

## THE ROLE OF ENGLISH PROVERBS IN LANGUAGE AND EVERYDAY COMMUNICATION

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18159026>

**Shukurova Madina Askarovna**

*Associate Professor of English Linguistics Department, PhD  
Bukhara State University*

### **Abstract**

This article discusses the nature of English proverbs, their characteristics, and how they differ from idiomatic expressions. It also presents common English proverbs along with their meanings and examples to show how they are used in everyday life. Through this discussion, the article highlights the cultural value of proverbs and their role in teaching morals, life lessons, and practical wisdom.

### **Keywords**

English proverbs, idioms, wisdom, culture, figurative language, moral lessons, communication

## РОЛЬ АНГЛИЙСКИХ ПОСЛОВИЦ В ЯЗЫКЕ И ПОВСЕДНЕВНОМ ОБЩЕНИИ

**Шукурова Мадина Аскаровна**

*доцент кафедры английского языкознания*

*Бухарского государственного университета, PhD*

### **Аннотация**

В данной статье рассматривается природа английских пословиц, их особенности и различия между пословицами и идиоматическими выражениями. Также представлены распространённые английские пословицы с их значениями и примерами, показывающими, как они используются в повседневной жизни. В ходе обсуждения подчёркивается культурная ценность пословиц и их роль в обучении нравственным принципам, жизненным урокам и практической мудрости.

### **Ключевые слова**

английские пословицы, идиомы, мудрость, культура, образный язык, нравственные уроки, общение

## INGLIZ MAQOLLARINING TIL VA KUNDALIK MULOQOTDAGI O'RNI

**Shukurova Madina Askarovna**

*Buxoro davlat universiteti Ingliz tilshunosligi kafedrasи dotsenti, PhD*

### **Annotation**

Ushbu maqolada ingliz maqollarining mohiyati, ularning xususiyatlari hamda maqollar bilan iboralar (idiomalar) o'rtasidagi farqlar muhokama qilinadi. Shuningdek, kundalik hayotda qanday qo'llanilishini ko'rsatish uchun keng tarqalgan ingliz maqollari ularning ma'nolari va misollari bilan keltiriladi. Mazkur muhokama orqali maqollarning madaniy ahamiyati hamda axloqiy qadriyatlar, hayotiy saboqlar va amaliy donolikni o'rgatishdagi o'rni yoritib beriladi.

### **Kalit so'zlar**

ingliz maqollari, idiomalar, donolik, madaniyat, obrazli til, axloqiy saboqlar, muloqot

Language is not only a tool for communication but also a reflection of culture, values, and shared experiences. One important aspect of the English language is the use of proverbs – short, traditional sayings that offer advice, express truth, or teach life lessons. Proverbs are commonly used in daily conversations, literature, and education because they convey deep meanings in simple and memorable forms. Although they are sometimes confused with idiomatic expressions, proverbs differ in structure and purpose. This article explores the definition of English proverbs, their characteristics, their differences from idioms, and their significance in everyday life through various examples and explanations.

English proverbs are short, popular sayings that offer wisdom, advice, or express a universal truth, often using metaphors to teach lessons about life, like "A stitch in time saves nine" (fix problems early) or "The early bird catches the worm" (acting early brings advantage). They provide cultural insights and shortcuts for communication, conveying complex ideas concisely. A proverb is a short saying whose general purpose is to give advice, truth, or wisdom to anyone. Proverbs are traditional statements that express a thought or an experience. They are indirectly stated but you can get some ideas about the real meaning it conveys.

Sometimes, proverbs can be written in imperative form – telling someone to do something based on the statement. Proverbs in English have morals and they

can be used in any situation. Many non-native English speakers unconsciously use proverbs in their conversations. Proverbs in English are sometimes misunderstood as idiomatic expressions, although they have indirect meanings. However, they are both different in some ways.

Proverbs and idioms convey their meaning through statements. Proverbs in English contain meanings that are sometimes literal and sometimes have greater meaning than the individual words in the statement.

Proverbs in English are stated in complete sentences.

Examples: Look before you leap - Think deeply before you decide on doing something.

