

Idioms in Context David Lodge's Changing Places as a Case Study

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Abstract

When learning a foreign language, everyone has confronted a situation where h/she is unable to understand meanings of all the words in a sentence. This represents an obstruction to the process of interpretation of a sentence. Such an inability to identify correct meaning of a particular sentence often results from an occurrence of idiomatic expression (s) or phrase (s) within the sentence.

The foreign language student wants to know which idioms should be used in a given situation. He also wants to avoid the pitfalls of vulgar, inappropriate and incongruous idioms. In short, he wants both information and guidance. Therefore, some of the idioms he learns will be used in conversation, others for recognition purposes when learning a foreign language. One can understand all the expressions in a sentence, though he cannot comprehend its overall meaning.

This paper attempts to:

1. Shed light on using idioms in context and indicators that signal which meaning is probably intended by speaker (s): literal or idiomatic.
2. Focus on idioms and their ambiguity by means that reduce this ambiguity to some extent.
3. Explain types of idioms and their classifications which distribute idioms into groups according to their shared qualities.

The following hypotheses are posed in this study:

1. Successful learning of idioms depends upon processing context clues, the transparency or figurativeness.
2. Idioms are easier to understand in context than in isolation.
3. Idiomatic expressions represent a typical feature of informal speech.

For the analysis, David Lodge's novel "Changing Places" (1975) has been chosen as a case study. This novel contains plenty of expressions e. g. idiomatic expressions and their ambiguous expressions that will be appropriate for the analysis. Moreover, as there are several types of idioms and not all of them, of course, can be arranged into one category. This novel is a representative of the literary genre. Short (1996); Brown & Yule (1983) are the theoretical models used as the basis for the analytical work. Since we are dealing with a literary text, these models will provide us with useful hints when interpreting sentences from the novel by Lodge. Those sentences which have idioms may represent a problematic aspect in the interpretation of the novel.

Key words: Idioms, David Lodge, changing places, foreign language.

1. Introduction

One can understand all the expressions in a sentence, though he/ she cannot comprehend its overall meaning. This inability to identify correct meaning of a particular sentence often results from an occurrence of idiomatic expression (s) or phrases within the sentence. According to Johnson-Laird (1993), it is difficult to speak spontaneously without lapsing into idiomatic usage. Hence, the first reason for the importance of idioms is that they are pervasive "Idioms are an important part of any language and may be said to play a considerable role in a foreign language as in the mother tongue" (McDevitt, 1993:4). Learners learn not only the grammatical structures and vocabulary of the language but the idioms as well to integrate into the culture of the foreign language. Idioms are important for language, reading and social communication (Seccord&Wiig, 1993).

2. Definition of Idioms

There are various definitions of idioms; however all of them share common features. According to Simpson (2004:93), idioms have their origin in metaphors which have become fixed phrases in language. They are frequently referred to as clusters of words whose meaning can be hardly deduced from their constituent parts. Similarly Palmer (1976:41) describes idioms as "a sequence of words whose meaning cannot be predicted from the meanings of the words themselves". An idiom is an expression whose overall figurative meaning cannot be derived from the meaning of its parts (Marlies, 1995:283). It is a figurative expression that usually can be interpreted literally but that takes a non-literal meaning when used in specific context (Cain *et al*, 2005:66). Fromkin *et al* (2005: 184) says that idioms have fixed meanings, that is, a meaning that is not compositional. Applying compositional rules to idioms gives rise to funny or inappropriate meanings.

Rowe (2004:428) maintains that an idiom does not mean what one would expect it to mean in literal sense, and in many cases, it cannot be easily translated into another language. Expressions like "get away", "break even", or "turn into" can be difficult to understand, since their meanings are different from the meanings of the separate words in the expressions. Expressions like these are called idioms (Swan, 1996:243). The Longman dictionary of idioms offers a rather complex definition of idioms. It describes idioms as expressions that are rather metaphorical than literal and it adds that these expressions tend to be invariable or fixed in the form which makes them different from the common literal expressions because of their metaphorical character, it is often impossible to discover their meanings by looking up the individual words in a dictionary (Longman Dictionary of Idioms, 1979:viii).

