get your ducks in a row** - *If you get your ducks in a row, you organise yourself and your life. (2000:140)*

84. **Get your head around something** - If you get your head around something, you come to understand it even though it is difficult to comprehend.
85. **Get your teeth into** - If you get your teeth into something, you become involved in or do something that is intellectually challenging or satisfying. (“Dig your teeth into” and “sink your teeth into” are also used.) (2000:141)
86. **Get the ball rolling** - If you get the ball rolling, you start something so that it can start making progress. (2000:146)
87. **Get the show on the road** - If you get the show on the road, you put a plan into operation or begin something. (2000:149)
88. **Get to grips** - If you get to grips with something, you take control and do it properly. (2002:454)
89. **Girl Friday** - A girl Friday is a female employee who assists someone without any specific duties. (1992:401)
90. **Give me a hand** - If someone gives you a hand, they help you. (2000: 154)
91. **Give someone a leg up** - If you give someone a leg up, you help them to achieve something that they couldn't have done alone.
92. **Glass ceiling** - The glass ceiling is the discrimination that prevents women and minorities from getting promoted to the highest levels of companies and organisations. (1998: 137)
93. **Go the distance** - If you go the distance, you continue until something ends, no matter how difficult. (2000: 165)
94. **Go the extra mile** - If someone is prepared to go the extra mile, they will do everything they can to help or to make something succeed, going beyond their duty what could be expected of them. (2000: 165)
95. **Go to the wire** - If someone goes to the wire, they risk their life, job, reputation, etc, to help someone. (2008:259)
96. **Going Jesse** - (USA) If something is a going Jesse, it's a viable, successful project or enterprise.
97. **Good as gold** - If children are as good as gold, they behave very well. (1999:130)
98. **Good Samaritan** - A good Samaritan is a person who helps others in need. (2009:244)
99. **Grasp the nettle** - (UK) If you grasp the nettle, you deal bravely with a problem. (2002:269)
100. **Grass widow** - A grass widow is a woman whose husband is often away on work, leaving her on her own. (2009:246)
101. **Grease monkey** - A grease monkey is an idiomatic term for a mechanic.
102. **Hail-fellow-well-met** - Someone whose behaviour is hearty, friendly and congenial. (2009:248)

103. **Hand in hand** - work together closely When people in a group, say in an office or in a project, work together with mutual understanding to achieve the target, we say they work hand in hand. There is no lack of co-operation and each synchronises the activity with that of the other. (2009:249)
104. **Hand that rocks the cradle** - Women have a great power and influence because they have the greatest influence over the development of children - the hand that rocks the cradle. ('The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world' is the full form.) (2009:248)
105. **Have a heart** - If someone has a heart, they are kind and sympathetic. If you say, 'Have a heart' to someone, you are asking them to be understanding and sympathetic. (1993:136)
106. **He that travels far knows much** - People who travel widely have a wide knowledge.
107. **He who hesitates is lost** - If one waits too long, the opportunity vanishes. (2009:278)
108. **Head is in the clouds** - If a person has their head in the clouds, they have unrealistic, impractical ideas.
109. **Headstrong** - A headstrong person is obstinate and does not take other people's advice readily. (2005:352)
110. **Heap coals on someone's head** - To do something nice or kind to someone who has been nasty to you. If someone felt bad because they forgot to get you a Christmas gift, for you to buy them an especially nice gift is heaping coals on their head. ("Heap coals of fire" is also used.)
111. **Heart of glass** - When someone has a heart of glass, they are easily affected emotionally.
112. **Heart of gold** - Someone with a heart of gold is a genuinely kind and caring person. (2000: 177)
113. **Heart of steel** - When someone has a heart of steel, they do not show emotion or are not affected emotionally.
114. **Hit the books** - If you hit the books, you study or read hard. (2000: 194)
115. **Hit the bull's-eye** - If someone hits the bull's-eye, they are exactly right about something or achieve the best result possible. "Bulls-eye" and "bull's-eye" are alternative spellings. (1993:149)
116. **Hold your tongue!** - If you hold your tongue, you keep silent even though you want to speak. (2000: 196)
117. **Hold the baby** - (UK) If someone is responsible for something, they are holding the baby.
118. **Hold the bag** - (USA) If someone is responsible for something, they are holding the bag.
119. **Hold the fort** - If you hold the fort, you look after something or assume someone's responsibilities while they are away. (2009:285)

120. **Idle hands are the devil's handiwork** - When someone is not busy, or being productive, trouble is bound to follow.
121. **If you fly with the crows, you get shot with the crows** - If you wish to be associated with a particular high risk and/or high profile situation and benefit from the rewards of that association, you have to accept the consequences if things go wrong - you cannot dissociate yourself.
122. **If you lie down with dogs, you will get up with fleas** - This means that if you become involved with bad company, there will be negative consequences.
123. **If you lie down with the Devil, you will wake up in hell** - This means that if you become involved with bad company, there will be negative consequences.
124. **If you'll pardon my French** - (UK) This idiom is used as a way of apologising for swearing.
125. **If wishes were horses, beggars would ride** - This means that wishing for something or wanting it is not the same as getting or having it. (1992:513)
126. **In all honesty** - If you say something in all honesty, you are telling the complete truth. It can be used as a way of introducing a negative opinion whilst trying to be polite; in all honesty, I have to say that I wasn't very impressed.
127. **In like Flynn** - Refers to Errol Flynn's popularity with women in the 40's. His ability to attract women was well known throughout the world. ('In like flint' is also used.) (1986:122)
128. **In the club** - (UK) If a woman's in the club, she's pregnant. "In the pudding club" is an alternative form. (2002:73)
129. **In the family way** - If a woman is in the family way, she is pregnant. (1993:166)
130. **In the swim** - If you are in the swim, you are up-to-date with and fully informed about something. (1993:168)
131. **Is Saul also among the prophets?** - It's a biblical idiom used when somebody known for something bad appears all of a sudden to be doing something very good.
132. **It ain't over till the fat lady sings** - This idiom means that until something has officially finished, the result is uncertain.
133. **Yellow streak** - If someone has a yellow streak, they are cowardly about something.
134. **Yellow-bellied** - A yellow-bellied person is a coward. (2002:436)
135. **Yes-man** - Someone who always agrees with people in authority is a yes-man.
136. **Yesterday's man or Yesterday's woman** - Someone, especially a politician or celebrity, whose career is over or on the decline, is yesterday's man or woman. (An Asperger Dictionary of Everyday Expressions, 2007 :254)
137. **You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink** - This idiom means you can offer something to someone, like good advice, but you cannot make them take it.

138. **You can't unring a bell** - This means that once something has been done, you have to live with the consequences as it can't be undone.
139. **You reap what you sow** - This means that if you do bad things to people, bad things will happen to you or good things if you do good things. It is normally used when someone has done something bad. (2002:321)
140. **You've got rocks in your head** - (USA) Someone who has acted with a lack of intelligence has rocks in their head.
141. **You've made your bed- you'll have to lie in it** - This means that someone will have to live with the consequences of their own actions.
142. **Jack Frost** - If everything has frozen in winter, then Jack Frost has visited. (2008:450)
143. **Jack the Lad** - A confident and not very serious young man who behaves as he wants to without thinking about other people is a Jack the Lad. (2002:207)
144. **Jack-of-all-trades** - A jack-of-all-trades is someone that can do many different jobs.(1998:181)
145. **Jane Doe** - Jane Doe is a name given to an unidentified female who may be party to legal proceedings, or to an unidentified person in hospital, or dead. John Doe is the male equivalent.(1999:175)
146. **Jekyll and Hyde** - Someone who has a Jekyll and Hyde personality has a pleasant and a very unpleasant side to the character. (1999:173)
147. **Jersey justice** - (UK) Jersey justice is very severe justice.
148. **Jobs for the boys** - Where people give jobs, contracts, etc, to their friends and associates, these are jobs for the boys.(1998:183)
149. **Jog my memory** - If you jog someone's memory, you say words that will help someone trying to remember a thought, event, word, phrase, experience, etc.
150. **John Doe** - John Doe is a name given to an unidentified male who may be party to legal proceedings, or to an unidentified person in hospital, or dead. Jane Doe is the female equivalent. (2002:208)
151. **John Q Public** - (USA) John Q Public is the typical, average person. (2002:209)
152. **Johnny on the spot** - A person who is always available; ready, willing, and able to do what needs to be done. ("Johnny-on-the-spot" is also used.) (2000: 293)
153. **Johnny-come-lately** - A Johnny-come-lately is someone who has recently joined something or arrived somewhere, especially when they want to make changes that are not welcome. (2000:476)
154. **Juggle frogs** - If you are juggling frogs, you are trying to do something very difficult.
155. **Jumping Judas!** - An expression of surprise or shock.

156. **Keep abreast** - If you keep abreast of things, you stay informed about developments. (2000:526)
157. **Keep it under your hat** - If you keep something under your hat, you keep it secret. (2000:231)
158. **Keep your chin up** - (UK) This expression is used to tell someone to have confidence. (2000:228)
159. **Keep your cool** - If you keep your cool, you don't get excessively excited or disturbed in a bad situation. (2000:229)
160. **Keep your ear to the ground** - If you keep your ear to the ground, you try to keep informed about something, especially if there are rumours or uncertainties.
161. **Keep your hair on** - Keep your hair on is advice telling someone to keep calm and not to over-react or get angry. (1986:275)
162. **Keep your head** - If you keep your head, you stay calm in times of difficulty. (2000:229)
163. **Keep your nose to the grindstone** - If you keep your nose to the grindstone, you work hard and seriously. (2000:230)
164. **Keep your pecker up** - If someone tells you to keep your pecker up, they are telling you not to let your problems get on top of you and to try to be optimistic. (1986:275)
165. **Keep your shirt on!** - This idiom is used to tell someone to calm down. (1993:179)
166. **Keep your wig on!** - (UK) This idiom is used to tell someone to calm down.
167. **Keep mum** - If you keep mum about something, you keep quiet and don't tell anyone. (1986:295)
168. **Knight in shining armour** - A knight in shining armour is someone who saves you when you are in great trouble or danger. (2002:215)
169. **Know your onions** - If someone is very well-informed about something, they know their onions. (2002:284) **know your onions** British & Australian, humorous to know a lot about a particular subject. "That car salesman certainly knew his onions, didn't he?"
170. **Know which side one's bread is buttered on** - If you know which side one's bread is buttered on, you know where your interests lie and will act accordingly to protect or further them. (2005:382)
171. **Know which way the wind blows** - This means that you should know how things are developing and be prepared for the future. (2008:879)
172. **Labour of love** - A labour of love is a project or task undertaking for the interest or pleasure in doing it rather than the reward, financial or otherwise. (2009:338)
173. **Laughter is the best medicine** - Laughing is often helpful for healing, especially emotional healing. (2002:221)

174. **Learn the ropes** - If you are learning the ropes, you are learning how to do something. (2000:237)
175. **Leopard can't change its spots** - This idiom means that people cannot change basic aspects of their character, especially negative ones. ("A leopard doesn't change its spots" is also used.)
176. **Let your hair down** - If someone lets their hair down, they relax and stop feeling inhibited or shy. (2000:245)
177. **Let the chips fall where they may** - This means that we shouldn't try to control events, because destiny controls them. (2002:67)
178. **Like a fish needs a bicycle** - If someone needs something like a Fish Needs a Bicycle, they do not need it at all, originally a feminist slogan: A woman needs a man like a fish needs a bicycle.
179. **Like the back of your hand** - If you know something like the back of your hand, you know it very well indeed. (2002:16)
180. **Lily-livered** - Someone who is lily-livered is a coward. (2002:531)
181. **Lock the stable door after the horse has bolted** - If someone takes action too late, they do this; there is no reason to lock an empty stable.
182. **Look before you leap** - This idiom means that you should think carefully about the possible results or consequences before doing something. (1998:217)
183. **Look on the bright side** - If you look on the bright side, you try to see things in an optimistic way, especially when something has gone wrong. (2002:51)
184. **Loose lips sink ships** - To have loose lips means to have a big mouth, susceptible to talking about everything and everyone. Sinking ships refers to anything from small acquaintances to long and hearty relationships (with friends or a significant other). So when one says loose lips sink ships, one is basically saying if you can't shut up you are going to end hurting people, usually psychologically or emotionally. Loose lips sink ships comes from World War I and/or WWII, when sailors on leave from their ships might talk about what ship they sailed on or where it had come from, or where it was going. If they talked too much (had "loose lips") they might accidentally provide the enemy with anecdotal information that might later cause their ship to be tracked, and bombed and sunk, hence "Loose lips sink ships." Later, it came to mean any excessive talk might sabotage a project. (2005:416)
185. **Lose your bottle** - (UK) If someone loses their bottle, they lose the courage to do something. (2004:35)
186. **Lose the plot** - If someone loses the plot, they have stopped being rational about something. (2002:303)

187. **Make headway** - *If you make headway, you make progress. (2009:373)*
188. **Man Friday** - *From "Robinson Crusoe", a "Man Friday" refers to an assistant or companion, usually a capable one. The common feminine equivalent is "Girl Friday". (Also, "right-hand man".) (2002:148)*
189. **Man in the street** - *The man in the street is an idiom to describe ordinary people, especially when talking about their opinions and ideas. (2000:267)*
190. **Man of his word** - *A man of his word is a person who does what he says and keeps his promises. (1999:214)*
191. **Man of letters** - *A man of letters is someone who is an expert in the arts and literature, and often a writer too. (2009:379)*
192. **Man of means** - *A man, or woman, of means is wealthy. (2002:249)*
193. **Man of parts** - *A man of parts is a person who is talented in a number of different areas or ways. (2009:379)*
194. **Man of straw** - *A weak person that can easily be beaten or changed is a man of straw. (2002:244)*
195. **Man of the cloth** - *A man of the cloth is a priest. (2002:244)*
196. **Man on the Clapham omnibus** - *(UK) The man on the Clapham omnibus is the ordinary person in the street. (2002:69)*
197. **Man proposes, God disposes** - *Your fate lies in the hands of God. (2009:379)*
198. **Man upstairs** - *When people refer to the man upstairs, they are referring to God.*
199. **Many a slip twixt cup and lip** - *There's many a slip twixt cup and lip means that many things can go wrong before something is achieved. (2002:357)*
200. **Many hands make light work** - *This idiom means that when everyone gets involved in something, the work gets done quickly. (2000:267)*
201. **Man's best friend** - *This is an idiomatic term for dogs. (1986:412)*
202. **Man's man** - *A man's man is a man who does things enjoyed by men and is respected by other men. (2009:380)*
203. **Melt your heart** - *If something melts your heart, it affects you emotionally and you cannot control the feeling.*
204. **Memory like a sieve** - *If somebody can't retain things for long in his or her memory and quickly forgets, he or she has a memory like a sieve. A sieve has lots of tiny holes in it to let liquids out while keeping the solids inside. (2002:351)*
205. **Memory like an elephant** - *"An elephant never forgets" is a saying, so if a person has a memory like an elephant, he or she has a very good memory indeed. (2002:250)*

206. **Mind your P's and Q's** - This is used as a way of telling someone to be polite and behave well. (2000:270)
207. **Mind over matter** - This idiom is used when someone uses their willpower to rise above adversity. (2002:254)
208. **Monkey see, monkey do** - This idiom means that children will learn their behaviour by copying what they see happening around them. (1999:226)
209. **More haste, less speed** - The faster you try to do something, the more likely you are to make mistakes that make you take longer than it would had you planned it. (2005:426)
210. **Mummy's boy** - A man who is still very dependent on his mother is a mummy's boy. (1998:238)
211. **Nerves of steel** - If someone has nerves of steel, they don't get frightened when other people do. (1999:233)
212. **Nervous Nellie** - Someone excessively worried or apprehensive is a nervous Nellie (or Nelly). (1992:703)
213. **New man** - (UK) A New man is a man who believes in complete equality of the sexes and shares domestic work equally. (2002:269)
214. **New sheriff in town** - This is used when a new authority figure takes charge.
215. **No good deed goes unpunished** - This means that life is unfair and people can do or try to do good things and still end up in a lot of trouble. (2008:594)
216. **No spine** - If someone has no spine, they lack courage or are cowardly.
217. **No time like the present** - If people say that there's no time like the present, they believe that it is far better to do something now than to leave it for later, in which case it might never get done. (1986:487)
218. **Nose in the air** - If someone has their nose in the air, they behave in a way that is meant to show that they are superior to others. (2000:297)
219. **Nothing ventured, nothing gained** - You can't win if you don't join in the game; if you don't participate in something, you will not achieve anything. (1998:247)
220. **Off the rails** - If someone has gone off the rails, they have lost track of reality. (2000: 225)
221. **Once bitten, twice shy** - If somebody is said to be once bitten twice shy, it means that someone who has been hurt or who has had something go wrong will be far more careful the next time. (1986:355)
222. **One good turn deserves another** - This means that when people do something good, something good will happen to them. (1993:232)
223. **One-man band** - If one person does all the work or has all the responsibility somewhere, then they are a one-man band. (2002:283)

