



“HISTORICAL INFLUENCES ON ENGLISH PHRASEOLOGY: THE IMPACT OF SHAKESPEARE AND THE BIBLE.”

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Annotation. This article looks at how William Shakespeare and the Bible, especially the King James Version, have influenced the English language. It focuses on common phrases and expressions that came from these sources and are still used today. The article explains how these sayings moved from literature and religion into everyday conversation, and why they have stayed popular for so long. It also shows how these old texts continue to shape the way people speak and think in English.

Аннотация. В этой статье рассматривается, как Уильям Шекспир и Библия, особенно версия короля Якова, повлияли на английский язык. Основное внимание уделяется распространенным фразам и выражениям, которые пришли из этих источников и используются до сих пор. В статье объясняется, как эти высказывания перешли из литературы и религии в повседневную речь и почему они остаются популярными так долго. В ней также показано, как эти старые тексты продолжают формировать то, как люди говорят и думают на английском языке.

Key words: Shakespeare and English language, King James Bible influence, Bible and language evolution, idiom, metaphor, rhetoric, linguistics, religion, conversation, influence.

Ключевые слова: Шекспир и английский язык, влияние Библии короля Якова, Библия и эволюция языка, идиома, метафора, риторика, лингвистика, религия, разговор, влияние.

Introduction. The English language is rich in expressions, idioms, and turns of phrase that have developed over centuries. Among the most influential sources of these expressions are the works of William Shakespeare and the Bible, particularly the King James Version (KJV), published in 1611. These two monumental texts have not only shaped the literary and religious landscape of the English-speaking world, but also left a lasting mark on everyday language. Many common phrases that English speakers use today - such as “break the ice,” “by the skin of your teeth,” or “a heart of gold”- can be traced directly to



Shakespeare's plays or the biblical text. The impact of these works goes beyond individual words or idioms; they helped shape patterns of thought, rhetorical structures, and ways of expressing complex ideas. Shakespeare's creative manipulation of language introduced countless new expressions and enriched the emotional and imaginative capacity of English. Similarly, the poetic and formal style of the King James Bible contributed to the development of a distinctively solemn and rhythmic tone still found in modern English.

The reason this topic focuses on common phrases and expressions from Shakespeare and the Bible that are still used today is because it shows how language lasts and evolves. Even though Shakespeare wrote over 400 years ago and the King James Bible was published in 1611, many of their words are still alive in modern English. It is because of:

1. **Cultural Influence:** These texts were read, performed, and quoted for centuries. They became part of education, religion, and daily life, so their phrases naturally became part of how people spoke.
2. **Memorable Language:** Both Shakespeare and the Bible use strong imagery, rhythm, and emotion. This made their phrases easy to remember and repeat, helping them survive through generations.
3. **Language Learning:** Studying these sources helps us understand where everyday expressions come from and why they mean what they do. It connects modern English speakers to their linguistic history.
4. **Still Relevant:** The ideas in these expressions - love, fear, betrayal, hope, etc.- are universal. That's why people still relate to and use them today.

The contribution of Shakespeare and the KJV to English rhetoric and metaphor is considerable:

- Lexical innovation: Shakespeare coined numerous words and fixed expressions, often using metaphorical constructions that appealed to emotional and intellectual sensibilities (Crystal & Crystal, 2002).
- Syntax and structure: The KJV standardized certain syntactic forms that still characterize formal English, including inversion ("Blessed are the meek") and balanced structures ("A time to be born, and a time to die" – Ecclesiastes 3:2).
- Moral and philosophical framing: Both sources introduced idioms that encapsulate ethical or philosophical positions, such as "an eye for an eye" or "to thine own self be true", influencing moral discourse.



These rhetorical strategies have not only influenced literature but also politics, journalism, and advertising, where the echo of Shakespearean and biblical language lends authority and resonance.

Shakespeare's plays and the Bible were widely read and performed, making their phrases accessible to many people. The Bible was central to daily life, especially in religious communities, and Shakespeare's works were frequently quoted in theaters and schools. As these texts were taught, shared, and referenced, their expressions naturally entered everyday speech.

The themes in both Shakespeare and the Bible - like love, betrayal, and justice - are timeless and universal. Their memorable language, poetic style, and adaptability to different situations have kept these phrases alive. Additionally, quoting them can add sophistication or cultural depth to a conversation, helping them remain relevant across generations.

Shakespeare's works include his plays, sonnets, and other writings. Famous plays such as Hamlet, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, and Julius Caesar are rich with expressions, metaphors, and phrases that have entered common English usage.

The Bible, especially the King James Version, is a collection of religious texts including historical narratives, parables, psalms, and teachings. Well-known passages and phrases, like "let there be light" or "a thorn in the flesh," have become part of everyday language. These works have shaped how people communicate and think by providing a shared cultural and linguistic foundation that continues to influence the way English is spoken, written, and understood today.

Conclusion. The works of William Shakespeare and the Bible have had a lasting impact on the English language, especially in the way people speak and think. Through memorable phrases, powerful themes, and poetic language, these texts have shaped not only vocabulary but also cultural identity and patterns of thought. Many expressions from these works have become a natural part of everyday speech, showing how literature and religion can influence language for centuries. Their continued use today is a reminder of the deep connection between language, history, and human experience.

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