2.1. Occurrence of Idioms

It is widely, but wrongly, believed that idioms occur only in colloquial language; however, they appear in formal style and poetic language as well, e.g. the Bible, the language of Shakespeare etc. (Seidl & McMordie, 1978:11). However, these occurrences are rather rare and most idioms belong to informal spoken English rather than to formal written

English (Longman Dictionary of Idioms, 1979: viii). This view is underscored by Crystal and Davy (1969:114) who claim that the majority of idioms mark informal or colloquial language, as they are representatives of colloquial idioms such as in a minute, the simple truth I, etc. and thus they are frequently part of the conversational language (Crystal & Davy, 1969:114).

2.2. Types of Idioms

There are several types of idioms such as transparent, opaque, simile, metaphor, saying, proverbs, clichés, restricted collocation and so on.

2.2.1. Transparent Idioms

Transparent idioms are figurative expressions whose meanings can be easily understood more than opaque idioms. The literal meaning of the transparent idiom is highly related to the string's figurative meaning. For such idioms there should be little difference between an image of the literal meaning and an image of the figurative meaning (Cacciari, 1995: 46-47). According to Cain et al (2005:67) transparency refers to the degree of agreement between the literal and figurative meanings of an idiom.

2.2.2. Opaque Idioms

The constituents of opaque idioms do not contribute to the overall meaning such idioms indicate. For Cain et al (2005:73) "the sense of opaque idioms, such as (to wet behind the ears) cannot be inferred from the individual words in the phrase or actions they describe". The literal and figurative meanings of an idiom string are totally unrelated to one another, in such cases we should expect literal images to predominate. Such image (a) would not reflect idioms underlying conceptual metaphors, and (b) might even interfere with any attempt to form an image of those metaphors (Cacciari, 1995:47).

2.2.3. Pairs of Words

A large number of idioms consist of pairs of words joined by and. Many of these idioms belong to the transparent idioms and function as particular parts of speech. For example, the noun phrase 'cats and dogs' in 'it was raining cats and dogs' functions as an adverb. Many of these phrases cannot be reversed. One could not say to be at tongs and hammer, since the right order of the words in the noun phrase is tongs and hammer (Padlik, 2008: 9).

2.2.4. Idioms with "it"

A number of idiomatic and verb phrases has the pronoun it as a fixed part of the idiom. The pronoun does not refer to a word coming before it as it normally does like snuff it or live it up (ibid: 11).

2.2.5. Allusions

Certain common phrases and a few single words have special significance in the society and their meanings are often not defined in ordinary dictionaries (ibid).

2.2.6. Phrasal verbs

Expressions that consist only of a verb and one or more adverbial particles or prepositions are another representative of idioms. For example (put up with, make up etc.). (Longman Dictionary of Idioms, 1979:ix,x).

2.2.7. Sayings

These are complete sentences holding for certain sayings, they can be divided into two groups : the informal sayings (you cannot take with you , there's always a next time) and older and more metaphorical sayings (A rolling stone gathers no moss, all work and no plays makes Jack a dull boy) (Padlik , 2008:11).

2.2.8 Similes

Similes represent a large number of idioms, which compare quality, condition, action etc. With a noun (as easy as pie). These phrases emphasize the meaning of the first word and can usually be translated by simply putting very in front of it. Certain verbal idioms (work like a horse) are also similes and function in a similar way to the adjective phrases (ibid: 11).

2.2.9 Typical Conversational Phrases

Some fixed conversational phrases whose meanings are not literal and which therefore may be difficult to understand, such as how do you do, all right, so to speak (ibid).