224. **Painted Jezebel** - *A painted Jezebel is a scheming woman.*
225. **Parrot fashion** - *If you learn something parrot fashion, you learn it word for word. A parrot is a bird from South America that can talk. (1993:243)*
226. **Pass the time of day** - *If you pass the time of day with somebody, you stop and say hello, enquire how they are and other such acts of social politeness. (2009:449)*
227. **Pastoral care** - *This is used in education to describe the aspect of care offered to pupils that cover things besides learning. (2009:69)*
228. **Patience of Job** - *If something requires the patience of Job, it requires great patience. (2000:19)*
229. **Peeping Tom** - *A peeping Tom is someone who tries to look through other people's windows without being seen in order to spy on people in their homes. (2002:294)*
230. **Pen is mightier than the sword** - *The idiom 'the pen is mightier than the sword' means that words and communication are more powerful than wars and fighting. (1999:249)*
231. **Penny pincher** - *A penny pincher is a mean person or who is very frugal. (1992:804)*
232. **People who live in glass houses should not throw stones** - *People should not criticize other people for faults that they have themselves. (1998:261)*
233. **Pyrrhic victory** - *A Pyrrhic victory is one that causes the victor to suffer so much to achieve it that it isn't worth winning. (2002:313)*
234. **Plain Jane** - *A plain Jane is a woman who isn't particularly attractive. (2002:302)*
235. **Pour oil on troubled waters** - *If someone pours oil on troubled waters, they try to calm things down. (1993:254)*
236. **Presence of mind** - *If someone behaves calmly and rationally in difficult circumstances, they show presence of mind. (1993:255)*
237. **Prince charming** - *A prince charming is the perfect man in a woman's life. (2002:309)*
238. **Prodigal son** - *A prodigal son is a young man who wastes a lot on money on a lavish lifestyle. If the prodigal son returns, they return to a better way of living. (2009:466)*
239. **Put your best foot forward** - *If you put your best foot forward, you try your best to do something. (2000:326)*
240. **Put your hand on your heart** - *If you can put your hand on your heart, then you can say something knowing it to be true. (2002:174)*
241. **Put your money where your mouth is** - *If someone puts their money where their mouth is, they back up their words with action. (1993:265)*
242. **Put your shoulder to the wheel** - *When you put your shoulder to the wheel, you contribute to an effort. (2002:349)*

243. **Put yourself in someone's shoes** - *If you put yourself in someone's shoes, you imagine what it is like to be in their position.*
244. **Real trouper** - *A real trouper is someone who will fight for what they believe in and doesn't give up easily. People often use "Real trooper" as the two words sound the same.*
245. **Renaissance man** - *A Renaissance man is a person who is talented in a number of different areas, especially when their talents include both the sciences and the arts. (2002:323)*
246. **Rest on your laurels** - *If someone rests on their laurels, they rely on their past achievements, rather than trying to achieve things now. (2000:340)*
247. **Rice missionary** - *A rice missionary gives food to hungry people as a way of converting them to Christianity.*
248. **Rip van Winkle** - *Rip van Winkle is a character in a story who slept for twenty years, so if someone is a Rip van Winkle, they are behind the times and out of touch with what's happening now.*
249. **Rise from the ashes** - *If something rises from the ashes, it recovers after a serious failure. (2005:565)*
250. **Road to Damascus** - *If someone has a great and sudden change in their ideas or beliefs, then this is a road to Damascus change, after the conversion of Saint Paul to Christianity while heading to Damascus to persecute Christians. (2002:327)*
251. **Rome was not built in a day** - *This idiom means that many things cannot be done instantly, and require time and patience. (2009:483)*
252. **Rough diamond** - *A rough diamond is a person who might be a bit rude but who is good underneath it all. (2009:484)*
253. **Run circles around someone** - *If you can run circles around someone, you are smarter and intellectually quicker than they are. (1993:275)*
254. **Safe pair of hands** - *A person who can be trusted to do something without causing any trouble is a safe pair of hands. (2002:335)*
255. **Saying is one thing; doing is another** - *It's harder to do something than it is to say that you will do it.*
256. **Save someone's bacon** - *If something saves your bacon, it saves your life or rescues you from a desperate situation. People can also save your bacon. (1992:702)*
257. **Scales fall from your eyes** - *When the scales fall from your eyes, you suddenly realise the truth about something.*
258. **Scarlet woman** - *This idiom is used as a pejorative term for a sexually promiscuous woman, especially an adulteress. (2009:490)*

259. **Sea legs** - *If you are getting your sea legs, it takes you a while to get used to something new.*
(2000:141)
260. **Second wind** - *If you overcome tiredness and find new energy and enthusiasm, you have second wind.* (2002:341)
261. **See the light** - *When someone sees the light, they realise the truth.* (1993:282)
262. **Seeing is believing** - *This idiom means that people can only really believe what they experience personally.* (2000:353)
263. **Sell your soul** - *If someone sells their soul, they betray the most precious beliefs.* (2002:363)
264. **Separate the sheep from the goats** - *If you separate the sheep from the goats, you sort out the good from the bad.* (1993:284)
265. **Separate the wheat from the chaff** - *When you separate the wheat from the chaff, you select what is useful or valuable and reject what is useless or worthless.* (2002:421)
266. **Serve your country** - *When someone is serving their country, they have enrolled in the military.*
267. **Show your true colours** - *To show your true colours is to reveal yourself as you really are.*
(2002:77)
268. **Shrinking violet** - *A shrinking violet is a shy person who doesn't express their views and opinions.* (2002:350)
269. **Silence is golden** - *It is often better to say nothing than to talk, so silence is golden.*
(1986:308)
270. **Slowly, slowly catchy monkey** - *This means that eventually you will achieve your goal.*
271. **Smart Alec** - *A smart Alec is a conceited person who likes to show off how clever and knowledgeable they are.* (2000:320)
272. **Smell a rat** - *If you smell a rat, you know instinctively that something is wrong or that someone is lying to you.* (1993:297)
273. **Sound as a pound** - *(UK) if something is as sound as a pound, it is very good or reliable.*
274. **Sow the seeds** - *When people sow the seeds, they start something that will have a much greater impact in the future.* (2002:342)
275. **Square the circle** - *When someone is squaring the circle, they are trying to do something impossible.* (2009:516)
276. **Stew in your own juices** - *If you leave someone to stew in their own juices, you leave them to worry about the consequences of what they have done wrong or badly.* (1993:306)
277. **Stick your neck out** - *If you stick your neck out, you take a risk because you believe in something.* (2002:268)

278. **Stick-in-the-mud** - A *stick-in-the-mud* is someone who doesn't like change and wants things to stay the same. (1993:307)
279. **Stiff upper lip** - (UK) If you keep your emotions to yourself and don't let others know how you feel when something bad happens, you keep a stiff upper lip. (2009:520)
280. **Still waters run deep** - People use this idiom to imply that people who are quiet and don't try to attract attention are often more interesting than people who do try to get attention. (2009:521)
281. **Straight face** - If someone keeps a straight face, they remain serious and do not show emotion or amusement. (2000:227)
282. **Strain every nerve** - If you strain every nerve, you make a great effort to achieve something. (2002:268)
283. **Strike while the iron is hot** - If you strike while the iron is hot you do something when things are going well for you and you have a good. (1993:310)
284. **Stubborn as a mule** - Someone who will not listen to other people's advice and won't change their way of doing things is as stubborn as a mule. (2000:348)
285. **Sweat blood** - If you sweat blood, you make an extraordinary effort to achieve something. (1993:312)
286. **Take your hat off to somebody** - If you take your hat off to someone, you acknowledge that they have done something exceptional or otherwise deserve your respect.
287. **Take someone under your wing** - If you take someone under your wing, you look after them while they are learning something. (1993:319)
288. **Take the heat** - If you take the heat, you take the criticism or blame for something you didn't do, normally to protect the guilty person. (2002:186)
289. **Take the rough with the smooth** - People say that you have to take the rough with the smooth, meaning that you have to be prepared to accept the disadvantages as well of the advantages of something. (1993:322)
290. **Teach your grandmother to suck eggs** - When people say "don't teach your grandmother to suck eggs", they mean that people shouldn't try to teach someone who has experience or is an expert in that area. (1993:324)
291. **Tell them where the dog died** - (USA) If you tell them where the dog died, you strongly and sharply correct someone.
292. **Tempt providence** - If you tempt providence, you take a risk that may well have unpleasant consequences. ('Tempt fate' is also used.) (1997:541)
293. **The apple does not fall far from the tree** - Offspring grow up to be like their parents.

294. **The bigger they are, the harder they fall** - This idiom means that the more powerful have more to lose, so when they suffer something bad, it is worse for them. (2002:478)
295. **The common weal** - If something is done for the common weal, it is done in the interests and for the benefit of the majority or the general public.
296. **The Mountie always gets his man** - (Canada) The Mounties are the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and they have a reputation for catching criminals they are after.
297. **Thick-skinned** - If a person is thick-skinned, they are not affected by criticism. (1993:328)
298. **Thin line** - If there's a thin line between things, it's hard to distinguish them- there's a thin line between love and hate. (2009:550)
299. **Think outside the box** - If you think outside the box, you think in an imaginative and creative way. (2000:404)
300. **Thin-skinned** - If somebody is thin-skinned, they are very sensitive to any sort of criticism. (1993:328)
301. **Third time's the charm** - This is used when the third time one tries something, one achieves a successful outcome. (2005:696)
302. **Through thick and thin** - If someone supports you through thick and thin, they support you during good times and bad. (2009:554)
303. **Throw someone a line** - If someone throws you a line, they give you help when you are in serious difficulties.
304. **Tidy desk, tidy mind** - A cluttered or disorganised environment will affect your clarity of thought. Organised surroundings and affairs will allow for clearer thought organisation.
305. **Time and tide wait for no man** - This is used as a way of suggestion that people should act without delay. (2009:556)
306. **To a fault** - If something does something to a fault, they do it excessively. So someone who is generous to a fault is too generous. (2009:559) (2002:131)
307. **To a man** - If a group of people does, believes, thinks, etc, something to a man, then they all do it. (2009:560)
308. **To a T** - If something is done to a T, it is done perfectly. (2009:561)
309. **To err is human, to forgive divine** - This idiom is used when someone has done something wrong, suggesting that they should be forgiven. (2005:707)
310. **To have the courage of your convictions** - If you have the courage of your convictions, you are brave enough to do what you feel is right, despite any pressure for you to do something different.
311. **Turn a new leaf** - If someone turns a new leaf, they change their behaviour and stop doing wrong or bad things.

312. **Turn the other cheek** - If you turn the other cheek, you are humble and do not retaliate or get outwardly angry when someone offends or hurts you, in fact, you give them the opportunity to re-offend instead and compound their unpleasantness. (2000:418)
313. **Turn water into wine** - If someone turns water into wine, they transform something bad into something excellent.
314. **Two-edged sword** - If someone uses an argument that could both help them and harm them, then they are using a two-edged sword; it cuts both ways. (2005:725)
315. **Ugly duckling** - An ugly duckling is a child who shows little promise, but who develops later into a real talent or beauty. (2002:408)
316. **Uncle Sam** - (USA) Uncle Sam is the government of the USA. (2000:84)
317. **Up the duff** - (UK) If a woman is up the duff, she's pregnant. (2002:108)
318. **Up the stick** - (UK) If a woman is up the stick, she's pregnant. (2009:573)
319. **Vicar of Bray** - (UK) A person who changes their beliefs and principles to stay popular with people above them is a Vicar of Bray (2008:868)
320. **Walk a mile in my shoes** - This idiom means that you should try to understand someone before criticising them.
321. **Walking encyclopaedia** - A very knowledgeable person is a walking encyclopaedia. (1999:350)
322. **Wallflower** - (UK) A woman politician given an unimportant government position so that the government can pretend it takes women seriously is a wallflower.
323. **White feather** - If someone shows a white feather, they are cowards. (2009:588)
324. **Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free** - This idiom is usually used to refer to men who don't want to get married, when they can get all the benefits of marriage without getting married.
325. **Who wears the pants?** - (USA) The person who wears the pants in a relationship is the dominant person who controls things.
326. **Who wears the trousers?** - (UK) The person who wears the trousers in a relationship is the dominant person who controls things.
327. **Wood for the trees** - (UK) If someone can't see the wood for the trees, they get so caught up in small details that they fail to understand the bigger picture. (2002:402)
328. **Work your socks off** - If you work your socks off, you work very hard. (2002:361)
329. **Work your tail off** - If you work your tail off, you work extremely hard.
330. **Zip your lip** - If someone tells you to zip your lip, they want to shut up or keep quiet about something. ("Zip it" is also used.) (2007:246)

APPENDIX II

Sentences containing idioms from the English National Corpus

3.1. Idiomatic statements referring to good behaviour

1. *Actions speak louder than words*

CCR 643 *He added that he, unlike his opponents, did not apply for exemption from military service - actions speak louder than words'.*

CCR *The culture of labourism. Marriott, John. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1991, pp. 1265 s-units, 28583 words.*

FBD 842 *And when it isn', one maxim thats often used as a lie detector is the maxim that actions speak louder than words.*

FBD *Ways of communicating. Mellor, D M; Bateson, P; Alvey, J; Chomsky, N; Goehr; Barlow, H. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990, pp. 4-124. 1328 s-units, 31521 words.*

FBD 853 *So the point of the maxim that actions speak louder than words is not that people never use non-linguistic actions to communicate (which is when they may be deliberately misleading), but that language is much less often used to do anything else.*

FBD *Ways of communicating. Mellor, D M; Bateson, P; Alvey, J; Chomsky, N; Goehr; Barlow, H. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990, pp. 4-124. 1328 s-units, 31521 words.*

HGN 2612 *In the kitchen, actions speak louder than words.*

HGN *The dyke & the dybbuk. Galford, Ellen. London: Virago Press Ltd, 1993, pp. 98-245. 4023 s-units, 44635 words.*

2. *Come to grips*

A0K 1141 *Through the daily use of our special knowledge of the counter-culture, we were forced to acknowledge and come to grips with many of the complex social factors surrounding some drug use, which a legal framework could never adequately encompass.*

A0K *An inside job. Young, Malcolm. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991, pp. 1208 s-units, 38561 words.*

A43 337 *They believe that any newcomer would take months to come to grips with what has gone wrong at Ferranti and would as a consequence be worse placed to negotiate a rescue for the group.*

A43 *[Independent, electronic edition of 19891010]. London: Newspaper Publishing plc, 1989, Business material, pp. 600 s-units, 11984 words.*

A7J 24 *'I'd like to know it, all the same,' he said, as if the knowledge could somehow enable him to come to grips with it and defeat it.*

A7J *The charnel house. McGrath, Eamonn. Belfast: The Blackstaff Press Ltd, 1990, pp. 2238 s-units, 26587 words.*

A7T 5 *The first, albeit tentative, steps towards forming a new Pacific-based economic union display an astute awareness of the way events are moving within Europe: movements with which Number 10 has yet to come to grips.*

A7T *[Guardian, electronic edition of 19891108]. London: Guardian Newspapers Ltd, 1989, City material, pp. 391 s-units, 8395 words.*

3. Hold the fort

CAJ 1473 Insurance policies, wise investments, sensible diets and burglar alarms: if only we can lay down enough of them, the reasoning goes, we can maybe hold the fort against the chaos that rages outside.

CAJ New Statesman and Society. London: Foundation House, 1992, p. 1938 s-units, 39896 words.

FTX 442 This remarkable man was a loyal supporter of the BDDA all his life and none more worthy could have been chosen to hold the fort as President.

FTX The deaf advance. Grant, Brian. Durham: The Pentland Press Ltd, 1990, pp. 1-124. 1205 s-units, 31883 words.

GOS 1411 - No, my dear, I'll stay here and hold the fort.

GOS Indigo. Warner, Marina. London: Chatto & Windus Ltd, 1992, pp. 2044 s-units, 42026 words.

H8Y 2409 'I called him in, expressed my gratitude at his willingness to hold the fort in the boarding annexe, and then...offered him a sherry, if he should feel like it, later on.'

H8Y Little victims. Barnard, Robert. London: Corgi Books, 1993, pp. 5-150. 3512 s-units, 40724 words.

4. Square the circle

EW1 1087 and party men saw it too; hence the contentiousness of the various schemes to square the circle by fusing the two coalition partners into one organization.

EW1 The age of Balfour and Baldwin 1902–1940. Ramsden, John. Harlow: Longman Group UK Ltd, 1978, pp. 65-151. 1442 s-units, 40691 words.

G3L 1026 Politicians of all persuasions entertain the hope that their brand of constitutional reconstruction can set things aright so enabling the state to recover, square the circle, and create the conditions for both economic growth and social cohesion.

G3L Introduction to British politics. Dearlove, John and Saunders, Peter. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1988, pp. 12-109. 1417 s-units, 43609 words.

HHV 20092 On his last point, Labour has manifestly failed to square the circle.

HHV [Hansard extracts 1991–1992]. London: HMSO, 1992, pp. 26206 s-units, 428139 words.

HHX 19521 Therefore, I believe that we can square the circle and there is no reason to say that, by widening the scope of the Bill's long title, it would open the issue so much that the Bill's progress to Report would be unnecessarily delayed.

HHX [Hansard extracts 1991–1992]. London: HMSO, 1992, p. 20394 s-units, 401105 words.

3.2. Use of idiomatic expressions related to female activities

1. Glass ceiling

ABH 676 On January 14th the unlikely figure of Bob Dole, the Senate Republican leader, took time off from the Gulf to call for a statutory commission to find out why women have not broken through the 'glass ceiling' that keeps them from top management jobs.

ABH The Economist. London: The Economist Newspaper Ltd, 1991, p. 3341 s-units, 60150 words.

ABH 686 And few of the people who hit the glass ceiling are inclined to go through the additional pain of a complaint to the government or a court case.

ABH *The Economist*. London: *The Economist Newspaper Ltd*, 1991, pp. 3341 s-units, 60150 words.

ABH 701 *The administration's left hand may continue to fight it as a quota measure, while its right comes close to endorsing quotas to break the glass ceiling.*

ABH *The Economist*. London: *The Economist Newspaper Ltd*, 1991, p. 3341 s-units, 60150 words.

