



## A Comparative Study on English-Hindi Idioms: Based on 50 Selected Idioms

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Idioms are captivating linguistic constructs that transcend the literal meanings of words. They are figurative expressions used to convey a particular message or concept. Like a secret code, idioms can be perplexing to non-native speakers, but once deciphered, they unlock a world of vivid imagery, humor, and insight. Idioms help to witness how they reflect the spirit and values of a society and gain glimpses into the history, customs, and worldview in English and Hindi which belong to the same language family, namely, the Indo-European language family. The objective of the present study was to provide a clear understanding of the idioms that function in English and Hindi languages to help English as a Second Language (ESL) learners who are studying the Hindi Language as a foreign language and to help the native speakers of Hindi and English to learn English and Hindi as a foreign language respectively. Primary data for the study were gathered through structured interviews with academics of the University of Kelaniya and secondary data were collected through library surveys. Data analysis was performed as a comparative study based on thematic analysis techniques. This paper emphasized that even though idioms in two languages provide the same meaning, the contexts in which they can be used are different, and certain idioms in one language are rendered as proverbs in another language. Furthermore, it is noteworthy that the idiomatic meanings in English predominantly convey positive connotations, whereas the same idioms often give negative implications in the Hindi language.

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