3.1 Semantic Features of Idioms

Idioms comprise collocations of a special kind, if we take, for example, “kick the bucket” we do not only obtain the collocation of (kick) and (the bucket), but we have the fact that the meaning of the resultant combination is opaque. Opaque meaning is not connected with meaning of the individual words, however it is sometimes (though not always) nearer to the single words (thus kick the bucket equals die) (Palmer, 1976:98). This can also be illustrated by well-known phrases “give up the ghosts” and “spill the beans”. The meanings are: to die and to reveal something; make something known. Thus the substitution of words that are closed in meaning cannot be performed in these phrases without the loss of their idiomatic meaning (Longman Dictionary of Idioms, 1979: viii). According to Curse (2000:73) it appears vain to search for meaning of the individual constituents of an idiom, as the constituents do not possess any meaning. The whole meaning of a phrasal unit is related to the phrase and not to its constituent parts. Therefore, idioms are regarded as single units from the semantic point of view. To underline the former ideas, a view, which is similar to Curse's definition, is provided by Palmer (1979:41) who writes that “idioms, semantically, are single units. But they are not single grammatical units like words”.

Boers and Demecheleer (2001:3) maintain that the lower the degree of semantic transparency of an item, the more a language learner will have to rely on contextual clues to understand it. However, one can understand transparent idioms easily just through lexical component. Pulman (1993:249) explains that the relationship between the meaning of the words that makes up the idioms as a whole is at best indirect, if there is any relation at all. Their meanings cannot be worked out by the usual syntactic and semantic rules.

Wasow *et al* (1983:4) show that there exists a class of idioms for which parts of the idiom “have identifiable meanings which combine to produce the meaning of the whole”. Recent views recognize a continuum between fixed idiomatic expressions with different degrees of

both syntactic flexibility and semantic analyzability in between. This leads to a third class of idioms, called “partially compositional idioms”, which consist of the idioms having both meaningful and meaningless components. Each meaningful idiom part should be assigned an appropriate paraphrase part with the same meaning. This mapping between idioms part and paraphrase part is made explicit in a dictionary sense called “semantic structure”. Furthermore, each internal or external valence is assigned a semantic role (agent, patient, etc...,) (Abeille, 1995:14 & Dobrolovskij, 1995:4).

3.2 Grammatical and Syntactic Features of Idioms

Phrasal idioms have some peculiar grammatical properties, which can be attributed either to the fact that their constituents have no meaning, or to the fact that such meaning is not independently active (Cruse, 2000:73).

As it has been already mentioned, even where an idiom functions semantically like a single unit it does not function like a word grammatically. However, there exist a large number of grammatical restraints. Plenty of idioms are formed by a verb and a noun, but although the verb may be transformed in the past tense, the number of the noun has to remain untouched. In the case of “red herring” the noun may be plural, but the adjective cannot take comparative or superlative forms (Palmer, 1976:98).

Besides the syntactic restrictions occur as well. The syntactic restrictions are predominantly represented by passive forms, as some idioms have passive and others do not. A transitive verb phrase usually can be transformed from the active into the passive. However, in the case of idioms, the presence of a transitive verb does not imply that the idiom can be changed into the passive form. For example, The phrases “give up” and “kick the bucket” involve transitive verbs (give up, kick), still none of them can be transformed into the passive form *the bucket was kicked (Longman Dictionary of English Idioms, 1979 : viii). Almost all idiomatic phrases are incapable of some grammatical operations which can be easily performed by any literal phrase. The restrictions to these operations vary from idiom to idiom. Some idioms are more restricted or frozen than others (Palmer, 1976:98).