BMB 1321 *But the study shows that those dedicated to breaking through the 'glass ceiling' on their careers are prepared to sacrifice having a family; the nine women tested had only five children between them; the six men had 10.*

BMB *Business*. London: *Business People Pubcs Ltd*, 1991, pp. 9-111. 2554 s-units, 42242 words.

2. Grass widow

FU2 299 "I tell folks Lyn's not a grass widow, she's a moor widow."

3. Hand that rocks the cradle

CEK 3291 *A YOUNG woman suckling a baby is one of life's most natural and delightful scenes - but not in The Hand That Rocks The Cradle (Hollywood Pictures, 15, out Nov 10).*

CEK *Today*. London: *News Group Newspapers Ltd*, 1992, pp. 7687 s-units, 120337 words.

CH5 4627 *And the film released earlier this year, The Hand That Rocks The Cradle, about a nanny who infiltrates a family threatening to harm the couple's child, preys on a mother's worst fear.*

CH5 *The Daily Mirror*. London: *Mirror Group Newspapers*, 1992, pp. 5648 s-units, 77348 words.

HHW 12091 *I know that the hand that rocks the cradle is supposed to be steady 24 hours a day, but that does not always hold.*

HHW [*Hansard extracts 1991–1992*]. London: *HMSO*, 1992, pp. 14778 s-units, 286414 words.

KPG 3932 *I got erm, Hand That Rocks The Cradle, Universal Soldiers and and he was offering me all Jean Claude Van Damm ones*

KPG 39 *conversations recorded by 'Josie' (PS555) [dates unknown] with 34 interlocutors, totalling 45190 words, 4491 utterances, and over 59 minutes 42 seconds of recordings.*

4. Plain Jane

G2E 568 *There are often, among the competitors, girls from Eastern Bloc or otherwise under-privileged countries who have been brought up to believe that a monumental talent requires total dedication, who have been told that great minds do not fuss about small externals, who have been led to suppose that for a great genius to be a plain Jane is only appropriate.*

G2E *Harpers & Queen*. London: *The National Magazine Company Ltd*, 1990, pp. 2935 s-units, 59597 words.

HPG 769 *'Plain Jane' they called her.*

HPG [*Essays*]. pupils. u.p., n.d., pp. 1546 s-units, 25968 words.

KDA 3460 *I remember old plain Jane when her transformation*

5. Scarlet woman

ASC 629 *What I really wrote to tell you is that the Ballet Club Committee says that the Scarlet Woman must be changed - so please do two new designs for me to choose from - and help me!*

ASC *Theatre in my blood: biography of John Cranko. Percival, John. London: The Herbert Press Ltd, 1983, pp. v-78. 1439 s-units, 33973 words.*

ASC 638 *Soldiers, returning wearily from war, reach a village where they are warmly welcomed by maidens, and their leader succumbs to the charms of the Scarlet Woman.*

ASC *Theatre in my blood: biography of John Cranko. Percival, John. London: The Herbert Press Ltd, 1983, pp. v-78. 1439 s-units, 33973 words.*

CN4 163 *A woman can still be considered dangerous and exciting by wearing vibrant red clothes; we are all familiar with the term 'scarlet woman'.*

CN4 *The Artist. Tenterden: The Artist Publishing Company Ltd, 1992, pp. 1038 s-units, 21971 words.*

H8J 307 *I'm a hard-working dress designer, not a scarlet woman.*

H8J *Gemini girl. Goodman, Liza. Richmond, Surrey: Mills & Boon, 1992, pp. 3076 s-units, 48580 words.*

H9D 127 *I will not consent to be portrayed in the press as a superannuated scarlet woman!*

H9D *Posthumous papers. Barnard, Robert. London: Corgi Books, 1992, p 3269 s-units, 42912 words.*

3.2.1. Use of idiomatic expressions related to women activities. Names

1. Jane Doe

HH3 9027 *The signature at the bottom, clinched it: Jane Doe - which is a synonym for The-Woman-in-the-Street.*

HH3 *New Internationalist. u.p., n.d., pp. 15425 s-units, 241973 words.*

2. Jekyll and Hyde

CL1 1477 *He keeps the two spheres as separate as possible, leading an almost Jekyll and Hyde existence.*

CL1 *Black sportsmen. Cashmore, Ernest. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul plc, 1982, pp. 1-119. 1663 s-units, 39749 words.*

CL2 1983 *He was Jekyll and Hyde to himself, swallowing the compounds and mixtures of his own fantasies and terrors and watching what happened.*

CL2 *Rich. The life of Richard Burton. Bragg, Melvyn. London: Coronet Books, 1989, pp. 2303 s-units, 40152 words.*

G3D 480 *Lonely: The spiritual isolation of the disease is lonely enough but add to this the "Jekyll and Hyde" behaviour (depending upon whether or not a drink or drug has been taken that day) causing untold damage to family and other relationships and the loneliness becomes intense.*

G3D *How to combat alcoholism & addiction. Lefever, Robert. UK: Promis Books Ltd, 1988, pp. 1-119. 1747 s-units, 40150 words.*

G3D 1571 *By recognising that one cannot "fix" someone else and that addictive disease has "Jekyll and Hyde" changes in mood and behaviour.*

G3D *How to combat alcoholism & addiction. Lefever, Robert. UK: Promis Books Ltd, 1988, pp. 1-119. 1747 s-units, 40150 words.*

3.2.2. Use of idiomatic expressions related to women activities, features

1. Up the stick

ACB 113 She picked up the stick and hurled it, skimming it low over the shallow pools left by the tide.
ACB The lock. Gates, Susan. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990, pp. 3691 s-units, 41294 words.

J52 2131 Instantly 20 soldiers buried their massively muscled pincers in my stick, possibly never to let go, while dozens more swarmed up the stick causing me to let go with alacrity.

J52 The blind watchmaker. Dawkins, Richard. UK: Longman, 1986, pp. 1-109. 2143 s-units, 44769 words.

2. Wallflower

AC6 356 I felt very much the wallflower as I crept out of the room without speaking to anyone, my books held tightly against my chest in a way which, I was to learn, was feminine and wrong for a man.

AC6 A poet could not but be gay. Kirkup, James. London: Peter Owen Publishers, 1991, pp. 2400 s-units, 40018 words.

BN6 642 In fact you could say that I was a real wallflower.

BN6 Seasons of my life. Hauxwell, Hannah and Cockcroft, Barry. London: Random Century Group, 1989, pp. 18-153. 1746 s-units, 35086 words.

CBG 4982 'Anyway, I would have thought Souness is the wrong person to go round criticising physical play - he was hardly a wallflower as a player.

CBG Today. London: News Group Newspapers Ltd, 1992, pp. 13058 s-units, 230229 words.

H8H 1441 She could remember the times when she had patronisingly tried to include some wallflower into a party, inwardly breathing a sigh of relief that she wasn't like that .

H8H A French encounter. Williams, Cathy. Richmond, Surrey: Mills & Boon, 1992, pp. 3587 s-units, 49932 words.

3.2.3. Use of idiomatic expressions related to women activities. Things, phenomena

1. Dutch wife

FAN 1070 He was entertained by the Viceroy whose press officer reported the lunch with Sjahrir and 'his buxom, blonde Dutch wife': 'Sjahrir must be the smallest statesman since Dolfuss, the Austrian pocket premier.'

FAN Men who overturned empires. Tinker, H. Basingstoke: Macmillan Publishers Ltd, 1987, pp. 2376 s-units, 42881 words.

3.3. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities

1. Any Tom, Dick or Harry

CLD 2060 *Never mind about A area, in B area it was plain to any Tom, Dick or Harry.*

CLD Condition black. Seymour, Gerald. London: Fontana Press, 1991, pp. 17-142. 2923 s-units, 40740 words.

HTY 669 *I don't let any Tom, Dick or Harry save my life.*

HTY The pit. Penswick, Neil. London: Virgin, 1993, pp. 113-257. 4364 s-units, 41391 words.

2. Before you can say Jack Robinson

AC5 2248 *Though we'll be home before you can say Jack Robinson.*

AC5 Paper faces. Anderson, Rachel. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991, pp. 3273 s-units, 36854 words.

E.g. *'I'll be back before you can say Jack Robinson.'* B3J 1444

B3J Yanto's summer. Pickernell, Ray. Wotton-under-Edge: Morgans Technical Books Ltd, 1988, pp. 2982 s-units, 44678 words.

B3J 1877 *'If you touch that fish I'll have you up the steps before you can say Jack Robinson,' hissed Herbie, going blue in the face 'Whaddya mean,' argued Lofty, 'I found im and I gotta licence.'*

B3J Yanto's summer. Pickernell, Ray. Wotton-under-Edge: Morgans Technical Books Ltd, 1988, pp. 2982 s-units, 44678 words.

HNK 1595 *If she is not watched like a hawk she will be in trouble of some sort before you can say Jack Robinson.'*

HNK The floating voter. Critchley, Julian. London: Headline Book Publishing plc, 1993, pp. 1-150. 2461 s-units, 40904 words.

3. Jobs for the boys

JJE 261 *if it's doing so well, oh and you wouldn't have been on that long under a Labour Government, of course, it would've been jobs for the boys, they'd've slipped you in I'm sure.*

JJE Bradford Metropolitan Council: debate (Public/institutional). Recorded on 20 January 1994 with an unknown number of participants, totalling 8059 words, 104 utterances

K5M 11511 *Councillor John Murphy told The Scotsman last week that he had proof to back up 'jobs for the boys' claims in Monklands.*

K5M [Scotsman]. u.p., n.d., World affairs material, pp. 12622 s-units, 261981 words.

K5M 11516 *The councillor, who also spoke out to the local newspaper to counter what he said were council leader Jim Brooks' unfounded assertions that jobs for the boys claims were simply smears, also called on other party members in the area to step forward publicly with any information they had on malpractice.*

K5M [Scotsman]. u.p., n.d., World affairs material, pp. 12622 s-units, 261981 words.

K5M 11845 *Council worker suspended over 'jobs for the boys' claim*

K5M [Scotsman]. u.p., n.d., World affairs material, pp. 12622 s-units, 261981 words.

4. Man of his word

HA9 945 Dane was gone — he'd made that promise the night before, and for some reason she felt sure he was, despite all, a man of his word.

HA9 Winter challenge. Richmond, Surrey: Mills & Boon, 1993, pp. 3608 s-units, 51076 words.

HEW 78 Bishops Hall doing it nicely under Brad and i's good to see him in the saddle today because he was offered the ride on Morley Street but he'd already said yes and he's a man of his word and he agreed to ride this horse.

HEW Racing: the Morning Line: television broadcast. Recorded on 13 November 1993 with 5 participants, totalling 4772 words, 179 utterances, and lasting 25 minutes

KLY 251 no matter what you've heard about John , I know he's a man of his word he's an honest man and he won't say that he didn't say that to me will you John.

KLY Trade Union Annual Congress (Business). Recorded on 7 June 1993 with 10 participants, totalling 13889 words, 143 utterances (duration not recorded).

5. *Man of means*

AB4 891 Edmund Hornby of Dalton Hall had bought the living for his second son, and George, being a man of means, decided to upgrade the mean existing rectory to suit his status.

AB4 The perfect English country house. Lycett Green, Candida. London: Pavilion Books Ltd, 1991, pp 1644 s-units, 36464 words.

AB4 1368 He was also a man of means and in 1839, as a young architect, he bought up an estate in Cheltenham known as the Park and set about making fourteen acres of formal gardens and building six of speculative housing.

AB4 The perfect English country house. Lycett Green, Candida. London: Pavilion Books Ltd, 1991, pp 1644 s-units, 36464 words.

AB4 1424 It is called the Red House because it is built of deep red brick, an unusual medium for a man of means, who was normally expected to build in something nobler.

AB4 The perfect English country house. Lycett Green, Candida. London: Pavilion Books Ltd, 1991, pp. 1644 s-units, 36464 words.

6. *Man of straw*

BM4 756 For instance, he said that the expression 'by hook or by crook' came from the period of Charles II when there were two judges called Hook and Crook and 'a man of straw' he discovered, was one who could be brought to bear false witness - recognisable by the straw in his shoes.

BM4 The Alton Herald. Farnham, Surrey: Farnham Castle Newspapers Ltd, 1992, pp. 3029 s-units, 54503 words.

CAS 1283 I am now a man of straw.

CAS Punch. London: Punch Publications Ltd, 1992, pp. 1367 s-units, 20030 words.

CHI 5826 THE SUN'S MAN OF STRAW

CHI The Daily Mirror. London: Mirror Group Newspapers, 1992, pp. 9942 s-units, 139468 words.

7. *Prodigal son*

ABV 1815 Some theologians have suggested that the essence of the gospel is nothing more than forgiveness as it is enshrined in the story of the prodigal Son.

ABV I believe. Carey, George. London: SPCK, 1991, pp. 2205 s-units, 37770 words.

AC6 1597 *But they had never mentioned these despicable attacks to me; they had kept cheerful faces and shown me all the love and care they had always given me, their prodigal son.*

AC6 *A poet could not but be gay.* Kirkup, James. London: Peter Owen Publishers, 1991, pp. 2400 s-units, 40018 words.

B1L 1279 *Alan Rough was born and bred in the Gorbals in Glasgow and had his upbringing in a closely knit family that supported the prodigal son from Ballater Street Primary School, to Partick Thistle Amateurs and ultimately to the Scottish International team.*

B1L *Hampden Babylon.* Cosgrove, Stuart. Edinburgh: Canongate Press plc, 1991, pp. 6-109. 1975 s-units, 41247 words.

BND 1641 *The main consideration in gaining a clear conscience is that we work out the wording carefully in advance as the prodigal son did when he was off in the far country.*

BND *Looking up the aisle?* Ames, Joyce and Ames, Dave. Eastbourne: Kingsway Publications, 1989, pp. 15-106. 1827 s-units, 25667 words.

3.3.1. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities. Names

1. *In like Flynn*

BP4 240 *Acquittals on both occasions added to his screen reputation as a charming rogue and the phrase 'in like Flynn' became popular among servicemen boasting of the pleasure they had had and given in their latest sexual conquests.*

BP4 *The encyclopaedia of sexual trivia.* Smith, Robin. London: Robson Books Ltd, 1990, pp. 29-167. 1852 s-units, 27601 words.

2. *Smart Alec*

A99 108 *A suited smart alec, riding shotgun on rugby union's suddenly careering shamateur bandwagon, this week told a group of British international players that they should soon be able to charge £1,500 for a solitary interview.*

A99 *[Guardian, electronic edition of 19891208].* London: Guardian Newspapers Ltd, 1989, Sport material, pp. 488 s-units, 9992 words.

A9H 298 *A suited smart alec, riding shotgun on rugby union's suddenly careering shamateur bandwagon, this week told a group of British international players that they should soon be able to charge £1,500 for a solitary interview.*

A9H *[Guardian, electronic edition of 19891210].* London: Guardian Newspapers Ltd, 1989, Sport material, pp. 1195 s-units, 24001 words.

CD5 892 *Merton here really plays up his loutish commoner pose: the gloomy tabloid man, violently opposed to Hislop's irritating broadsheet smart alec.*

CD5 *The Face.* London: Nick Logan, 1992, pp. 11-130. 2190 s-units, 39481 words.

K4T 8153 *Their hash was settled by the advent of the Romans who are credited with being cultural, organised and generally smart Alec.*

K4T *[Northern Echo].* u.p., n.d., Leisure material, pp. 10892 s-units, 204480 words.

3.3.2. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities. Activities, features

1. *Apron strings*

A3V 154 *In the end she proved, and many women police officers are proving, that it is now the men who are holding on to their apron strings.*

A3V [Independent, electronic edition of 19891009]. London: Newspaper Publishing plc, 1989, Gazette material, pp. 177 s-units, 4156 words.

BNF 657 *Despite her indulgence of him, she had kept him very much tied to her apron strings and had had great difficulty in relinquishing him to a wife.*

BNF *Marriage inside out.* Mattinson, Janet and Clulow, Christopher. London: Penguin Group, 1989, pp. 24-117. 1916 s-units, 39665 words.

CCN 446 *It is part of the art of mothering to be able to let go, when the time comes; we have all met sturdy adults who are 'tied to mother's apron strings', often in many subtle, insidious little ways.*

CCN *The circle of nine.* Gilchrist, Cherry. London: Penguin Group, 1991, pp. 1829 s-units, 36902 words.

2. **Jack the Lad**

A05 980 *Jenn's Jack the Lad is addressed by her as 'my lad', and she firmly refuses to rush into bed with him.*

A05 *Authors.* Miller, Karl. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989, pp. 1705 s-units, 40977 words.

A6E 276 *The singer Steve Mariner, was a bloke in the choir with a really high voice who thought he was Jack The Lad.*

A6E *I was a teenage sex pistol.* Silverton, Pete and Matlock, Glen. London: Omnibus Press, 1990, pp. 1645 s-units, 25543 words.

AP0 61 *Jack the lad is jolly and jovial.*

AP0 *The joker's wild: biography of Jack Nicholson.* Parker, John. London: Anaya Publishers Ltd, 1991, pp. 9-109. 1511 s-units, 36449 words.

CH2 1338 *It was showing off, being Jack the lad.*

CH2 *The Daily Mirror.* London: Mirror Group Newspapers, 1992, pp. 13356 s-units, 178198 words.

3. **Prince charming**

AHG 1278 *As shadows start to threaten and corpses pile up, she wonders whether her Prince Charming is really the big bad wolf.*

AHG [Daily Telegraph, electronic edition of 19920405]. London: The Daily Telegraph plc, 1992, Arts material, pp. 1388 s-units, 28999 words.

AN7 2962 *'Perhaps your luck will change tonight and Prince Charming will be there to whisk you off your feet,' Maggie said.*

AN7 *Maggie Jordan.* Blair, Emma. London: Bantam (Corgi), 1990, pp. 7-94. 4130 s-units, 38012 words.

