

Analysis of Proverbs and Sayings in English

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Abstract. *For a long time, proverbs and sayings help us to learn English because these proverbs entered history of the country, their lives, traditions, customs and culture, by the way, they are a good example of the English culture and language. At that time and now proverbs were useful material to show how one thought can be understood in several various ways, and we can distinguish sense of proverbs.*

Key words: *mythology, phenomenon, proper names, functional, concept, semantics, structure, etymology, physical characteristics, geographical object, intercultural, interlanguage.*

Proverbs emerge from daily experiences and reflect the collective wisdom of people. They are rooted in national identity, religion, mythology, literature, other languages, the insights of famous writers, and historical events. The primary function of proverbs is to educate and advise, offering guidance on how to navigate life and interact with others. Many English proverbs teach proper conduct and life values. They also serve to help people make better decisions and avoid common mistakes. Since proverbs are short, they are memorable and appealing, often conveying deep truths in a few words.

In modern England, a child is typically given two names at birth: a first name (also called a personal name) and a middle name. The first name holds greater significance and is the primary identifier. The term "personal name" refers to the individual name assigned at birth and has been one of the earliest forms of names recorded in official documents [1, 73]. The tradition of giving a middle name originates from the earlier practice of assigning multiple personal names to a child. As a result, it's more common for children to have several middle names than to have none at all. Usually, no more than four middle names are given for example: Charles Philip Arthur George, Andrew Albert Christian Edward, or Anne Elisabeth Alice Louise. The middle name serves to further individualize a person, which is especially useful when the first and last names are common. Middle names can include personal names, place names, or even names derived from nouns. In Scotland, the custom of giving middle names has been particularly strong. In some cases, the middle name became so commonly used that the first name was largely forgotten, appearing only in official documents. A notable example is former British Prime Minister G. Wilson, whose full name was James Harold Wilson though he was known publicly as Harold Wilson. Similarly, the political figure John Enoch Powell was widely known simply as Enoch Powell.

Historically, middle names are a relatively recent development compared to other types of personal names. Looking back, first names were established first, followed by surnames. It wasn't until the 17th century that middle names began to appear in England, often adopted from both personal and family names.

Some historical records from the 14th to 16th centuries show occasional instances of individuals with two given names for example, John William Whytting or John Philipp Capel. However, this was rare at the time.

Today, the use of double names is more commonly seen among girls, where the two names are often treated as a single unit for instance, Mary Anne, Mary Jane, Sarah Jane, or Una Nance Owen (with "Una Nancy" as a transcription of the name) [2, 26].

Phraseology is a well-established and significant area of philological research, with a growing number of scholars exploring this field. One of the key aspects of this research focuses on understanding proverbs and sayings as cultural phenomena, examining their functions in various cultural contexts. As a result, phraseology has become an important subject for sociolinguists.

Each branch of linguistics has its own unique history, and proverbs and idioms are no exception. Proverbs have been a part of human communication since ancient times. People often use idioms and proverbs in daily life without realizing that many of these familiar expressions are actually parables. Proverbs typically use ordinary, relatable examples to convey moral, social, or religious principles. Essentially, the use of proverbs and parables aims to represent deeper spiritual truths through the simple, everyday language and explanations.

The richness of proverbs and idioms reflects the characteristics of national cultures and their historical origins. Studying and comparing the proverbs and idioms of different languages helps promote a better understanding of those cultures. Additionally, such studies are beneficial for translation, as they provide valuable insights into emotional language, which reveals much about a language's roots and the life of its speakers. By examining emotional texts, we can gain a deeper understanding of cultural nuances.

The expected outcomes of this study may also uncover many "hidden" or obscure sayings that the average person might not be aware of. Proverbs and idioms are valuable because they guide our physical and intellectual actions. They encapsulate wisdom, training, understanding, justice, subtlety, discretion, and legal insights. Proverbs represent the distilled essence of ancient philosophical thoughts, often beginning with wise expressions. Ancient proverbs are categorized into various themes, such as wisdom, treasure, women, and motherhood.

One of the smaller categories identified in our research includes idioms with personal names derived from mythology. While we cannot claim these idioms are either unknown or rarely used, we selected ten idioms for analysis. Consider the following examples:

Achilles' heel – Refers to a person's weakness, whether in character or in a system, which makes them vulnerable to attack.

Midas Touch – Describes the ability to make money easily.

A sword of Damocles – Signifies a looming threat or danger that can affect a situation at any moment and worsen it dramatically.

These names originate from Greek mythology. For instance, the story of Achilles' death, not mentioned in Homer's *Iliad*, emerged in later Greek and Roman poetry, describing how his mother, Thetis, dipped him into the River Styx to make him invulnerable, except for his heel, which ultimately led to his demise.

Upon analyzing idioms with toponyms (place names), we discovered that all the locations referenced were real, although some are mentioned in the Bible, such as **the Road to Damascus**, which refers to a significant change in beliefs or ideas.

Proverbs remain relevant and timely, no matter the age. Therefore, it is important to expand research on their usage across different societies—from technologically advanced regions to those rooted in traditional, rural lifestyles. Such empirical research will also help identify commonly shared proverbs across various languages and cultures.

By using and studying proverbs, we can improve our language skills and gain deeper insights into different cultures. Proverbs help us communicate more clearly and effectively. They also play a crucial role in educating future generations, helping them grow into wise and thoughtful individuals.

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