3.3 Degree of Idiomaticity

what is and what is not an idiom is, then, often a matter of degree. It is very difficult, moreover, to decide whether a word or a sequence of words is opaque. The degree of opaqueness of the individual idioms can be even measured. The measurements have resulted in creation of the term “degrees of idiomaticity”, since one can make up a story, make up a fire or make up one's face (Palmer, 1976 :99). In other words,

idiomaticity (the quality of being idiomatic) is a matter of degree or scale. Consequently, some of the phrases may occur in both literal and idiomatic context. Other phrases cannot be used only idiomatically, e. g. until /till the kingdom comes”

(Longman Dictionary of English Idioms, 1979: viii)

There also exists what is referred to as a partial idiom, where one of the words represents the typical meaning, while the other has a meaning that is extraordinary to the particular sequence. For example, “red hair” describes colour of hair, but this colour is not exactly red (Palmer, 1976:99). Invariability of idioms differs similarly to their idiomaticity. Some idioms are completely fixed e. g. down and out. Other idioms have a limited number of variants e.g. “up to the/ one’s ears/ eyes/ neck/ eyeballs or in someone’s bad books”, which has one variant expressing the opposite meaning ,in someone’s good books. Other idioms are very open and allow a large number of certain type of words (e.g. nouns) to be used in certain positions e.g. down with + noun (Longman Dictionary of Idioms, 1979:viii).

3.4 Literary Text and its Context

The context of a literary text “is different from that of a non- literary text, namely that it lacks the immediacy of social contact i.e. the literary text does not make any connection with the context of our everyday social practice”. To summarize the idea, literary discourse cannot be categorized the contrast with the social world we live in (Verdonk, 2002 :21). To put it differently, the literary discourse situation differs from the situational context of a traditional discourse. While the production and reception of a spoken message normally take place within a single context of a time and place, in a literary text this is not the case since there usually exists some distance in time and place between the writer (addresser) and the reader (addressee) (Leech & Short,1981: 257-258).

4.1 Changing Places- A Tale of Two Campuses

The whole book is a comic novel which focuses on the academic exchange between two fictional universities located in the USA and Great Britain respectively .The English participant Philip Swallow, is aged 40 and narrow-minded or silent may be all used to describe his personality. By contrast, Morris Zapp, who is approximately the same age as his colleague, is the embodiment of self – confidence, egoism and self-assurance. However, as the exchange progresses, both of them suddenly start to discover that the new environments are responsible for the changes in their behavior and thinking. Both main characters have affairs with the other’s wife and Swallow even has intimacy with Zapp’s daughter Melanie without realizing who is she. Swallow and Zapp consider staying at their new home permanently. The book ends with an arranged meeting of the two couples in a hotel; the meeting should decide about the future fates of the couples, however, the novel ends without any clear solution to the considered problem. The author mastery exploits the idea of the so-called “cultural bump”, i.e. that both Zapp and Swallow have prejudices about the country which they are leaving for; however, they both fly there with their own cultural background knowledge, according to which they are used to behave in particular situations. The comic arises from the situations that are based upon these cultural bumps and it is often emphasized by the individual characters and their speeches and thoughts.

4.2 Methodology

The practical part is based on the issues introduced in the theoretical body of this research. The models of the analysis adopted in this paper is taken from Short (1983) and Brown and Yule (1996). Since it is a literary text, its peculiarities should be taken into consideration. These models will provide us with useful hints when interpreting utterances from the novel by Lodge.

Idioms predominantly occur within colloquial speech. Since it is a literary text, the colloquial speech can traditionally be found in dialogues among its characters. The dialogues are considered to be an imitation of conversation in the “real word”. However, the author’s comments or even descriptions will not escape our attention.

This paper deals with idiomatic expressions of all kind and therefore a classification will be required for more transparent access to individual idioms. Thus, idioms will be classified according to the division provided in the Longman Dictionary of Idioms (1979); firstly, since it has already been introduced in the theoretical part and secondly, since it represents a well-known classification which is widely used.

The major concern of the practical part will be the mutual influence among context and idioms occurring within it. In other words, it will be observed how context determines the character of an idiomatic expression i.e. whether to interpret it idiomatically or literally. As it has been mentioned in the beginning, a non-native speaker may understand all words in an idiom, but this fact still avails him/her nothing to be able to understand the meaning of it. Consequently the practical part will demonstrate how context contributes to correct interpretation of idiomatic expressions to some extent. Thus it deals with the verbal context and the context of situation which combined together to represent the most significant indicators considering the characteristic of a phrase, and simultaneously in particular to reveal possible interpretation of idiomatic expressions. Cases, context will provide us with little information about the possible meaning of an idiomatic expression. Due to vast amount of idiomatic expressions occurring in the novel, it is not possible to include them all in the research. The definitions depicting meanings of individual idioms used in the analysis are taken from the Longman Dictionary of Idioms (1979) or from the Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English (2005).