GV8 1279 *And four or five years later another card arrived, from San Diego, saying she was married and blissfully happy, that she had found her Prince Charming and life was great.*

GV8 *Love over gold.* James, Susannah. London: Corgi Books, 1993, pp. 115-290. 4105 s-units, 43427 words.

H0F 1750 *She had brief glimpses of him in the wings, his head unpleasantly close to the head of a girl called Mona who was playing Prince Charming.*

H0F *The green behind the glass*. Geras, Adele. UK: Lions Teen Tracks, 1989, pp. 1-118. 4151 s-units, 39999 words.

3.3.3. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities. Things, phenomena

1. *Every man has his price*

CKC 2897 *Common sense and what little knowledge of history I have tells me that every man has his price*.

CKC Santorini. MacLean, Alistair. London: Fontana Press, 1987, pp. 7-136. 3784 s-units, 39987 words.

J1C 800 *BTW, if there are cameras...how about flogging the tape to Jez beadle (every man has his price, and mines a grand to publicly humiliate old thunder boots)*

J1C [Leeds United e-mail list]. u.p., n.d., pp. 3437 s-units, 40333 words.

2. *To a T*

AJR 436 *Howey has got it off to a T: so far, she has thrown many of her top opponents with it, including Emanuella Pierantozzi, the Italian world title-holder, who only just managed to twist out and avoid a score in the last world championships.*

AJR [Daily Telegraph, electronic edition of 19920410]. London: The Daily Telegraph plc, 1992, Leisure material, pp. 642 s-units, 13006 words.

JSY 230 *I've called it R P to distinguish it from Spearman's which we're gonna do next week, but you can convert the value of R to a T score and if you've got a T score you can look it up in T tables to work out whether it's significant.*

JSY *Lecture on child sex abuse (Educational/informative). Recorded on 28 January 1994 with 2 participants, totalling 11029 words, 43 utterances, and lasting 2 hours.*

3.4. Idioms referring to human beings ignoring sex

1. *Man of letters*

A18 832 *Obviously the other side of the gap had to be blocked in, and to represent the 1840s the choice fell on Timofey Granovsky, in his time a renowned liberal professor and public speaker, and to a lesser extent a man of letters.*

A18 Dostoevsky. Jones, John. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1983, pp. 1523 s-units, 34329 words.

A1A 655 *Kermode is referring to the demise of the man of letters, or the 'bookman' as he became known in late-Victorian England, and his replacement by the professionalized university critic.*

A1A *Exploding English*. Bergonzi, Bernard. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1990, pp. 1538 s-units, 40497 words.

A1G 411 *The latest biography now calls him 'an outstanding statesman, warrior and man of letters'.*

A1G [Independent, electronic edition of 19891002]. London: Newspaper Publishing plc, 1989, Foreign material, pp. 488 s-units, 9917 words.

A7C 1067 *The more Jack was in demand, as a lecturer, teacher, and man of letters, the more danger there was that Warnie would be thrown back on his own society or, worse, on that of Mrs Moore.*

A7C C S Lewis: *a biography*. Wilson, A N. UK: Collins, 1990, pp. 1590 s-units, 37237 words.

B29 1496 *A man of letters, a man of love and a man of lies*.

B29 [Northern Ireland tourist information]. u.p., n.d., pp. 1860 s-units, 28211 words.

2. Man of the cloth

K1G 2839 *A job centre is praying for help from a higher power...after being asked to find work for a man of the cloth!*

K1G [Central News autocue data.] u.p., n.d., pp. 4101 s-units, 44713 words.

K1G 2847 *As far as omens go, when a man of the cloth has to sign on, things must be getting bad.*

K1G [Central News autocue data.] u.p., n.d., pp. 4101 s-units, 44713 words.

KRM 215 *Steve Parcell might look like any other vicar but to the Gloucesters he's Captain Parcell and a man of the cloth.*

KRM Central News (03): TV news. Recorded on [date unknown] with 9 participants, totalling 50618 words, 1103 utterances (duration not recorded).

KRM 217 *How can a man of the cloth equate being a padre with the army?*

KRM Central News (03): TV news. Recorded on [date unknown] with 9 participants, totalling 50618 words, 1103 utterances (duration not recorded).

3. Renaissance man

ECU 3175 *The computerized drumbeats were overlaid with real instruments - all, incidentally, played by Omar, a regular soul renaissance man also blessed with a singular singing voice.*

EDU 1867 *Many just call him a Renaissance Man, or the man famous for his loud suits.*

EDU Marxism Today. u.p., 1990, pp. 1951 s-units, 37091 words.

FSU 1067 *Antun Vrančić (1504–73, Antonius Verancius) of Šibenik, a truly Renaissance man, travelled widely as a diplomat, had love poems published in Krakow and became Primate of Hungary.*

FSU *A short history of the Yugoslav peoples*. Singleton, F. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993, pp. 1-91. 1500 s-units, 38457 words.

3. 5. Use of idiomatic statements related to spiritual development

1. A little learning is a dangerous thing

CC8 258 *A little learning is a dangerous thing - but great wisdom comes with much learning.*

2. A rolling stone gathers no moss

HE0 174 *Because I mean there's plenty of epigrams like a rolling stone gathers no moss, but that's a subject not a verb, and it's actually saying something totally different, or every time*

HE0 King's College London: lecture (Educational/informative). Recorded on 9 December 1993 with 2 participants, totalling 6396 words, 169 utterances, and lasting 1 hour 0 minutes.

HE0 179 *A rolling stone gathers no moss.*

HE0 King's College London: lecture (Educational/informative). Recorded on 9 December 1993 with 2 participants, totalling 6396 words, 169 utterances, and lasting 1 hour 0 minutes.

3. Absence makes the heart grow fonder

JXW 1530 As for Claire, as I remember it, she's a great believer in the theory that absence makes the heart grow fonder.'

JXW A dangerous diagnosis. Evans, Jean. Richmond, Surrey: Mills & Boon, 1993, pp. 4553 s-units, 49910 words.

KN6 27 (...)in your life and in my life to make us live lives that are pleasing to God, of course it is so we don't do it ourselves, just let me in closing mention one other thing, this relationship we have needs to be maintained, you know for any relationship to grow, one needs to spend time with the other person, I don't give a lot of credence to the saying that absence makes the heart grow fonder, it does with somebody else, it's true, it does not make it grow fonder of that person the person is you know who you, you heard this story so often, like particularly like going back during the last war, folk who were separated sometimes for, for, not just for months but for several years, there they were in concentration camps perhaps, in prisoner of war camps, separated for years, they come back home they've got to get to know each other all over again you see that a relationship on a human level as well as in our relationship with God is dependent on, on association, it's dependent on companionship(...)

KN6 Albert Gunter: sermon (Public/institutional). Recorded on 25 June 1989 with 2 participants, totalling 6607 words, 12 utterances (duration not recorded).

4. Baptism of fire

B29 1824 A new paperback edition of Maeve Kelly's first novel - an urgent, provocative story of a woman's escape from the claustrophobia of provincial family life and her baptism of fire into the feminist movement, working for a battered women's refuge.

B29 [Northern Ireland tourist information]. u.p., n.d., pp. 1860 s-units, 28211 words.

B72 353 This week the hearing reached a milestone with the first session of full cross-examination - a baptism of fire for the Department of Energy, which surprised everyone by agreeing to be interrogated on the full gamut of Whitehall's current thinking on energy policy.

B72 New Scientist. London: IPC Magazines Ltd, 1991, pp. 2130 s-units, 43140 words.

B78 1880 This was our baptism of fire and we learned many lessons.

B78 New Scientist. London: IPC Magazines Ltd, 1991, pp. 2348 s-units, 47473 words.

5. Dog eat dog.

HH3 7137 For 20 years after World War Two it seemed possible that the dog eat dog 'survival of the fittest' brand of free market capitalism had been supplanted by a social contract between employers and workers, with only occasional mediation by the state.

HH3 New Internationalist. u.p., n.d., pp. 15425 s-units, 241973 words.

HLW 606 Unfettered competition of dog eat dog policies must surely give way to positive employment policies and achieve what desired, a society set free from idleness.

HLW Trade Union Annual Congress (Business). Recorded on 8 June 1993 with 10 participants, totalling 11841 words, 101 utterances (duration not recorded).

K58 85 Everyone knows that in the contracting world of producing computer hardware it would always be a case of dog eat dog.

K58 [Scotsman]. u.p., n.d., Belief material, pp. 215 s-units, 3869 words.

6. Heart of glass

ED7 2821 This band is a heart of glass, flags all a flutter in a gentle breeze, beautiful babies being born into the world.

ED7 Hot Press. Dublin, Ireland: Hot Press, 1991, pp. 3364 s-units, 62241 words.

7. Laughter is the best medicine

K3H 1089 LAUGHTER is the best medicine and over the last two weeks we hope we've given you a real tonic with our

K3H [Liverpool Daily Post and Echo]. u.p., n.d., Leisure material, pp. 1595 s-units, 28832 words.

K3P 301 LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

8. Nose in the air

GUK 853 She gave the mother cat a final pat, sighed, put her nose in the air, and followed Thérèse out of the stable.

GUK Daughters of the house. Roberts, Michele. London: Virago Press Ltd, 1993, pp. 30-153. 3950 s-units, 41259 words.

KBF 967 With quite a difficult job, I said this is a I said your mother is living in a fantasy world, of course, I see the stupid bitch prancing around Stowmarket with her silly nose in the air!

KBF 103 conversations recorded by 'Brenda' (PS04U) between 28 November and 4 December 1991 with 6 interlocutors, totalling 111844 words, 10169 utterances, and over 11 hours 59 minutes 46 seconds of recordings.

9. Sell your soul

A15 1523 Just thought you ought to know before you sell your soul; you can't get it back.

A15 Climber and Hill Walker. Glasgow: George Outram & Company Ltd, 1991, pp. 1582 s-units, 30047 words.

CBC 7004 But you can't sell your soul without a hefty penalty and for eternal youth read everlasting life as every bump and scratch sees the women crack up like second-hand cars. CBC Today. London: News Group Newspapers Ltd, 1992, pp. 15358 s-units, 226404 words.

10. Yellow streak

AR8 222 He told us we'd got a yellow streak a yard wide down our backs.

AR8 The SAS at war 1941–1945. Kemp, Anthony. London: John Murray (Publishers) Ltd, 1991, pp. 1-96. 1746 s-units, 35921 words.

BPA 1251 True dawn came as a dirty yellow streak in the east that slowly lost its colour as it spread into a cold grey, filled with racing clouds.

BPA The titron madness. Bedford, John. Long Preston, N. Yorks: Dales Large Print, 1984, pp. 11-209. 3213 s-units, 36279 words.

H9N 2568 *I always remember your joke at the North and South Club when you told the Jamaican guy those things that he got mad at you that you didn't have a black belt but you had a yellow streak at Origami!*

H9N *The redundancy of courage.* Mo, Timothy. London: Chatto & Windus Ltd, 1991, pp. 315-408. 2827 s-units, 38020 words.

3. 5.1. Use of idiomatic statements related to religion

1. Devil finds work for idle hands

A18 159 *But to say that the devil finds work for idle hands to do is misleading because hypermoralistic or (if meant literally) hypertheological.*

A18 *Dostoevsky.* Jones, John. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1983, p. 1523 s-units, 34329 words.

A6E 489 *But, of course, the devil finds work for idle hands, and they began thieving, acquiring all manner of things but particularly musical equipment When they realised it was mostly too hot to sell they thought maybe it wasn't such a bad idea to learn how to play the stuff they had thieved.*

A6E *I was a teenage sex pistol.* Silverton, Pete and Matlock, Glen. London: Omnibus Press, 1990, pp. 1645 s-units, 25543 words.

2. Good Samaritan

JYF 564 *'Yesterday you were a very good Samaritan,' she smiled, and took the opportunity, while he seemed halfway friendly, to enquire, 'I don't suppose it would be convenient for me to interview you now, Mr Gajdusek, would it?'*

JYF *West of Bohemia.* Steele, Jessica. Richmond, Surrey: Mills & Boon, 1993, pp. 2838 s-units, 56017 words.

K1H 995 *Davis from Richmond road in Oxford knocked her unconscious, threw her cycle into the river and then posed as a good Samaritan, pretending to comfort her, before attacking her again and trying to strangle her.*

K1H [Central News autocue data.] u.p., n.d., pp. 3653 s-units, 39623 words.

3. Pastoral care

ARC 1082 *The schools, because of their size and because of the problems presented by pupils of all abilities coming from all kinds of backgrounds, needed to pay attention to problems of 'pastoral care'.*

ARC *A generation of schooling.* Judge, Harry. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984, pp. 1-98. 1389 s-units, 34914 words.

F85 358 *Can we not do more even than we're doing at the moment to restore to the centre of the life of the church the glorious concept of a team of pastoral care and a high command of power strategy in which dominance by ministers will be reduced to the minimum in order that together we may be ready to let the lifeblood of Christ flow through us in such a way that we will be better able to welcome the twenty first century in his name.*

F85 *Baptism (Public/institutional).* Recorded on [date unknown] with 10 participants, totalling 10558 words, 153 utterances (duration not recorded).

FPY 1865 *The clergy ought also to have a part with the director of music in the pastoral care of the choir or music group.*

FPY *In tune with heaven.* Portsmouth, T. Sevenoaks, Kent: Hodder & Stoughton Ltd, 1992, pp. 86-214. 2101 s-units, 41789 words.

GUR 1637 I had agreed to do a study of the pastoral care system for the school as the 'price' for this freedom to roam.

GUR Producing and reducing disaffection: curricula for all. Coulby, D and Booth, T. Milton Keynes: Open University Press, 1987, pp. 67-150. 2152 s-units, 39536 words.

4. Separate the wheat from the chaff

A31 21 This gives the courts a useful power to separate the wheat from the chaff among the pending cases.

A31 [Independent, electronic edition of 19891006]. London: Newspaper Publishing plc, 1989, Law material, pp. 150 s-units, 3389 words.

3.6. Use of idiomatic statements related to animal world

1. Cock of the walk

A6L 1147 So in two years flat, after riding on the crest of a wave, people who had been cock of the walk in ICI suddenly found themselves at the bottom of the league.

A6L Advice from the top. Oates, David and Ezra, Derek. Newton Abbot, Devon: David & Charles Publishers plc, 1989, pp. 2106 s-units, 43019 words.

2. Parrot fashion

H0B 1384 The extent to which these young people were able to read and write, even when claiming that ability, was often limited to stringing together a few simple words - the Lord's Prayer might be learned "parrot fashion".

H0B Coniston copper. Holland, Eric G. UK: Cicerone Press, 1986, pp. 16-134. 1576 s-units, 37426 words.

H4C 213 Er I think we learnt it probably in different ways, we learnt it more parrot fashion than they do today.

H4C Nottinghamshire Oral History Project: interview (Leisure). Recorded on 1980 with 2 participants, totalling 16808 words, 197 utterances (duration not recorded).

JJP 509 But as I say the last bit where you sa dur during the course of the, of this conversation it almost sounded as though you were gonna, you'e doing it parrot, parrot fashion whereas the rest of it was, was superb, there was no, no problems in that.

JJP Friends Provident Insurance: training session (Business). Recorded on 21 December 1993 with 5 participants, totalling 11936 words, 885 utterances (duration not recorded).

KDK 224 You might as well, you can't ler, you might as well learn it parrot fashion, you can't learn the general rules, there's so many section to the rules you

KDK 18 conversations recorded by 'Paul2' (PS1H4) between 29 November and 5 December 1991 with 8 interlocutors, totalling 3627 words, 562 utterances, and 34 minutes 16 seconds of recordings.

3. Smell a rat

A0F 1415 'Fine by me, but won't Bryant smell a rat when he sees me walking out with all this?' A0F Part of the furniture. Falk, Michael. London: Bellew Publishing Company Ltd, 1991, pp. 1-146. 3416 s-units, 39953 words.

H8T 2265 *As Dysart's employee and Mallender's daughter, who could be better placed to smell a rat?*

H8P *Sherlock Holmes short stories: Oxford Bookworms edition*. West, Claire. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989, pp. 1-38. 714 s-units, 6527 words.

HHW 10841 *The innocent might imagine that something will flow from that, but I smell a rat when I hear the word 'commitment'.*

HHW [Hansard extracts 1991–1992]. London: HMSO, 1992, pp. 14778 s-units, 286414 words.

HTR 1302 *I only began to smell a rat when he couldn't come up with the documents he claimed to have.*

HTR *A masculine ending*. Smith, Joan. London: Faber & Faber Ltd, 1988, pp. 38-150. 3307 s-units, 43580 words

3.7. Use of idiomatic statements related to plant world

1. Rest on your laurels

C9E 519 *You can't rest on your laurels.*

C9E *Golf Monthly*. London: Specialist & Leisure Magazines Group, 1991, pp. 1850 s-units, 29667 words.

HHS 111 *The message to all of us must be "A good start, boys, but don't rest on your laurels".*

HHS *Bishop's Castle Railway Society Journal*. Lucas, Keith et al. Bishop's Castle Railway Society, 1990, pp. 362 s-units, 6776 words.

2. Sow the seeds

AN0 7 *Large intelligence organisations are very hierarchically structured, affording plenty of opportunity for individual empire-building and internecine jealousies, all of which waste an enormous amount of time and effort, sow the seeds of discontent and distrust and frequently obscure and distort the important issues.*

AN0 *The intelligence game*. Rusbridger, James. London: I B Tauris & Company Ltd, 1991, pp. 11-84. 1454 s-units, 36080 words.