Every cloud has a silver lining - Every situation does not only have bad things but there are good things as well.

A leopard can't change its spots - A person's innate character and personality don't change.

Idioms, on the other hand, contain meanings that are not literally conveyed, but the meaning is expressed through metaphorical comparisons of things, animals, and ideas. Idiomatic expressions are not stated in a complete sentence - they are either a clause or a short phrase.

Examples: Beat around the bush - does not express a "direct to the point" idea; avoiding a particular topic or issue.

Once in a blue moon - happens very rarely; A piece of cake - simple and easy to do. We sometimes unconsciously encounter proverbs in our daily lives and we tend to ignore them. However, if we experience hardships and problems and we meet some proverbs in English, we ponder it and think about it deeply, relating to what we are going through.

Examples of English proverbs with their analysis: *Don't judge a book by its cover*. Meaning: This proverb means that you should not make any judgment about a person or thing by looking at their outside appearance. Example: You just met our new professor so don't judge the book by its cover.

*It's better late than never*. Meaning: It is better to be present than to never go to a place or decide on something that you think has a good result. Example: I need to submit my report but I have not finished it yet and it's already the deadline. Ah, I'll still submit it. It's better late than never.

*The pen is mightier than the sword*. Meaning: Pen here is something that represents good communication, through writing. It means that it is better to use a pen as it can change one's thoughts rather than use a sword to express violence.

Example: The pen is always mightier than the sword. Our national hero did not fight the colonizers physically, but he used his pen to spread his ideas.

*It's better to be safe than sorry.* Meaning: It is always better to be careful or cautious about everything especially your decisions than to regret it later.  
Example: You have to limit eating junk food. It's better to be safe than sorry.

*Practice makes perfect.* Meaning: This proverb means that if you want to be better at something, you have to keep doing it or practicing it and not give up.  
Example: Don't worry about your English skills if they are not fluent. Remember, practice makes perfect.

*Strike while the iron is hot.* Meaning: This means that if there are opportunities that knock on your door, go for it. Take risks and don't be afraid. Example: Make sure to strike the iron while it's hot to not miss any good opportunities.

*An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.* Meaning: It is better to have more knowledge and be educated because you gain more from it.  
Example: Children should be taught the idea that an investment in knowledge pays the best interest.

*Experience is the best teacher.* Meaning: We learn from our experiences, that is why this proverb is most common to us. Example: I always believe that experience is the best teacher.

*It is the first step that is difficult.* Meaning: True, as the proverb says. Everything we encounter or do is always difficult at first, but if we get used to it, everything becomes easy.

Example: It is natural that if you are new in your job, it is the first step that is difficult.

*Many hands make light work.* Meaning: If people do things together and unite as one, the work becomes lighter and easier. Example: Many hands make light work if we all do this project hand-in-hand.

*No pain, no gain.* Meaning: Whatever we want to achieve in life, we always encounter pains and disappointments. These don't mean physical pain, but all kinds of pain. After experiencing these pains, we achieve what we want and gain success. Example: Most of the soldiers' mantra is "no pain, no gain."

*Do not do things tomorrow if you can do them today.* Meaning: Why wait for the next day when you can do things today? This proverb is very common especially when at work because you have to make use of your time and be productive, then be idle and do nothing. It's better to finish your tasks early so that when there are modifications, you still have time to do it. Example: Be productive; do not do things tomorrow if you can do them today.

*A bad workman always blames his tools.* Meaning: This means that if a worker does something and he fails to do it, he blames his tools. Just like at work, a leader blames his subordinates if he cannot achieve his team goals and targets. Example: Don't be a bad workman who blames his tools. You are better than that.

*Actions speak louder than words.* Meaning: How we act or feel is more obvious than what we say or utter. Sometimes, we say we are okay but we are not, and it's very obvious in our facial expressions or actions. Example: You can't deny to me that you are hurt. Actions speak louder than words.

*A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.* Meaning: No matter how far a place is, how big your tasks are, or how successful something is, all of them begin with a single step or from a small beginning. Example: Ms. Lou is now a millionaire. She was once a poor lady but she had dreams. Her journey of a thousand miles began with a single step.