5.1 Analysis

5.1.1 Pairs of words

Hither and thither - (in different directions, first one way and then another). “He (Phillip Swallow) ran hither and thither between the shelves of Eng. Lit. like a child in a toyshop – so reluctant to choose one item to the exclusion of others that he ended up empty - handed” (Lodge,1975:17). The author introduces one of the major characters of the whole book by describing his qualities. The meaning of the phrase may be recognized from the comparison of the activity (run hither and thither between) to a situation which is assumed to be known to the reader like a child in a toyshop). The main indicators are the words run and the

mentioned comparison. Thus, the phrase can be substituted by the following words: to run aimlessly from one place to another.

Pins and needles – (the uncomfortable prickly feeling one gets in a part of one's body when a full supply of blood come back to it after having been partially blocked). It seemed entirely natural that, coming out of the Pussycat Go - go, dazzled by the sunbeams slanting low over Cortez Avenue, and a trifle unsteady on his feet "because of the liquor and the pins and needles, he should collide with Melanie Byrd herself, as if she had materialized on the pavement in obedience to his wishes". The sentence is the author's description of the situation that immediately follows Swallow's visit to a striptease club. Swallow wishes to be with Melanie, the girl he has had an affair with recently, and indeed he encounters her accidentally.

The phrase "pins and needles" is used idiomatically here, as no words, which are semantically related to the traditional meanings of pins and needles, occur in the surrounding context. The meaning of the phrase is only fairly indicated by the description provided by the author in the preceding sentence: ...His foot had gone to sleep again. The reader may recognize that Swallow has troubles with his leg, still the connection between Swallow's "sleepy leg" and the phrase pins and needles is not expressed evidently. Taking into account the part ... and a trifle unsteady on his feet because of the liquor and the pins and needles..., we obviously deal with two referents that describe the reasons for Swallow's unsteady walk. The word liquor implies that Swallow is slightly drunk, and thus the idiomatic expression pins and needles must refer to a different source for his unsteady walk. As the only apparent reason for this type of walk comes into question in the form of his problems with his leg, we may regard it as the most appropriate solution to our problem. However, the meaning of the idiom still remains hidden in the expression to have troubles with one's leg. In other words, we are unable to specify what kind of troubles is meant.

5.1.2 Idioms with it

Take it easy – (not to hurry, become excited and anxious, work too hard etc). "Take it easy, Phillip Melanie smile apprehensively". The phrase is a part of a conversation between Swallow and Melanie. Swallow endeavors to persuade Melanie to return back to his apartment, however, Melanie refuses subsequently. Swallow becomes more intrusive, since he has just been to a striptease club and he is even slightly drunk. Melanie utters the sentence, in order to make Swallow feel less excited.

The phrase occurs idiomatically here, since the literal meaning would not suit to the particular context. Its meaning can be predicted rather easily. Firstly, the phrase take it easy represents a well-known idiom and thus we hardly expect any difficulties when interpreting its meaning. Secondly, from the given context, the idiom may be substituted by the phrase calm down or relax.

Take one's word for it – (to accept a statement as true without making certain of the facts). The sentence occurs in a letter from Zapp to Desiree. He is complaining about a critical review of his article which he encountered recently. He is asking his wife whether she

remembers has this particular article. From the given context, it seems evident that the phrase is used idiomatically here. The indicator is again the context of situation. The relationship between Zapp and his wife is not optimal and additionally, Desiree does not believe this stories. Therefore, Zapp needs to stress that in this particular case he is talking the truth and consequently, uses the idiomatic expression as a reassurance for his wife. The meaning of the idiom take ones word for it can be predicted rather easily. The idiom can be phrases as you can bet, I swear etc.