B1F 477 *Like gardeners, they must cast out the evil weeds and plough the matted earth into long fields and sow the seeds of future harvests.*

B1F *Gardens of meditation*. Falconar, A E I. Gerrards Cross: Colin Smythe Ltd, 1980, pp. 7-103. 1790 s-units, 35656 words.

3.8. Use of idiomatic statements related to things, phenomena

1. Heart of glass

ED7 2821 *This band is a heart of glass, flags all a flutter in a gentle breeze, beautiful babies being born into the world.*

ED7 *Hot Press*. Dublin, Ireland: Hot Press, 1991, pp. 3364 s-units, 62241 words.

2. Heart of steel

BPK 545 *to ourselves - a heart of steel.*

KBF 2151 *you've got a soul of steel, a heart of steel you can't cope with the buggers!*

KBF 103 conversations recorded by 'Brenda' (PS04U) between 28 November and 4 December 1991 with 6 interlocutors, totalling 111844 words, 10169 utterances, and over 11 hours 59 minutes 46 seconds of recordings.

3. Rough diamond

CHA 3184 Winona Ryder is the reluctant member of the elite 'Heathers' crowd who becomes an unwitting murderess after hooking up with the new boy at school, rough diamond Christian Slater - giving his best Jack Nicholson impersonation.

CKA 540 A rough diamond in his earlier years, he has now become a sophisticated centre who was drafted into the Irish World Cup squad, although he languished on the bench and was never called upon.

CKA Rugby World and Post. London: Rugby Publishing Ltd, 1992, pp. 1704 s-units, 33414 words. CN3 2976 'A rough diamond,' Paula called him.

G09 171 A Suffolk man said: 'My grandfather was a bit of a rough diamond, and he wasn't above letting a few words fly in front of us children when he felt like it.

G09 The crooked scythe. Evans, George E. London: Faber & Faber Ltd, 1993, pp. 35-189. 2436 s-units, 41597 words.

HXC 72 His father had been something of a rough diamond, barely literate and excelling in "drinking, whoring, gaming, fishing and fighting".

HXC Albion's people. Rule, John. Harlow: Longman Group UK Ltd, 1992, pp. 105-225. 1662 s-units, 44586 words.

4. White feather

ACV 2762 Emily? ...laughing and teasing him about deserving a white feather...?

ACV The forest of the night. Kelly, Chris. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991, pp. 2788 s-units, 30988 words.

D90 251 Several people were called up er they were given a white feather for exactly the reason that you mentioned

D90 Museum Society meeting: make-do and mend: Lecture/meeting. Recorded on 4 September 1991 with 10 participants, totalling 4715 words, 98 utterances, and lasting 30 minutes.

D90 254 If you were in London erm you were called up give you a white feather cos you were going in the army..

D90 Museum Society meeting: make-do and mend: Lecture/meeting. Recorded on 4 September 1991 with 10 participants, totalling 4715 words, 98 utterances, and lasting 30 minutes.

HPG 1488 that little white feather nags at my brain.

HPG [Essays]. pupils. u.p., n.d., pp. 1546 s-units, 25968 words.

3.9. Use of idiomatic statements related to time

1. *He who hesitates is lost*

C9R 1227 Your reply: "He who hesitates is lost."

CA3 923 Fred's having it off with Diane and it can never get stuck on again, that's what happens if you - it can happen, the dreadful already has, you mark my words, I think they're very nice, dear, now don't you worry, that broom will never sweep again, don't let him get away with it, it can happen with your shoes off, I should take him back, dear, he who hesitates is lost, you can get lots of laughs with the vicar, should have seen it, one good turn deserves another, niggers in the broom cupboard, Mavis was just the same, what a shame...'

CA3 Lee's ghost. Pulsford, Petronella. London: Constable & Company Ltd, 1990, pp. 24-135. 3142 s-units, 33512 words.

CB1 818 Thus his conduct very well illustrates the maxim 'Look before you leap'; and if his final decision was made when the trend of circumstances was making it harder to leave home, he might well have recalled 'He who hesitates is lost'.

CB1 Reason and spontaneity. Graham, A C. London: Curzon Press Ltd, 1985, pp. 1-60. 1095 s-units, 35954 words.

2. *More haste, less speed*

AAV 950 More haste, less speed, Madam!

AAV [Guardian, electronic edition of 19891231]. London: Guardian Newspapers Ltd, 1989, Leisure material, pp.1127 s-units, 20748 words.

BM0 438 There are many old sayings and proverbs that point to the wisdom of thought before action, such as "look before you leap", "more haste, less speed", "second thoughts are best", and so on

BM0 The Alexander technique. Brennan, Richard. Shaftesbury, Dorset: Element Books Ltd, 1991, pp. 17-99. 1145 s-units, 21318 words.

J10 4543 More haste, less speed.

J10 The Mamur Zapt and the girl in the Nile. Pearce, Michael. London: Fontana Press, 1992, pp. 5-150. 5026 s-units, 42791 words.

3. *Strike while the iron is hot*

CN3 1272 Strike while the iron is hot.

CN3 Whirlpool. Forbes, Colin. London: Pan Books Ltd, 1991, pp. 1-120. 4107 s-units, 41105 words.

3.10. Use of idiomatic statements related to irony

1. *Man of straw*

BM4 756 For instance, he said that the expression 'by hook or by crook' came from the period of Charles II when there were two judges called Hook and Crook and 'a man of straw' he discovered, was one who could be brought to bear false witness - recognisable by the straw in his shoes.

CAS 1283 I am now a man of straw.

CH1 5826 THE SUN'S MAN OF STRAW

2. No spine

H79 229 *The first tentacle pore on the arm has no spine associated, the next five or so pores have one and subsequent ones have two.*

3. Peeping Tom

A6E 1118 *Unfortunately, soon after that a copper spotted him doing his Peeping Tom bit, followed him inside the studios and looked very strangely at all this expensive gear lying around.*

A6E *I was a teenage sex pistol. Silverton, Pete and Matlock, Glen. London: Omnibus Press, 1990, pp. 1645 s-units, 25543 words.*

A7L 1188 *Anglo-Amalgamated, for example, enabled Michael Powell to make an astonishing, if short-lived, comeback with Peeping Tom (1959), which was scripted by Hammer hand Leo Marks and follows the murderous career of a seemingly gentle young focus-puller who has been psychologically damaged by his father's pain experiments and gets his kicks from filming women in their death agonies, inflicted by the bayonet at the end of his tripod.*

A7L *British cinema: the lights that failed. Park, James. London: B T Batsford Ltd, 1990, pp. 1332 s-units, 41091 words.*

CAK 238 *The biographer is a strange figure, disinterested literary critic and peeping tom, historian and fabulist, priest and private eye.*

CAK *New Statesman and Society. London: Foundation House, 1992, pp. 1553 s-units, 31149 words*

CDS 5 *In the fifteen years since making A Story of Three Loves in Hollywood Moira had accomplished much: in films The Man Who Loved Redheads ,Black Tights , and Peeping Tom ; on the stage A Midsummer Night's Dream ,I am a Camera ,Man of Distinction , as well as a season with the Bristol Old Vic.*

CDS *On my way to the club. Kennedy, Ludovic. London: Fontana Press, 1990, pp. 302-397. 1392 s-units, 35441 words.*

HA7 816 *Damn the man, she hadn't bargained for a Peeping Tom role!*

HA7 *A warning of magic. Kingston, Kate. Richmond, Surrey: Mills & Boon, 1993, pp. 4362 s-units, 53639 words.*

APPENDIX III

Idiomatic examples from Salman Rushdie novel “The Satanic Verses”

3.1. Use of idiomatic statements related to good behaviour

- (1) **Breadwinner** - “And yet it was also a fact that she, cook and breadwinner, chiefest architect of the success of the Shaandaar Café, which had finally enabled them to buy the whole four-storey building and start renting out its rooms, - she was the one around whom there hung, like bad breath, the miasma of defeat.”(p. 259)
- (2) **Good Samaritan** – “By the end of the call Pamela Chamcha, normally the most controlled of women, who locked herself in a bathroom when she wanted to cry, was shrieking down the line, for God's sake, woman, will you shut up with your little good-samaritan speeches and listen to what I'm saying?” (p. 187)
- (3) **Good as gold** – “Afterwards, when the aircraft Bostan was in the grip of the hijackers, and the passengers, fearing for their futures, were regressing into their pasts, Gibreel confided to Saladin Chamcha that his choice of pseudonym had been his way of making a homage to the memory of his dead mother, “my mummyji, Spoono, my one and only Mamo, because who else was it who started the whole angel business, her personal angel, she called me, farishta, because apparently I was too damn sweet, believe it or not, I was good as goddamn gold.”” (p. 18)
- (4) **Hold the baby** - “He travelled alone, shunning the company of the other members of the Prospero Players troupe, who had scattered around the economy class cabin wearing Fancy-a-Donald T-shirts and trying to wiggle their necks in the manner of natyam dancers and looking absurd in Benarsi saris and drinking too much cheap airline champagne and importuning the scorn-laden stewardesses who, being Indian, understood that actors were cheap-type persons; and behaving, in short, with normal thespian impropriety. The woman holding the baby had a way of looking through the paleface players, of turning them into wisps of smoke, heat-mirages, ghosts. For a man like Saladin Chamcha the debasing of Englishness by the English was a thing too painful to contemplate.”(p. 79)
- (5) **Take someone under your wing** – “She has long ears; has already heard what he said about Lat, Uzza, Manat. So what? In the old days he wanted to protect the baby daughters of Jahilia; why shouldn't he take the daughters of Allah under his wing as well?” (p.124)
- (6)“(…) that the two daughters of Haji Sufyan had taken him under their wing, caring for the Beast as only Beauties can; and that, as time passed, he came to be extremely fond of the pair of them himself.” (p.296)

- (7)“By day, Mishal worked ceaselessly among the pilgrims, reassuring them, bolstering their faith, gathering them together beneath the wing of her gentleness.” (p. 508)

4.2. Use of idiomatic expressions related to female activities

- (8)**Bun in the oven** – “Now he was outside, with Jumpy fussing over him and even Pamela showing concern. “I’m the one with the bun in the oven,” she said with a gruff remnant of affection.” (p.427)
- (9)**Girl Friday** – “O, he was in a high good humour that day, rubbishing London and the English with much of his old brio. Where Chamcha saw attractively faded grandeur, Gibreel saw a wreck, a Crusoe-city, marooned on the island of its past, and trying, with the help of a Man-Friday underclass, to keep up appearances.” (p.461)
- (10)**Keep mum** – “You don’t know what hell is,” she snapped back, dropping the mask of her imperturbability. “But, buster, you sure will. If you’d ever said, I’d have thrown over that ball-bearings bore in two secs, but you kept mum. Now I’ll see you down there: Neechayvala’s Hotel.”(p.342)

3.2.1. Use of idiomatic expressions related to female activities. Names

- (11) **Girl Friday** – “O, he was in a high good humour that day, rubbishing London and the English with much of his old brio. Where Chamcha saw attractively faded grandeur, Gibreel saw a wreck, a Crusoe-city, marooned on the island of its past, and trying, with the help of a Man-Friday underclass, to keep up appearances.” (p.461)

3.3. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities

- (12)**Bob’s your uncle** – “Abandoning the attempt with some annoyance, she spoke sulkily. “Trouble is, we’ve got good prospects, us. Family business, no brothers, bob’s your uncle. This place makes a packet, dunnit? Well then.””(p.275)
- (13)**For Pete’s sake** – “Also that he didn’t like the use of such American terms as “the Man” in the very different British situation, where there was no history of slavery; it sounded like an attempt to borrow the glamour of other, more dangerous struggles, a thing he also felt about the organizers’ decision to punctuate the speeches with such meaning loaded songs as We Shall Overcome, and even, for Pete’s sake, Nkosi Sikelel” in Afrika. As if all causes were the same, all histories interchangeable.” (p. 435)
- (14) “Attended by a dumbly distressed ayah, all elbows, Pimple attempted scorn. “God, what a stroke of luck, for Pete’s sake,” she cried.” (p. 12)

- (15) “‘For Pete’s sake,’ she added, knifing him with a kiss. ‘Chamcha. I mean, fuck it. You name yourself Mister Toady and you expect us not to laugh.’” (p.57)
- (16) “They kick you around and still you stay, you love them, bloody slave mentality, I swear. Chamcha,” she grabbed his shoulders and shook him, sitting astride him with her forbidden breasts a few inches from his face, “Salad baba, whatever you call yourself, for Pete’s sake come home.” (p.65)
- (17) “Gibreel remains silent, empty of answers, for Pete’s sake, bhai, don’t go asking me. Mahound’s anguish is awful.” (p. 115)
- (18) **Man Friday** – “Where Chamcha saw attractively faded grandeur, Gibreel saw a wreck, a Crusoe-city, marooned on the island of its past, and trying, with the help of a Man-Friday underclass, to keep up appearances.” (p.461)
- (19) **Man in the street** – “The kids in the Street started wearing rubber devil-horns on their heads, the way they used to wear pink-and-green balls jiggling on the ends of stiff wires a few years previously, when they preferred to imitate spacemen.” (p.300)
- (20) “When you looked through an angel’s eyes you saw essences instead of surfaces, you saw the decay of the soul blistering and bubbling on the skins of people in the street, you saw the generosity of certain spirits resting on their shoulders in the form of birds.” (p. 337)
- (21) **New man** – “Me, I only half-expired, but I did it on two occasions, hospital and plane, so it adds up, it counts. And now, Spoono my friend, here I stand before you in Proper London, Vilayet, regenerated, a new man with a new life. Spoono, is this not a bloody fine thing?” (p. 33)

3.3.1. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities. Names

- (22) **Man Friday** – “O, he was in a high good humour that day, rubbishing London and the English with much of his old brio. Where Chamcha saw attractively faded grandeur, Gibreel saw a wreck, a Crusoe-city, marooned on the island of its past, and trying, with the help of a Man-Friday underclass, to keep up appearances.” (p.461)

3.4. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities. Things, phenomena

- (23) **For Pete’s sake** – “Also that he didn’t like the use of such American terms as “the Man” in the very different British situation, where there was no history of slavery; it sounded like an attempt to borrow the glamour of other, more dangerous struggles, a thing he also felt about the organizers’ decision to punctuate the speeches with such meaning loaded songs as We Shall Overcome, and even, for Pete’s sake, Nkosi Sikelel” in Afrika. As if all causes were the same, all histories interchangeable.” (p. 435)

- (24) “Attended by a dumbly distressed ayah, all elbows, Pimple attempted scorn. “God, what a stroke of luck, for Pete’s sake,” she cried.” (p. 12)
- (25) ““For Pete’s sake,” she added, knifing him with a kiss. “Chamcha. I mean, fuck it. You name yourself Mister Toady and you expect us not to laugh.”” (p.57)
- (26) “They kick you around and still you stay, you love them, bloody slave mentality, I swear. Chamcha,” she grabbed his shoulders and shook him, sitting astride him with her forbidden breasts a few inches from his face, “Salad baba, whatever you call yourself, for Pete’s sake come home.”” (p.65)
- (27) “Gibreel remains silent, empty of answers, for Pete’s sake, bhai, don’t go asking me. Mahound’s anguish is awful.”(p. 115)
- (28) **To a man** – “One day Saladin had played a practical joke on Jumpy, by ringing him up, putting on a vaguely Mediterranean accent, and requesting the services of the musical Thumb on the island of Skorpis, on behalf of Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, offering a fee of ten thousand dollars and transportation to Greece, in a private aircraft, for up to six persons. This was a terrible thing to do to a man as innocent and upright as Jamshed Joshi. "I need an hour to think," he had said, and then fallen into an agony of the soul.” (p. 188)

3.5. Use of idiomatic statements related to spiritual/moral development

- (29) **Get a grip** – “Ayesha had started retreating deeper and deeper into silence, and Mishal Akhtar became, to all intents and purposes, the leader of the pilgrims. But there was one pilgrim over whom she lost her grip: Mrs. Qureishi, her mother, the wife of the director of the state bank.” (p.508)
- (30) “A giant was trapped in a pit and his human tormentors were spearing him in the forehead. A man sliced vertically from the top of his head to his groin still held his sword as he fell. Everywhere, bubbling spillages of blood. Saladin Chamcha took a grip on himself. “The savagery,” he said loudly in his English voice. “The sheer barbaric love of pain.””(p. 75)
- (31) **Have a heart** – “<...>to tell Gibreel that one of the Toff artists, a virulently anti Nazi Berlin man named Wolf, had been arrested one day and led away for internment along with all the other Germans in Britain, and, according to Brunel, his colleagues hadn’t lifted a finger to save him. “Heartlessness,” Jack had reflected. “Only thing a cartoonist really needs. What an artist Disney would have been if he hadn’t had a heart. It was his fatal flaw.” Brunel ran a small animation studio named Scarecrow Productions, after the character in The Wizard of Oz.” (p. 333)
- (32) **Hold your tongue** – “<... >“There’s something strange going on,” he wanted to say, “my voice,” but he didn’t know how to put it, and held his tongue.” (p.56)