*All work and no play makes John a dull boy.* Meaning: If you focus on work and not engage in leisure activities, you will be stuck in your work without venturing into things that you can learn more. It's like you know nothing about the world anymore because you focus on just one thing. Sometimes, balance your work and life. Example: Don't be too stressed with work. All work and no play makes you a dull person. Explore and be productive.

In conclusion, English proverbs are meaningful and powerful expressions that convey wisdom, advice, and universal truths in a concise form. They reflect human experiences and cultural values, making them applicable to various situations in everyday life. Through the use of metaphors and indirect meanings, proverbs help individuals understand life lessons more deeply. Learning and applying English proverbs can enhance communication skills, especially for non-native speakers, while also encouraging reflection, moral awareness, and personal growth. Thus, English proverbs remain an essential and valuable part of the language.

#### THE LIST OF USED LITERATURE:

1. Mieder Wolfgang. *Proverbs: A Handbook.* Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2004.
2. Speake Jennifer (Ed.). *The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.
3. Manser Martin H. *The Facts on File Dictionary of Proverbs.* New York: Facts On File, 2002.
4. McCarthy Michael and Felicity O'Dell. *English Idioms in Use.*

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

5. Askarovna, S. M., & Djurabayevna, D. N. (2019). Some principles of the formation and development of ethical terms in the English language in the XVI-XVIII centuries. *International Journal on Integrated Education*, 2(6), 31-39.
6. Askarovna, S. M. (2021). General linguistic theories in English linguistics of the XVI-XVII centuries and the practice of norms in vocabulary. *European Scholar Journal*, 2(4), 504-506.
7. Shukurova, M. A. (2017). Coherence and cohesion as essential parts in effective writing. *Міжнародний науковий журнал Інтернаука*, (1 (1)), 143-145.
8. Askarovna, S. M. (2021, March). Comparative investigation on the semantic meaning of some terms of ethics of the XVI-XVII centuries. In *E-Conference Globe* (pp. 285-287).
9. Шукрова, М. А. XVI-XVIII АСРЛАРДА ИНГЛИЗ ТИЛИДА ЭТИКА АТАМАЛАРИНИНГ РИВОЖЛАНИШИГА ДОИР БАЪЗИ МАСАЛАЛАР НЕКОТОРЫЕ ВОПРОСЫ РАЗВИТИЯ ЭТИЧЕСКИХ ТЕРМИНОВ В АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ XVI-XVIII ВЕКОВ SOME ISSUES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TERMS OF ETHICS IN THE. *ANIQ VA TABIIY FANLAR*, 165.
10. Шукрова, М. (2023). REVIEW OF LINGUISTIC THEORIES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE OF THE RENAISSANCE PERIOD. *ЦЕНТР НАУЧНЫХ ПУБЛИКАЦИЙ (buxdu. uz)*, 41(41).
11. Шукрова, М. А. (2021). Анализ специальной лексики английского языка XVI века по аспектам терминологичности. *МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ ЖУРНАЛ ИСКУССТВО СЛОВА*, 4(2).
12. Shukurova, M. A. (2017). Useful strategies in teaching grammar in english language classes. *Міжнародний науковий журнал Інтернаука*, (1 (1)), 146-148.
13. Askarovna, S. M. (2021). Historical background on the systematization of the vocabulary of ethics. *ACADEMICIA: An International Multidisciplinary Research Journal*, 11(3), 25-29.
14. Шукрова-БухГУ, М. А. (2020). КОРРЕЛЯЦИЯ СОЗНАНИЯ, ЯЗЫКА И СТИЛЯ НАУЧНО-ФИЛОСОФСКОГО ИЗЛОЖЕНИЯ ПЕРИОДА XVI-XVII ВЕКОВ. ТАЪЛИМ ТИЗИМИДА ЧЕТ ТИЛЛАРНИ ЎРГАНИШНИНГ ЗАМОНАВИЙ МУАММОЛАРИ ВА ИСТИҚБОЛЛАРИ Халқаро илмий-амалий анжуман 5-6 март 2020 йил, 597.