5.1.3 Allusions

Humbert Humbert – (refers to the main character of the novel “Lolita” by Nabokov). “The fact is that the man is entirely unprincipled where women are concerned, and while he’s not, as far as I know, another Humbert Humbert, I feel he might have an insidiously corrupting influence on an impressionable girl of Amanda’s age” (ibid:113). This sentence occurs in a letter from Swallow to Hillary. Swallow has learned that Zapp had a dinner with the rest of Swallow’s family where Zapp has made an impression on Amanda Swallow’s daughter. Swallow is not particularly happy hearing that, since he dislikes Zapp and Amanda seems to be his “darling” and therefore he wants to prevent other possible Zapp’s visits of his family. Swallow is in fact afraid of the possible seduction of his wife Hillary by Zapp and the “worrying” about Amanda should hide the real fear. However, this is not the concern of our analysis. The phrase occurs idiomatically here, as there appears no character of this name in the book. The reader may see from the given context that the allusion refers to a man who feels comfortable in a company where mainly women are concerned.

5.1.4 Sayings

All’s well that ends well—something difficult ends happily or satisfactory, there is no need to complain or be disappointed about any trouble it may have caused). All’s Well That Ends Well? The idiom occurs during the conversation between Zapp and the woman, the fellow passenger. They are discussing whether Zapp bought excursion the whole “abortion package” which also contained the Stratford upon Avon where a Shakespeare’s play should be performed to the patient who will undergo the surgery. The idiom All’s Well That Ends Well expresses his respond to that. The author provides the reader with a pun and intertextuality, simultaneously since the phrase is written in capital letter. The major concern of their conversation is abortion, the reader may know that an abortion is a rather dangerous bargain for a woman, and consequently the meaning of the phrase would match to the definition given above. Thus we can claim that the meaning of ambiguous in the given context. However, the phrase is ambiguity does not arise arbitrarily, but occurs as the speaker’s intention.

5.1.5 Typical conversational phrases

Be my guest – (used to give somebody permission to do something that they have asked to do). “Be my guest”, says the girl. The phrase is part of a conversation taking place

between Zapp and a fellow passenger (woman) on a plane. It represents a response to an acknowledgement from Zapp who has been told by the women that "his fly is open".

The meaning of the phrase is therefore definitely idiomatic, it could be even substituted by another well-known phrase your welcome. Never mind – (to take no notice of something; don't worry about something. Never mind the cigar). The sentence constitutes part of the should dialogue between Zapp and Hillary. For better understanding, we should provide a rather detailed description of the context of situation in case.

The author describes first mutual encounter of Zapp and Hillary. They meet in originally Swallow's office which is occupied by Zapp during the exchange. Hillary is sent there by her husband in order to find a book which her husband considers useful for his teaching in America. When she stands in front of the door of Swallow's office she knocks, however, she does not come in, as she waits for Zapp to open the door from the inside. Zapp's intention is to open the door; however, he collides with a chair and as a result of this drop his cigar, which rolls under the table. After a while, Hillary finally enters the room and sees Zapp under the table looking for his cigar. After a short explanation and a fruitless endeavour. Zapp finally gives up his search and uses the sentence "Never mind the cigar".

From the context described above, we may see that the phrase occurs idiomatically in this case. However, the idiomatic meaning of the phrase may be disclosed rather easily for two basic reasons. Firstly phrase never mind belongs to the category of well-known expressions used in every speech, and thus it is believed that the reader, who is able to cope with an English literary text, is familiar with the meaning of the phrase.

Secondly, Hillary's response to the sentence uttered by Swallow signal the meaning of the phrase as well, since her reply indicates that she is not worried about the cigar, but about the carpet.