- (33) “For what was he - he couldn’t avoid the notion - being punished? And, come to that, by whom? (I held my tongue.)”(p. 267)
- (34) **Look on the bright side** – “Osman of the dead bullock, who, like the Sarpanch, had lost a dearly loved companion during the pilgrimage, also wept. Mrs. Qureishi attempted to look on the bright side: “Main thing is that we're okay,” but this got no response. Then Ayesha closed her eyes and recited in the sing-song voice of prophecy, “It is a judgment upon them for the bad attempt they made.”” (p. 517)
- (35) **Nose in the air** – “That did it. Mishal put her nose in the air. “O, I get it,” she said. “Not good enough for him, you reckon.” And over her departing shoulder: “Here, Grasshopper. Don’t holy men ever fuck?”” (p. 291)
- (36) **Pen is mightier than the sword** – “Let her play with her satirist; between us it was never sex. I’ll finish him when she’s finished with. Here’s a great lie, thinks the Grandee of Jahilia drifting into sleep: the pen is mightier than the sword.” (p. 106)
- (37) **Sell your soul** – “Penetrating the heart of American religiosity, pleading to be saved – “when you sell your soul you can’t expect to buy back cheap” - Billy had banked, the investigators alleged, “six figure sums”.” (p. 286)
- (38) **Stiff upper lip** – “Their pay papers full of kinky sex and death. But they tell the whir world they’re reserved, is stiff upper lip and so on, and we're stupid enough to believe.” Gibreel listened to this collection of prejudices with what seemed like complete assent, irritating Allie profoundly.”(p. 262)
- (39) **To a fault** – “Damn you,” he shouted, “aren’t you going to give me a hard time? You think I don’t know you need the money? Why you did such a damn stupid thing? What are you going to do now? Just go and make some FP dolls, double quick, and I will buy at best rate plus, because I am generous to a fault.” (p. 234)

3.5.1. Use of idiomatic statements related to religion

- (40) **As the actress said to the bishop** - and vice versa. An innuendo scabrously added to an entirely innocent remark, as in ‘It’s too stiff for me to manage it-as the actress said to the bishop’ or, conversely, ‘I can’t see what I’m doing—as the bishop said to the actress’. Certainly in RAF use c. 1944–7, but prob. going back to Edwardian days; only very slightly ob. by 1975, it is likely to outlive most of us. (1996, 2:31)
- (41) **Good Samaritan** – “By the end of the call Pamela Chamcha, normally the most controlled of women, who locked herself in a bathroom when she wanted to cry, was shrieking down the line, for God's sake, woman, will you shut up with your little good-samaritan speeches and listen to what I'm saying?”(p.18)

APPENDIX IV

Idioms focusing on their origin

3.1. Idiomatic statements referring to good behaviour

1. ***Actions speak louder than words*** - Lincoln used the proverb, but it dates back to the early 1700s. (2008: 8)³⁵
2. ***As you sow, so shall you reap*** - look before you leap. The old saying is oft en said to be from Samuel Butler's *Hudibras* (1663): "And look before you ere you leap; / For as you sow, ye are like to reap." But John Heywood's collection of proverbs (1562) clearly takes precedence with look ere you leap. There are a good number of counterparts in other languages: Turn the tongue seven times, then speak (French); Have an umbrella before getting wet (Japanese); Before you drink the soup, blow on it (Arabic); First weigh (the consequences), then dare (German); If you don't know the ford, don't cross the stream (Russian); Be careful bending your head, you may break it (Italian) (2008: 516)
3. ***Breadwinner*** - *is* one of the few words still retaining the meaning of the Anglo- Saxon word *winnan*, "to toil," that gives us the word "win"- a breadwinner being one who toils to obtain bread. As slang for money, *bread* dates back to about 1935 and may derive from the Cockney rhyming slang "bread and honey," for money (2008: 118)
4. ***Cut the Gordian knot*** - The workman Gordius of old was chosen king of Phrygia when he fulfilled an oracle's prophecy that the first man to approach the temple of Jupiter driving a wagon would rule the land. King Gordius dedicated his wagon to the god and tied it to a temple beam with a knot of cornel bark so baffling that another oracle declared that the man who untied it would become lord of all Asia. Enter Alexander the Great, whose hopes lie in that direction. "Well then it is thus I perform the task," says the Conqueror, drawing his sword, and he simply cuts the knot in two. The whole tale is improbable, scholars say, although Gordium, ancient Phrygia's capital, had been named for Gordius, the father of King Midas. But a Gordian knot remains an intricate problem and *to cut the Gordian knot* still means "to solve a baffling problem by a single bold and incisive act." (2008: 222)
5. ***Drop a dime*** To make a phone call to police detectives in forming on someone. *Dime dropper* refers to a *rat*, a *snitch*, a *stool pigeon*, among other choice terms. The term, still in use, dates back to the 1960s, when a phone call cost a dime. (2008: 262)

³⁵ Texts cited from the book: *The Facts on File Encyclopedia of Word and Phrase Origins*, 2008. Hendrickson, R. Facts On File, New York.

6. ***Get the show on the road*** - Let's get going, let's leave right now. The source of the expression obviously shows business and possibly dates back to the late 1800s (2008: 499)
7. ***Go the extra mile*** - To make a supreme effort, exceed what is asked or expected of one. The phrase probably has its roots in the Bible (Matt. 5:41): "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain (2008: 360)
8. ***Go to the wire*** - down to the wire. For over a century wire has been synonymous with the finish line in horse racing, because of the wire stretched across the track that the horses passed under at the end of a race. The Oxford English Dictionary records the term from William McPaul's *Ike Glidden* (1902): "The conquering colt swept under the wire for a nose ahead of the trotter." But Mitford Mathew's *A Dictionary of Americanisms* cites an earlier, 1887 U.S. newspaper usage of wire, claiming it as an Americanism. *A Dictionary of Americanisms* goes on to date down to the wire as an expression first recorded in 1950 in the newspaper account of a baseball game. Widely used as slang now for "to the very last moment or the very end," it is also heard as to go to the wire. (2008: 259)
9. ***Good Samaritan*** - The good Samaritan is nameless in the biblical story (Luke 10:30–85) told by Christ; he is only referred to as "a Samaritan" and Christ tells how he helped a man who had been assaulted and left half dead by robbers, how he cared for the stranger and paid for his room in an inn after two holy men passed him without helping. This anonymous man of Samaria, a district of ancient Palestine, the northern kingdom of the Hebrews, became over the centuries the good Samaritan, lending his name to the countless kind, helpful, philanthropic people who do good for others with no thought of worldly gain. The Samaritans are also a religious community who claim that they are descendants of the 10 tribes of Israel and that their religion contains the true undiluted teachings of Moses. These Samaritans, who broke with the Jews in about 458 b. c. but are said to observe the Torah even more scrupulously than orthodox Jews, are now represented by a few families living in Jordan. There are also 650 Samaritans in Israel, half living on Mount Gerizim, overlooking Nablus, and the others residing in Holon, near Tel Aviv. They all speak an ancient Hebrew dialect. (2008:357)
10. ***Good as gold*** - *Au*, an abbreviation of the Latin *aurum*, is the chemical symbol for gold, which is itself one of the four oldest words in English, deriving from the Indo- Europe and sub-strate word *gol* (the other three are *apple*, from *apal*; *bad*, *bad*; and *tin*, *tin*). Hundreds of expressions, some of them covered in these pages, are based on *gold*, from *all that glitters is not gold* and *good as gold* to *heart of gold* and *gold digger*. (2008: 44)
11. ***Hold the fort*** - Union General William Tecumseh Sherman is said to have invented this expression in 1864, when he wired the words to General Corse. Since the Civil War the words have not been used literally and have come to mean to take charge of any post or position,

giving the job, temporary as it may be, your best efforts. It is sometimes heard as *hold down the fort*. General Sherman also suggested the phrase *40 acres and a mule* when, in a field order of 1865, he authorized that “Every family shall have a plot of not more than forty acres of tillable ground.” Southern blacks took this to mean that all shareholders’ plantations would at the end of the war be divided up into 40- acre plots that would be distributed to their slaves along with a mule to work them. The mule in the phrase was probably suggested by the old expression *three acres and a cow*, a common promise of British politicians. (2008: 410)

12. ***Labour of love*** - A labour of love, a work undertaken for the love or liking of it more than for any compensation, has been a common English expression since the 17th century, and it is much older, deriving from the biblical “Your work of faith and labour of love” (1 Thess. 1:3) (2008: 484)
13. ***No good deed goes unpunished*** - This cynical phrase seems appropriate for the late 20th century and almost surely hails from there. *See* one good turn deserves another. (2008: 594)
14. ***One good turn deserves another*** - no good deed goes unpunished. This cynical phrase seems appropriate for the late 20th century and almost surely hails from there. *See* one good turn deserves another (2008: 594)
15. ***Square the circle*** - It is mathematically impossible to square the circle, as mathematicians discovered centuries ago. Therefore, just as long ago, people began to use the expression figuratively to describe someone undertaking any futile, impossible task. (2008: 786)

3.2. Use of idiomatic expressions related to female activities

1. ***Agony aunt*** - **Miss Lonely hearts**. A disparaging name for a newspaper columnist, usually a woman, who gives advice to the lost and lovelorn, typically in answer to their letters. The term is kept alive in American author Nathaniel West’s masterpiece *Miss Lonely hearts* (1933) in which a male writer takes on the job of the columnist. The British call a Miss Lonely hearts an ***Agony Aunt*** or, rarely, an Agony Uncle, but these expressions haven’t much currency in the U.S. *Agony column*, common in Britain and the U.S., dates back to the mid- 19th century, when it was a column in which people advertised for missing persons.(2008: 559)
2. ***Dutch wife*** - the pillow of an Englishman in the tropics who takes no native mistress; or a framework used in beds to support the legs. *I’m a Dutchman if I do*—Never! From the days when. “Dutchman” was synonymous with everything false. *In Dutch*—in trouble; in jail; this may refer to the early (2008: 267)
3. ***Girl Friday*** - The cheerful, hardworking companion of Robinson Crusoe in the 1719 novel of that title by Daniel Defoe gives his name to both *man Friday*, “a male general helper,” and his

modern-day female counterpart. *Girl Friday* is more often *gal Friday* today. All of these expressions can now be considered demeaning.(2008: 535)

4. Grass widow - The old story that this synonym for a divorcee derives from *veuve de grace*, “a divorcee or widow by courtesy or grace of the Pope,” has no basis in fact—for one thing, *grace widow* is nowhere recorded in English. Just as unlikely is the theory that the phrase originated with the custom of British officers in India sending their wives on vacation to the cool grassy hills during intensely hot summers, where, separated from their husbands, they were humorously referred to as *grass widows*. There is also a yarn that “forty-niners” in America “put their wives out to grass,” boarding them with neighbours until they returned from prospecting. The most plausible explanation of this old English expression, which dates back to at least the early 16th century, is that it formerly meant an unmarried mother and just changed in meaning over the years. “Grass” probably referred to the grass in which the grass widow’s child might have been begotten, outside of the proper marriage bed, and “widow” to the woman’s unmarried state. We find the same parallel in many languages, including our current slang *a roll in the hay*; the German *Strohweide*, “straw widow”; and the Middle Low German *graswedeue*, an obsolete word for a woman with an illegitimate child. One joke has it that a *grass widow* is a forlorn middle-class matron whose husband spends all his spare time playing golf.(2008:365)

5. In the club - send to the showers. This phrase, meaning “to dismiss or reject someone,” is from baseball, where it is first recorded in 1931. In baseball it means to take a failing pitcher out of a game and send in a relief pitcher. Since the pitcher can’t play again in that game, he often takes a shower in the club house and changes to street clothes.(2008: 741)

6. Jane Doe - is the oldest and most common of names for the average American, *Jane Doe* not heard nearly as much. *John Doe* was being used in England as a substitute name in legal documents by the 14th century and soon became a name for the common man, while *Jane Doe* was first recorded as his female counterpart in the late 1930s. *Joe Doakes* (1926), *Joe Citizen* (1932), *Joe Average* (1936), *John Q. Public* (1937), *Joe Lunchpail* (1965), and *joe six-pack* (1977) are other favourites, though hardly as widely used. These are all neutral terms. For derogatory names describing the average man we have *Joe Blow*, dating back to 1867 and still heard frequently, *Joe Zilch* (1925), and *Joe Schmo* (1950)—all of them treating the common man as a foolish nobody or worse. The British term for the average man is *Joe Bloggs*.(2008: 461)

3.2.1. Use of idiomatic expressions related to women activities. Names

1. Agony aunt - Miss Lonely hearts (2008: 559) (p. 93³⁶)

³⁶ Idiom is in this paper on this page.

2. *Girl Friday* - (p.535) (p. 95)

3.2.2. Use of idiomatic expressions related to women activities, features

1. *Girl Friday*-(2008: 535) (p. 95)

2. *Grass widow* – (2008: 365) (p. 96)

3. 3. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities

1. *Apron strings* - tied to one's mother's apron strings. "Apron- string hold" or "apron-string tenure" was a law about four centuries ago under which a husband could hold title to property passed on to his wife by her family only while his wife lived—provided that she had not divorced him. Many wives therefore controlled the purse strings and made all important family decisions, in which their husbands didn't have much to say. Such men, who oft en did just as they were told, were said to be *tied to their wives' apron strings*, a phrase suggested by "apron- string hold." Because male children in such a family tended to be dominated by their mothers as well, even when they were fully grown, the now more common expression *tied to his mother's apron strings* arose. French writer Gerard de Nerval (1808–55) actually hanged himself from a lamppost with an apron string. *Apron* is a corruption of *napron*, from the French *naperon*, "a little tablecloth," a *napron* corrupted to *an apron* in English. (2008: 829)

2. *Before you can say Jack Robinson* - quick as (or before) you can say Jack Robinson. Jackie Robinson, the major leagues' first black player, was one of the 690 queen's tears quickest base runners in baseball history, but he has nothing to do with the old expression as quick as you can say Jack Robinson. The phrase goes back to 18th-century England, where there may have been, as Francis Grose suggested in *A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue* (1795), a certain Jack Robinson who was in the habit of paying extraordinarily quick visits to his friends—and leaving even before his name could be announced by the butler. Jack Robinson was much more likely used in the phrase because it is easy to pronounce and is a very common name in En gland. (2008: 691)

3. *Bob's your uncle* - *Americans* mainly know this expression from films. It means "that's it" "that'll be all right" "you've got it right," "there you go," "there you are." The term dates back only to the 1880s, but no one has been able to identify without doubt the real "Bob" in the phrase, if indeed there was one. It may, however, be derived from the promotion in 1885 of Arthur J. Balfour (1848–1930) to chief secretary for Ireland by his uncle the marquee of Salisbury, who had just appointed him to another position the year before. Balfour is better

remembered for the Balfour Declaration of 1917, in which as British foreign secretary he favoured a Jewish homeland in Palestine. (2008:101)

4. ***Cock of the walk - henpecked.*** The pecking order among hens, according to the famous study made by biologist W. C. Allee, has a definite prestige pattern: Hens, like many humans, male and female, freely peck at other hens below their rank and submit to pecking from those above them. Although hens rarely peck at roosters in the barnyard, where the rooster is the cock of the walk, it was widely believed in the 17th century that they often pulled feathers from young roosters below them in the pecking order. This led to the comparison of domineering wives to aggressive hens. Samuel Butler defined the term first, Dryden complained that he was henpecked, and Steele called Socrates “the undoubted head of the Sect of the Hen- pecked.” There was even a noun *henpeck*, for a wife who domineered her husband, and Byron, in *Don Juan*, wrote his celebrated couplet: “But—oh! Ye lords of ladies intellectual, / Inform us truly, have they not hen- peck’d you all.”(2008:398)
5. ***Doubting Thomas*** - History’s first doubting Thomas was St. Thomas, one of the 12 apostles. Because he doubted the resurrection of Christ (John 20:24–29) and questioned Christ in an earlier passage in the Bible (John 14:5) early readers of the Scriptures gave his name to any faithless doubter. Thomas, however, reformed when the resurrected Christ let him touch the wounds he suffered on the cross and admonished him, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” Tradition has it that later, when no longer a doubter, Thomas went on a mission to India where a king gave him a large sum to build a magnificent palace. He spent the money on food for the poor instead, “erecting a superb palace in Heaven,” and so became the patron saint of masons and architects. (2008: 258)
6. ***Dutch uncle*** - an unsparingly frank and critical person, an Americanism probably referring to the Germans. (2008: 267)
7. ***Every man has his price*** - Some cynic other than Sir Robert Walpole coined this phrase. The British prime minister said something entirely different and referred only to corrupt members of Parliament, according to William Coxe in his *Memoirs of Sir Robert Walpole* (1798). Wrote Coxe of Sir Robert: “Flowery oratory he despised. He ascribed to the interested view of themselves or their relatives the declarations of pretended patriots, of whom he said, “All those men have their price.” ” (2008: 288)
8. ***Every man jack*** - Everybody without exception, even the most insignificant. This apparently isn’t a nautical phrase; at least it is first recorded by Dickens in *Barnaby Rudge* (1840). Dickens may have coined the precise phrase, but Shakespeare used a similar term in the same sense in *Cymbeline*: “Every Jack-slave hath his belly full of fighting.”(2008: 288)