Please yourself – (used to tell somebody that you are annoyed with them and do not care what they do). Melanie shrugged: "please yourself". Though the phrase occurs in a dialogue, it is part of a letter from Desiree to Zapp. In other words, it is part of the conversation between Melanie and Desiree described in a letter. Since he has recently obtained an anonymous letter, where he has been informed that his daughter. Melanie lives together with Swallow, the professor he is exchanging wit. Consequently, he sent his wife letter Desiree to find out whether the information conveyed in the is true or not. During Desiree's investigation, she encounters Melanie, but not Swallow. She asks Melanie whether she can wait there for Swallow. However, we cannot recognize any argument or annoyance among Desiree and Melanie. We may interpret hardly corresponds with Melanie's response to Desiree's request in the following manner: If you wish to wait here for Swallow, then you can, you would not cause any troubles by your waiting to anybody. Or we can substitute the idiom by phrases expressing agreement, for instance, Yes, You can (wait here), Of course etc. The phrase is used idiomatically here, though the idiomatic meaning differs from the idiomatic meaning given in the brackets above.

5.1.6 Similes

Like a shot- (very quickly; at once) .He was like a shot and I followed him to the front door. The sentence occurs in a letter from Hillary to Swallow, where she describes the sudden change Zapp's behavior during one evening which he spent with the rest of the Swallow's family. The reader is less surprised than Hillary by the sudden change in Zapp's behaviour, as s/he knows that Zapp has just encountered the critical review on his article published in a scientific magazine. He wrongly believes that the author of the review is nobody but Swallow himself. As he is annoyed, he leaves the house hastily. The last sentence slightly corresponds with the view given by Hillary. In this case, even the words that surround the idiomatic expression represent sufficient indicators to reveal the intended meaning. The idiom is based on a comparison.

Quick as a flash – (very quickly). Zapp snaps back, quick as flash...The phrase occurs within an author's comment considering Zapp's movement. In this particular situation, the word quick defines the idiom itself appears in it as well. The degree of idiomaticity here is rather low. The meaning of the phrase is idiomatic, since it is based on the comparison and on a simile.

5.1.7 Phrasal verb

Get away with – (to do something wrong and not be punished for it).We shouldn't have let them get away with it. The sentence is a part of a dialogue between Swallow and Zapp. The main four characters of the story, namely Swallow, Zapp, Desiree and Hillary, have met to clarify their future plans. They prepare to go to bed; however, the problem is who will sleep with whom, as there are only two beds for four persons. The problem is solved by Hillary and Desiree, since their suggestion is finally accepted and consequently persons of the same gender sleep together.

We should rely on our knowledge concerning what has been uttered by individual characters so far and we should mainly focus on the suggestions provided by Zapp. This information does not reveal the meaning of the idiom. When we combine the information with Zapp's statement in which he claims that hotel rooms arise in his sexual desire, we slightly reveal the meaning of the phrase. The meaning of the phrase (get away with) can be recognized when taking into (to succeed in leaving a place) phrase get away consideration the meanings and the preposition with. When they combined together, their can be written to succeed in leaving a place and even to manage to leave it with something.

Make up – (to invent a story, especially in order to trick or entertain somebody).

Are you making it up?

The question is part of the conversation between Zapp and Hillary. He tells a rather incredible story which happened to him that day. The story expressed in a is quite thrilling and amusing still Hillary's responses expressed in a cold manner, as she has had an argument with her husband recently and she fears that her husband will never return home to her. Zapp lacks knowledge, and therefore suspects that Hillary does not believe in truthfulness of his story. The idiomatic expression "make up" can be interpreted variously, as it comprises several

variants of possible meanings. We have introduced only one of them, since the context of situation dispels any doubt about the correctness of our choice. The first indicator is represented by the story itself, as its character seems to be Hilary guides the nearer to the meaning rather incredible to believe.

However, the verbal context represents the most reliable indicator in this particular situation. Do you believe what I'm telling you or do you think I'm making it all up? is the sentence uttered by Zapp, which immediately precedes the following Hillary's response written above. When the reader analyzes Zapp's question, the obscurity in meaning disappears.