- 9. *Every Tom, Dick and Harry*** - All of these are very common names; reason enough for them to represent “everybody” or an indiscriminate, unnoteworthy collection of men in the phrase. However, one ingenious theory tried to link the expression with nicknames of the devil. The trouble is that while Old Harry and Dick (the dickens) or Nick have long been nicknames for Olde Horney, he has never been known intimately as Tom. Also, every Tom, Dick, and Harry is an American expression of the late 19th century, before the British used Dick, Tom, and Jack for the same purpose. Browns, Jones, and Robinson were used by the British in Victorian times to mean “the vulgar rich.”(2008: 835)
- 10. *For Pete’s sake*** - Stop annoying me, cut it out. The old expression could be a euphemistic variation on for pity’s sake or it could have something to do with St. Peter. No one knows for sure. (2008: 316)
- 11. *In like Flynn*** - Chicago’s “Boss” Flynn’s machine never lost an election and was always “in office,” inspiring the expression *in like Flynn*, meaning “to have it made.” The popularity of movie actor Errol Flynn and his amorous activities helped popularize the phrase in the early 1940s (2008: 438)
- 12. *Jack Frost*** - *Jack Frost* has been the personification of frost or cold weather since at least 1826, when the term is first recorded in a British sporting magazine. (2008: 450)
- 13. *John Doe*** - John and Jane Doe. John Doe is the oldest and most common of names for the average American, Jane Doe not heard nearly as much. John Doe was being used in England as a substitute name on legal documents by the 14th century and soon became a name for the common man, while Jane Doe was first recorded as his female counterpart in the late 1930s. Joe Doakes (1926), Joe Citizen (1932), Joe Average (1936), John Q. Public (1937), Joe Lunchpail (1965), and joe six-pack (1977) are other favourites, though hardly as widely used. These are all neutral terms. For derogatory names describing the average man we have Joe Blow, dating back to 1867 and still heard frequently, Joe Zilch (1925), and Joe Schmo (1950)—all of them treating the common man as a foolish nobody or worse. The British term for the average man is Joe Blogs for the average man is *Joe Bloggs*. (2008: 461)
- 14. *John Q Public*** - *John Doe* is the oldest and most common of names for the average American, *Jane Doe* not heard nearly as much. *John Doe* was being used in En gland as a substitute name on legal documents by the 14th century and soon became a name for the common man, while *Jane Doe* was first recorded as his female counterpart in the late 1930s. *Joe Doakes* (1926), *Joe Citizen* (1932), *Joe Average* (1936), *John Q. Public* (1937), *Joe Lunchpail* (1965), and joe sixpack (1977) are other favorites, though hardly as widely used. These are all neutral terms. For derogatory names describing the average man we have *Joe Blow*, dating back to 1867 and still heard frequently, *Joe Zilch* (1925), and *Joe Schmo* (1950)—all of them treating the

common man as a foolish nobody or worse. The British term for the average man is *Joe Bloggs*. (2008: 461)

15. ***Johnny-come-lately*** - Back in the early 1800s, British sailors called any new or inexperienced hand Johnny Newcomer. American sailors apparently adopted the expression, changing it to Johnny Comelately. The first recorded mention of the term—in an 1839 novel set on the high seas—uses it in this form in referring to a young recruit. The expression soon came to describe newcomers in all walks of life, changing a little more to the familiar *Johnny- come- lately*. (2008: 461)
16. ***Man Friday*** - The cheerful, hardworking companion of Robinson Crusoe in the 1719 novel of that title by Daniel Defoe gives his name to both *man Friday*, “a male general helper,” and his modern-day female counterpart. *Girl Friday* is more often *gal Friday* today. All of these expressions can now be considered demeaning (2008: 535)
17. ***Man in the street*** - man in the street; man of the cars. The “ordinary” or “average” person. The first term is recorded in 1831, when British statesman Charles Greville refers to it as a racing term in his diary. A similar 19th-century American phrase was man of the cars, referring to the streetcars of the time. (2008: 535)
18. ***Man of letters*** - First attested in English in 1645, *man of letter* may come from the French *homme de lettres*. Originally the term meant “a scholar, a man of learning,” but today it is mostly applied to authors, critics, or literary scholars (2008: 536)
19. ***Man of straw*** - A man made of straw would certainly be one without a heart or conscience, so that this expression is apt for “an unscrupulous person who will do anything for gain.” However, the words may refer to real “straw men,” who in the past loitered near English courts with a straw in one of their shoes—this indicating that they would be willing to give false testimony or swear to anything in court for enough money. (2008: 536)
20. ***Man of the cloth*** - It wasn’t until the 17th century that *man of the cloth* was applied to a clergyman of any faith. Until then the term had meant anyone wearing any uniform in his work (2008: 537)
21. ***Man proposes, God disposes*** – This universal proverb has its roots in Proverbs 16:9: “A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.” The words are proverbial in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, English (since at least the 15th century), and many other languages. (2008: 537)
22. ***Man’s man - poor man’s manure***. Snow that falls in early spring; it is thought to provide the soil with nutrients and to be a better source of moisture because it doesn’t cause erosion by running off. The old expression has its counterparts in several languages (2008: 666)
23. ***New man*** - etymologies. It is seldom noted (no English dictionary records the derivation) that Neanderthal, for “a primitive backward person,” is named after a gentle poet—and a learned,

pious churchman to boot! The early forms of *Homo sapiens* called Neanderthals were so named because the first skeletons of them recognized as a distinct group of archaic humans was found in the Neander Valley (the Neanderthal) near Dusseldorf, Germany in 1856. But the Neander Valley had been named for the German poet and hymn writer Joachim C. Neander (1650–80), a schoolmaster who wrote the beautiful hymn on the glory of God in creation, “Lo Heaven and Earth and Sea and Air!” There is further irony in the fact that the poet’s great-grandfather’s name had been Neuman, the great-grandfather changing this Neanderthal; to Neander in the 16th century at a time when Germany was undergoing a rebirth of learning and many were translating their names into Greek. Thus, traced to its ultimate source, Neanderthal, which today means a primitive and brutal man, translates as “the man from the valley of the **new man** [the man of the future]”! (2008: 583)

24. *Patience of Job* - Job’s comforter; patience of Job. A *Job’s comforter* is someone who in meaning to comfort you adds to your sorrows, especially by advising that you brought your troubles upon yourself. “Miserable comforters are ye all,” Job told the three friends who came to console him in his misery, the scolding lectures they delivered to him now known as *Jobations*. The Book of Job in the Old Testament is one of the world’s greatest writings, questioning the existence of justice and moral order in the universe, its magnificent poetry more appropriate with each passing year. Job’s myriad misfortunes—his stock stolen, his sons, daughter, and servants slain, his body afflicted with “loathsome sores”—and his patience with these afflictions by which Satan is said to have tested him, led to the expression *the patience of Job*, great patience, indeed. (2008: 459)

25. *Peeping Tom* - According to a later version of the original story, Lady Godiva had but one admirer when she rode nude through the streets of Coventry. The earlier story has everyone in town feasting their eyes on Godiva, but here the plot thickens. Our later version says that a more cunning Lady Godiva issued a proclamation ordering all persons to stay indoors and shutter their windows, so that she could ride naked through Coventry, Lord Leofric would remit the town’s oppressive taxes, and she could remain modest as well. But enter stage left **Peeping Tom**, the unfortunate town tailor, or butcher. We say “stage left” because Peeping Tom must have lived on the left - hand side of Hertfords Street—assuming that Lady Godiva rode side saddle. At any rate, **Peeping Tom** peeped, ruined Lady Godiva’s plan, and was struck blind for his peeping—cruel and unusual punishment for merely being human and living in a strategic location. *See lady Godiva.* (2008: 639)

26. *Prince charming* - charm string. Buttons displayed on a string like a necklace. According to the *Miami Herald*, at the turn of the century: “Young girls sometimes collected buttons or received them as gifts. They would be strung and counted. Supposedly when the girl reached

999 buttons, her final prize would be **Prince Charming**, who would come and take her away and they would live happily ever after.”(2008: 167)

27. **Prodigal son - kill the fatted calf.** When the **Prodigal Son** returns home in the biblical story (Luke 15:23) his father prepares a great feast for him saying: “Bring hither the fatted calf and kill it.” The story gives us the old expression *to kill the fatted calf*, to make a sumptuous feast to welcome someone (2008: 475)
28. **Smart Alec** - If there ever lived a real “**smart Aleck**,” an Alexander so much of an obnoxiously conceited know- it- all that his name became proverbial, no record of him exists. The term can be traced back to about the 1860s and is still frequently used for a wise guy today. The original smart aleck may have been at least clever enough to cover up all traces of his identity. One possibility for a real smart aleck, however, would be 19th century American confidence man Alec Hoag. (2008: 767)
29. **To a man - anything for a quiet life.** Though Dickens’s Sam Weller immortalized this phrase in *The Pickwick Papers*, referring to a man who took a “situation” at a light house, the expression dates back to the 17th century and a play by Thomas Middleton. A variation, dating only to about 1968, is the catchphrase *anything for a quiet wife*. (2008: 32)
30. **To a T -suits you to a “T.”** Most dictionaries attribute the expression to the accuracy of the draft sman’s T square, but this is impossible, according to the *O.E.D.* - for the phrase was around many years before the T-square got its name. The expression has been used to indicate exactness or perfection since at least the early 17th century and is probably an abbreviation of the older expression, *to a tittle*. *Tittle* or *titil* was the English name for small strokes or points made in writing the letters of the alphabet, a corruption of the word seen today in the Spanish *tilde*. Thus *to a tittle* meant to a dot, precisely, and was used this way more than a century before someone shortened it to *to a T*. (2008: 801.)
31. **Uncle Sam - Blue Hen State.** A nickname for Delaware (*see* blue hen’s chickens). Delaware has also been called the Diamond State, Uncle Sam’s Pocket Handkerchief (due to its small size), and New Sweden, after the 1638 settlement of Swedes there in *Nye Sverige*. (2008: 98)
32. **Yes-man** - Chinese home run. Because Chinese immigrants were forced to work for little pay in a segregated society, their name came to mean “cheap” in American slang and formed the basis of a number of expressions. Chinese home run is the only one of these that still has much currency. It describes a cheap home run, one that just makes it over the fence. No one is sure who coined the phrase. It either arose in some ballpark on the West Coast at the turn of the century and was brought East by the cartoonist “Tad” Dorgan (who is also responsible for the words **yes-man** and hot dog), or it originated in a baseball park with a fence a relatively short

distance from home, possibly the old 239- foot right- field fence in Philadelphia's Shibe Park, or the short right-field fence in New York's old Polo Grounds (2008:174)

3. 3. 1. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities. Names

1. *Before you can say Jack Robinson* - (2008: 690) (p. 98)
2. *Bob's your uncle* - (2008: 101) (p. 98)
3. *Doubting Thomas* - (2008: 258)(p. 98)
4. *Dutch uncle* - (2008: 267)(p. 98)
5. *Every man jack* - (2008: 288) (p. 98)
6. *Every Tom, Dick and Harry* – (2008: 835) (p. 99)
7. *For Pete's sake* - (2008: 316) (p. 99)
8. *In like Flynn* - (2008: 438) (p. 99)
9. *Jack Frost* - (2008: 450) (p. 99)
10. *John Doe* – (2008:461) (p. 99)
11. *John Q Public* - (2008: 461) (p. 99)
12. 18. *Johnny-come-lately* – (2008:461) (p. 100)
13. 20. *Man Friday* - (2008: 535) (p. 100)
14. 21. *Patience of Job* - (2008: 459) (p. 101)
15. *Peeping Tom* - (2008: 639) (p. 102)
16. *Smart Alec* - (2008: 767) (p. 103)
17. *Uncle Sam* - (2008: 790) (p. 102)

3. 3. 2. Use of idiomatic expressions related to male activities, features

1. *Apron strings* - (2008: 829) (p. 98)
2. *Cock of the walk* - (2008: 398) (p. 99)
3. *In like Flynn* - (2008: 438) (p. 99)
4. *Man's man* - (2008: 666) (p. 102)
5. *Prince charming* - (2008: 167) (p. 103)
6. *Prodigal son* - (2008: 475) (p. 103)

3.4. Idioms referring to human beings ignoring sex

1. *Agony aunt* - *Miss Lonely hearts*. (2008: 559) (p. 95)
2. *Girl Friday* - (p.535) (p. 95)

3. *Johnny-come-lately* - (2008: 461) (p. 100)
4. *Man Friday* - (2008: 535) (p. 100)
5. *Man in the street* - (2008: 535) (p. 100)
6. *Man of letters* - (2008: 536) (p. 100)
7. *Man of straw* - (2008: 536) (p. 100)
8. *Man of the cloth* - (2008: 537)(p. 100)
9. *Peeping Tom* - (2008: 639)(p. 102)
10. *Prodigal son* - (2008:475) (p. 103)
11. *Smart Alec* - (2008: 767) (p. 103)
12. *Uncle Sam* – (2008: 790) (p. 102)
13. *Yes-man* - (2008: 911) (p. 102)

3.5. Use of idiomatic statements related to spiritual development

1. *A rolling stone gathers no moss* - Rolling Stones; a rolling stone gathers no moss. In 1961 the British rock group called the Rolling Stones named themselves after the Muddy Waters classic blues song “Rollin’ Stone.” Muddy Waters, in turn, had been inspired by the anonymous ancient proverb, “a rolling stone gathers no moss,” which dates back to at least the 14th century and means that someone always moving won’t ever accumulate a fortune (the moss on the rock).(2008: 712)
2. *Absence makes the heart grow fonder - out of sight, out of mind.* Whether you believe the first proverb or the contradictory saying *out of sight, out of mind*, the phrase does not come from the poem “Isle of Beauty” by Thomas Haynes Bayly (1797–1839), as Dr. Brewer, Bartlett, and other sources say. Bayly did write “Absence makes the heart grow fonder, /Isle of Beauty, Fare thee well!” but the same phrase was recorded in Francis Davison’s “Poetical Rapsody” in 1602. *Out of sight, out of mind* comes from the poem “That Out of Sight” by Arthur Hugh Clough (1819–61) That out of sight is out of mind Is true of most we leave behind.(2008: 4)
3. *All that glitters is not gold* - “Do not hold everything gold that shines like gold,” French theologian Alain de Lille wrote as far back as the 12th century. Since then Chaucer, Cervantes, and Shakespeare have all contributed variations on the saying. Its present form originated with English author John Dryden in his *The Hind and the Panther* (1687): “All, as they say that glitters are not gold.”(2008: 21)
4. *Beauty is only skin deep - Skin-deep*, for “superficial” or “shallow,” “penetrating no deeper than the skin,” can be traced back to the early 17th century, as can the proverbial *beauty is only skin-deep*, expressing the limitations of beauty. The last expression is first recorded in a

poem by Thomas Overbury in about 1613: “All the carnall beauty of my wife, /is but skin-deep.” *Skin--deep*, literally, can range from 1/10th of an inch on the eyelid to 1/5th of an inch on the back.(2008: 70)

5. **Bleeding heart** - do-gooder. When this term was first recorded in 1654, it simply meant someone who does good, or a reformer. However, by the 1920s in the U.S. it began to take on the derogatory sense of a bleeding heart or naive idealist, and today it has only that meaning. (2008: 250)
6. **Blow your own horn** - **blow his, her, own horn**. The term *blowhard*, for “a braggart,” can be traced back to the American West in about 1855. To **blow your own horn**, or “to promote yourself,” derives from a much older expression, *to blow your own trumpet*, which goes as far back as 1576. Such “hornblowing” may have its origins in medieval times, when heralds blew their trumpets to announce the arrival of royalty but commoners such as street vendors had to blow their own horns.(2008: 96)
7. **By heart** - know one’s cans. Cowboys on the range in the 19th century were usually starved for reading matter and oft en read the labels on the cook’s tin cans, learning them **by heart**. A tenderfoot could always be distinguished because he didn’t know his cans. The expression isn’t recorded in the Dictionary of Americanisms but is given in Ray Allen Billington’s *America’s Frontier Culture* (1977). Wrote Edna Ferber in *Cimmaron* (1930): “The back and the side doors of the dwelling littered with the empty tin cans that mark any new American settlement, and especially one whose drought is relieved by the thirst- quenching coolness of tinned tomatoes and peaches. Perhaps the canned tomato, as much as anything else, made possible the settling of the vast West and Southwest.”(2008: 481)
8. **Curiosity killed the cat** - A very familiar proverb that seems to have been recorded only as far back as the early 1900s. Perhaps it derived somehow from the much older (late 16th century) *care killed the cat*, but there is no proof of this thus far. (2008: 219)
9. **Dog eat dog** - **dog does not eat dog**; In the 16th century *dog does not eat dog* was a popular saying, but over the years *dog eat dog* (qv), an Americanism, has come to be heard more. (2008: 249)
10. **Ducks in a row** - **get one’s ducks in a row**. American bowling alleys were the first to introduce duck pins, short slender bowling pins unlike the rotund pins that the English used. Pin boys who set up these pins (before the advent of automatic bowling machines) had the job of getting their ducks in a row. Soon the expression *I’ve got my ducks in a row* was being used by anyone who had completed any arrangements (2008: 340)
11. **Early bird catches the worm** - A proverb dating back to the middle 1600s, the common term *early bird* deriving from it.(2008: 269)

- 12. Get a grip - pistol- whip.** This was not originally a gangster expression. *Pistol- whip* is first recorded in the U.S. West in 1940 where it meant to beat someone with the barrel, not the butt, of a gun - it took too long to **get a grip** on the barrel in a fight.(2008: 653)
- 13. Headstrong - Bohemian** was first used as a synonym for a gypsy or vagabond during the Middle Ages, people mistakenly believing that the gypsy tribes entered the West via the ancient kingdom of Bohemia. *Bohemian* became synonymous with a poor writer or artist with French novelist Henri Murger's stories in *Scenes de la vie de boheme* (1848), his book providing the basis for Puccini's opera *La Boheme*. The English novelist William Makepeace Thackeray made the word a synonym for a nonconforming artist in *Vanity Fair* (1848) when he wrote of his **headstrong** heroine Becky Sharp: "She was of a wild, roving nature, inherited from her father and mother, who were both Bohemian by taste and circumstance."(2008: 103)
- 14. Heart of gold** - Gold is one of the four oldest words in English, deriving from the Indo-European substrate word gold (the other three are apple, from appal; bad, bad; and tin, tin). Hundreds of expressions, some of them covered in these pages, are based on gold, from all that glitters is not gold and good as gold to **heart of gold** and gold digger.(2008: 352)
- 15. Keep it under your hat** - Keep something under your hat and it is kept to yourself, it remains a secret to anyone but you. Unlike "blockhead," which goes back to the first hats, the expression is of surprisingly recent origin, having been first recorded in a similar form in 1909 and recorded in its present form in P. G. Wodehouse's *The Inimitable Jeeves* (1923)(2008: 470)
- 16. Keep your hair on** - Keep your hair on and keep your back hair up is earlier related expressions for "don't get excited."(2008: 471)
- 17. Keep your pecker up** - These words shouldn't be X-rated; pecker here refers not to the penis, as many people believe, but to the lip. Pecker has been slang for lip, corresponding as it does to the beak, or pecker, of a bird, since the middle of the 19th century, when we first find this expression meaning "screw up your courage, keep a stiff upper lip." (Pecker, for the male organ, has been slang only since the late 19th century.) The first recorded use of the phrase is impeccably British: "Keep up your pecker, old fellow" (1853). A more specific explanation is that it refers to a gamecock's bill, the bird's bill or pecker sinking lower toward the ground as he grows more tired and near defeat. (2008: 471)
- 18. Know which side one's bread is buttered on** - This useful phrase dates back close to 500 years. It was first recorded in John Heywood's *Proverbs and Epigrams* (1562) in the form, "I know on which side my bread is buttered." Both early and later versions mean the same: "I know what's in my own best interest."(2008: 482)

- 19. Know which way the wind blows - Weathermen.** “You don’t need a weatherman to **know which way the wind blows**,” goes a well-known line in a Bob Dylan song. A revolutionary U.S. group appropriated “Weathermen” for the name of their group in 1970.(2008: 879)
- 20. Let your hair down -** I can’t find an old quotation to support the theory, but this expression may have originated in the days of Louis XIV, when elaborate hairstyles such as the frontage, a pile of style that rose two feet and more above the wearer’s head, were popular among Frenchwomen. These styles were such a nuisance that several were actually banned by the Sun King. Certainly none permitted informality or intimacy, and only when a woman let down her hair at night in privacy did she relax any and shed at least one inhibition. (2008: 500)
- 21. Lily-livered -** The liver, the largest gland in our bodies, was once believed to be the seat of passion. It was also believed that the liver of a coward contained no blood, not as much “as you find in the foot of a flea,” since a coward wasn’t capable of passionate violence. Hence the expression white-livered and lily-livered for cowardly. Shakespeare wrote of cowards with “livers white as milk” and later came lusty expressions such as “a lily-livered, action-taking knave.” See learn by heart; bowels of compassion. (2008: 505)
- 22. Look before you leap -** The old saying is often said to be from Samuel Butler’s *Hudibras* (1663): “And look before you ere you leap; / For as you sow, ye are like to reap.” But John Heywood’s collection of proverbs (1562) clearly takes precedence with look ere you leap. There are a good number of counterparts in other languages: Turn the tongue seven times, then speak (French); Have an umbrella before getting wet (Japanese); Before you drink the soup, blow on it (Arabic); First weigh (the consequences), then dare (German); If you don’t know the ford, don’t cross the stream (Russian); Be careful bending your head, you may break it (Italian).(2008: 516)
- 23. Loose lips sink ships -** World War II posters urged sailors and others not to talk about war-related matters, for “The slip of a lip may sink a ship,” “Slipped lips sink ships,” and “Idle gossip sinks ships.” The most memorable of such slogans was “Loose lips sink ships.” Another was “Don’t talk chum/chew Topp’s gum (2008: 516)
- 24. Mind your P’s and Q’s -** mind your p’s and q’s. Be very careful, precise. This expression has been using since at least the late 18th century without any definite proof of where it comes from, and it is still not known. Not that there is any want of theories. Of the top 10 contenders, three are listed here:
1. The obvious explanation is that English children learning to write the alphabet were told to mind their p’s and q’s, to be careful not to reverse the loops on the letters and

make p's look like q's and vice versa. Why wasn't the admonition mind your b's and d's, though?

2. A similar theory holds that apprentice printers were told to mind their p's and q's, to be very careful in picking out type, especially since a typesetter has to read letters upside down. The trouble with this theory is that the reverse of a p isn't a q but a d.
 3. Word delvers always come up with a good barroom story whenever it's possible to work one in, and a third explanation has British tavern keepers minding their p's and q's when figuring up the monthly beer bill—being careful, that is, not to confuse pints and quarts(2008: 557)
25. **Monkey see, monkey do** - Usually words heard from teasing children, this phrase dates back to about 1930. (2008: 563)
26. **Pen is mightier than the sword** - It was Edward Bulwer- Lytton who coined the pen is mightier than the sword, in his play *Richelieu* (1839): Beneath the rule of men entirely great, the pen is mightier than the sword. Long before, in his *Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621), Robert Burton had written: "The pen is worse than the sword." Cervantes, in *Don Quixote* (1605), expressed an entirely different point of view: "Let none presume to tell me that the pen is preferable to the sword." Curiously enough, two great writers, Sophocles and Demosthenes, were the sons of sword makers, the equivalent of munitions makers in our time. (2008: 641)
27. **Penny pincher** - The term, first recorded in 1690, is said to derive from the medieval saying *to skin a flint*, to be very exacting in making a bargain. A flint is a hard stone and would be exceedingly difficult if not impossible to skin. (2008: 762)
28. **106. Pour oil on troubled waters** - To soothe or calm a situation by tact and diplomacy is the figurative meaning of the above phrase. The ancients, Pliny and Plutarch among them, believed that oil poured on stormy waters reduced the waves to a calm and allowed a vessel to ride through a storm. The Venerable Bede says in his *Historia Ecclesiastica Gentis Anglorum* (731) that Bishop Aidan, an Irish monk, gave a priest, who was to deliver King Oswy's bride to him, holy oil to pour on the sea if the waves became threatening; his miraculous oil would stop the wind from blowing. A storm did blow up and the priest saved the ship and the future queen by following this advice. Later, Benjamin Franklin mentioned the practice of pouring oil on troubled waters in a letter and it said that the captains of American whaling vessels sometimes ordered oil poured on stormy waters. (2008: 671)
29. **111. Put your shoulder to the wheel** - This expression refers to someone literally putting his shoulder to the wheel and pushing a cart out of the mud, as was so common on roads everywhere in the days before macadam. The expression goes back at least to Elizabethan

times, when it probably was proverbial in the form of *Lay your shoulder to the wheel and push the oxen*. (2008:684)

30. Pyrrhic victory - After he defeated the Romans at the battle of Asculum in 279 b. c., losing the flower of his army in the action, King Pyrrhus remarked, “One more such victory and we are lost.” Other versions of his immortal words are, “One more victory and I am undone,” and “Another such victory and I must return to Epirus alone.” Pyrrhus had come to Italy with 25,000 troops two years before when Tarentum asked him to help organize resistance against the Romans, but after Asculum and several other battles he returned to the kingdom of Epirus in northwest Greece with only 8,000 men. The great warrior, a second cousin of Alexander the Great, never did live to revive the conqueror’s empire as he had hoped. He died in 272 b. c., aged 46, during a night skirmish in a street in Argos - fatally struck by a tile that fell from a roof - his name only commemorated by the phrase *Pyrrhic victory*, a victory in which the losses are so ruinous that it is no victory at all.(2008: 684)

31. Road to Damascus - It is generally thought that Damascus is the oldest city in the world, dating back more than 2,000 years before Christ. It was while travelling to Damascus that Saul (St. Paul) became a convert to Christianity, giving us the expression *the road to Damascus* for any sudden personal conversion. (2008: 226)

32. See the light - Minor marvels, things that cause great sensations for a short time and then pass into limbo have probably been called *nine days’ wonder*, or something very similar, since Roman times. Kittens, puppies, and other young animals have their eyes closed for a number of days after birth and then open them and see the light—just as astonished people eventually “open their eyes” and see astonishing things in their true perspective. This is probably the reasoning behind the expression, *nine* being used because it has always been regarded as a mystical number and might have been thought to be the number of days young animals keep their eyes closed. Robert Burton gave us a proverb that seems to confirm this theory: “A wonder lasts but nine days, and then the puppy’s eyes are open.” In both World Wars and the Korean Conflict, the nickname *90- day wonders*, an off shoot of the earlier phrase, was given to young, sometimes zealous second lieutenants who were trained for only three months in Officer Candidate School (OCS).(2008: 591)

33. Separate the sheep from the goats - An old expression that has its origins in the New Testament, Matt. 25:32–33, reading: “And before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.” It means to divide the good from the bad, the worthy from the unworthy. (2008: 742)

34. Smell a rat - No one can say with irrefragable certainty how this expression originated, but the allusion may be to a cat smelling a rat while being unable to see it. Terriers and other rat-

hunting dogs could also be the inspiration. The expression dates back to about 1780, but long before that *to smell* was used figuratively for “to suspect or discern intuitively,” as when Shakespeare writes “Do you smell a fault?” in *King Lear*. St. Hilarion, the Syrian hermit who died about 371, could allegedly tell a person’s vices or virtues simply by smelling his person or clothing. Some people really have been able to **smell a rat**. One legendary underground worker for the New York City Transit Authority was renowned for smelling out dead rats, the odour of which has ruined many a business. John “Smelly” Kelly, also known as “Sniffy,” patrolled the New York City subway system for years, his uncanny sense of smell enabling him to detect everything from gas leaks to the decomposing corpses of poisoned rats that crawled into the walls of stores adjoining the subway. Smelly Kelly was one of those rare people who could say with certainty, “I smell a rat.”(2008: 444)

35. ***Stick your neck out - don’t stick your neck out***. Chickens, for some reason still known only to chickens, usually stretch out their necks when put on the chopping block, making it all the easier for the butcher to chop their heads off. Probably our expression, a warning to someone not to expose himself to danger or criticism when this can be avoided, which is American slang from the late 19th century, originated from the bloody barnyard image. Lynchings have also been suggested, but lynched men rarely stick their necks out for the noose (2008: 254)
36. ***Stick-in-the-mud*** - A dull, conservative, old-fashioned person; also an old fogey who refuses even to try something new or exciting. “All right, stay home by yourself then, you old stick in the mud,” his wife told him. The expression dates back to about 1725 and is still heard today, if infrequently. One writer has called Osama bin Laden “a pathetic stick- in- the-mud.”(2008:792)
37. ***Stiff upper lip*** - Since it is the lower lip that quivers when someone is afraid or on the verge of crying, keeping a stiff upper lip seems to be a rather meaningless expression. Probably there is no logic behind this admonition to be firm in times of trouble, but at least one attempt has been made at an explanation. Young British officers who adopted moustaches tried to keep them trim so that they didn’t make their upper lips twitch, such twitching being a sign of lack of control and emotional immaturity to their superiors. The main problem here is that all recorded evidence shows this phrase to be of American origin, from New England in about 1830. Possibly it is just the reverse of the American expression “down in the mouth.”(2008: 793)
38. ***Still waters run deep*** - Someone quiet on the outside is more worthwhile or even dangerous than any bigmouth. The germ of the idea behind this saying goes all the way back to the Roman poet Quintus Curtius of the first century a.d., who wrote: “The deepest rivers

flow with the least sound.” Later, in 1580, the British writer John Lyly (*see* euphuism) wrote: “Where the streame runneth smoothest, the water is deepest.” Finally, in *Henry VI* (1591) Shakespeare borrowed and improved a bit upon both with “Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep.”(2008: 793)

39. ***Strike while the iron is hot*** - A blacksmith has to wield his hammer while the metal on the anvil is red- hot or he loses his opportunity and must heat the iron all over again. Which is the idea behind this phrase meaning to act at the most propitious moment, an expression that goes back at least to Chaucer, who in the *Canterbury Tales* wrote that while the “Iren is hoot men sholden smyte.”(2008: 798)
40. ***Stubborn as a mule*** - no pride of ancestry, no hope of posterity. The long eared, short-maned mule takes its name from Latin *mulus* meaning the same. Mules are said to have “no pride of ancestry, no hope of posterity” because they are sterile beasts of burden, being the off spring of a male donkey and a female horse. Maybe the mule has a posterity of sorts in expressions like stubborn as a mule and the old term mule for a smuggler or person who delivers contraband, especially drugs.(2008: 573)
41. ***Thick-skinned*** - Its thick skin gives the elephant its Latin name (*pachyderm*), as it does the rhinoceros, hippopotamus, and other animals and plants, too. A *pachyderm* can also be a **thick-skinned** person. Wrote John Keats: “A man cannot have a sensuous nature and be pachydermatous at the same time.” See elephant (2008: 626)
42. ***Time and tide wait for no man*** - tide. Though a sea tide is usually thought to be high or low water, anything between ebb and flood, tide really means “the fixed time of flood and ebb.” Tide was originally a synonym for time (as in *eventide*), so the expression “Time and tide wait for no man” is something of a tautology. The Greek navigator Pytheas observed and explored ocean tides in the third century b. c., but it wasn’t until Isaac Newton’s time that scientists widely believed that the Moon had any effect on ocean tides. The greatest tides occur in the Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia, where there is an extreme range of 57 feet between high and low tides and 100 million tons of water are carried out of the bay twice each day. (2008: 829)
43. ***To err is human, to forgive divine*** - The old proverb dates back to at least the 14th century in its Latin form: *humanum et errare*. Long before this, the Greek dramatist Sophocles wrote in his tragedy *Antigone* (?441 b.c.) “To err from the right path is common to mankind.” Sometimes the proverb is heard as “to err is human, to forgive divine,” which seems to have been coined by English poet Alexander Pope in his “*Essay on Criticism*” (1711). (2008:284)
44. ***Ugly duckling*** - Hans Christian Andersen’s tale “The Ugly Duckling” tells of a sad “ugly duckling” that was actually a cygnet and, to its mother’s surprise, grew up into a magnificent

swan. Soon after the story was translated into English in 1846 the expression *ugly duckling* became part of the language, usually meaning an unpromising child who grows into an admirable adult. (2008: 852)

45. ***Vicar of Bray*** - A *Vicar of Bray* is someone who holds onto his office or position no matter who is in power and will go to any length to do so. The term refers to a semi- legendary Vicar of Bray, Berkshire, in England who became twice a Roman Catholic and twice a Protestant under four different monarchs between 1520 and 1560, in the words of one contemporary writer “being resolved, whoever was king, to die Vicar of Bray.”(2008: 868)
46. ***White feather*** - Clydesdale. The upper Clydesdale river region in Scotland gives its name to this large, powerful draft horse originally bred in the area. The Clydesdale is noted for the white, feathered hair on its fetlocks. (187) **show the white feather.** A cock with any white feathers was believed to be poorly bred and too cowardly for cock fighting in days past. This led to the old expression *to show the white feather*, “to exhibit cowardice.”(2008:755)

3. 5.1. Use of idiomatic statements related to religion

1. ***Go the extra mile*** - (p. 95)
2. ***Good Samaritan*** - (p. 95)
3. ***Man proposes, God disposes*** - (p. 100)
4. ***Patience of Job*** - (p. 101)
5. ***Road to Damascus*** - (p. 109).
6. ***Separate the sheep from the goats*** – (p. 111)
7. ***To err is human, to forgive divine*** - (2008: 284)(p. 111)
8. ***Vicar of Bray*** - (2008: 868) (p. 111)

3.6. Use of idiomatic statements related to animal world

1. ***Cock of the walk*** - (2008: 398) (p. 99)
2. ***Curiosity killed the cat*** - (2008: 219) (p. 105)
3. ***Dog eat dog*** - (2008: 249) (p. 105)
4. ***Ducks in a row*** - (2008: 340) (p. 105)
5. ***Separate the sheep from the goats*** - (2008: 742) (p. 111)
6. ***Smell a rat*** – (p. 109)
7. ***Stubborn as a mule*** - (2008: 573) (p. 111)
8. ***Ugly duckling*** – (2008: 852) (p. 111)

3.7. Use of idiomatic statements related to things, phenomena

1. *White feather* - (2008: 755) (p. 112)

3.8. Use of idiomatic statements related to time

1. *Strike while the iron is hot* - (2008: 798) (p. 112)
2. *Time and tide wait for no man* - (2008: 829) (p.112)

3.10. Use of idiomatic statements related to irony

1. *Apron strings* - (2008: 829) (p.98)
2. *Blow your own horn* - (2008:96-97) (p. 106)
3. *Blow your own trumpet* - **blow his, her, own horn.** The term *blowhard*, for “a braggart,” can be traced back to the American West in about 1855. To *blow your own horn*, or “to promote yourself,” derives from a much older expression, *to blow your own trumpet*, which goes as far back as 1576. Such “hornblowing” may have its origins in medieval times, when heralds blew their trumpets to announce the arrival of royalty but commoners such as street vendors had to blow their own horns. (2008:96-97)
4. *Dutch uncle* - an unsparingly frank and critical person, an Americanism probably referring to the Germans. (2008: 267)(p. 98)
5. *Yes-man* - (2008: 911) (p. 102)
6. *Lily-livered* - (2008: 505) (p. 107)
7. *Man of straw* - (2008: 536) (p. 100)
8. *Man of the cloth* - (2008: 537) (p. 100)
9. *No good deed goes unpunished* - This cynical phrase seems appropriate for the late 20th century and almost surely hails from there. *See* one good turn deserves another (p.594) (p.99)
10. *Peeping Tom* - (2008: 639) (p. 102)
11. *Penny pincher* - (2008: 762) (p.109)
12. *Teach your grandmother to suck eggs* - Someone who say “Trying to teach him how to swim is like trying to teach your grandmother to suck eggs” is saying that the whole idea is ridiculous because he knew how to swim well long before you were born. Most country grandmothers knew how to suck eggs in days past-poking two small holes in the shell and sucking out the contents through a straw while leaving the shell intact. Today

not many grandmothers suck eggs, but people still use the expression, first recorded in the early 18th century. (2008:815)

13. *Thick-skinned* - (2008: 626) (p. 111)