6. Conclusion

Several idiomatic expressions are analyzed in the context of a literary text. To put it differently, the meaning of the idioms analyzed were the revealed mainly due to the context in which they appeared.

Idioms are classified into several groups according to which it is possible to recognize various strategies appropriate for interpretation of meanings of individual idiomatic expressions. The appropriateness of particular strategies varies according to the individual words. For example, the meanings of representatives of group concerning typical conversational phrases can be deduced easily, since their frequency of occurrence in language is enormous and thus most of the non-native speakers know them by heart. Consequently, any possible analysis based on context or conceptual knowledge seems to be redundant here. Conversational phrases. Understanding the meaning of idioms in context is easier than in isolation.

The analysis has verified that idiomatic expressions represent a typical feature of colloquial speech, as the majority of them concerning our analysis have occurred in direct or indirect speech acts, and thus we can claim that they are traditionally associated with informal rather than formal situations. However, we should not forget the idioms which appeared in the writers descriptions or comments, outside the direct and indirect speech acts. These serve as evidence that there is scarcely any discourse without some idioms occurring in it.

As far as the reciprocal relationship between context and idioms is concerned, the context in its verbal or situational form represents a competent indicator when dealing with idiomatic or literal meaning of an idiom. In other words, it is often the context which determines the correct interpretation of a phrase or idioms. To summarize the idea, the analysis of the idiomatic expressions within a literary text relies on different indicators when interpreting the text.

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التعابير الاصطلاحية في السياق الروائي لديفيد لوجز في روايته "تغير الأمكنة" انموذجاً

مرزوقه طعمه رحيل

قسم اللغة الانكليزية/ كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية/ جامعة ذي قار

الخلاصة

قد تمر بموقف لا تستطيع فيه الفهم الصحيح لمعاني الكلمات في الجملة عند تعلم اللغة الانكليزية. يمثل هذا عائق في عملية تفسير الجملة. عدم القدرة في فهم المعنى الصحيح لجملة معينة ينتج من وقوع التعابير الاصطلاحية في داخل الجملة. يريد طالب اللغة الانكليزية أن يعرف أي العبارات الاصطلاحية قد تستخدم في موقف معين وان يتجنب أخطار العبارات الغير مناسبة والمبتذلة. في الخلاصة، يريد المتعلم المعلومات والدلائل. قد تستخدم بعض العبارات الاصطلاحية في المحادثة. يستطيع المتعلم فهم جميع التعابير في الجملة على الرغم من عدم استيعابه لجميع المعاني. يحاول البحث أن:

١. يسلط الضوء على استخدام العبارات الاصطلاحية والمؤشرات التي تشير إلى المعنى المقصود للمتكلم حرفياً أو اصطلاحياً.

٢. يركز على العبارات الاصطلاحية وغموضها.

٣. توضيح أنواع العبارات الاصطلاحية وتصنيفها والذي يقسم العبارات الاصطلاحية إلى مجاميع اتفاقاً إلى صفاتها المشتركة.

وضعت الفرضيات التالية لهذه الدراسة:

1. تعليم العبارات الاصطلاحية يعتمد على المعالجة في سياق الكلام، الشفافية، المجازية.

2. تفهم العبارات الاصطلاحية في سياق الكلام أكثر من فهمها مفردة.

3. تستخدم العبارات الاصطلاحية في الكلام الرسمي.

للتحليل، اختيرت رواية ديفيد لودج تغيير الأماكن (١٩٧٥) لهذه الدراسة. تحتوي هذه الرواية الكثير من التعابير الاصطلاحية و التعابير الغامضة المناسبة لهذا التحليل. هذه الرواية هي نوع أدبي. استخدم شوررت (١٩٩٦)، براون و يول (١٩٨٣) كنموذج نظري للجانب العملي. لأننا نتعامل مع نص أدبي، تزودنا هذه النماذج بتلمييح مفيد عند تفسير الجمل في رواية لودج. تمثل تلك الجمل الحاوية على تعابير اصطلاحية جانب المشكلة في تفسير الرواية.