

Cultural and Philosophical Perspectives of studying idioms of Life**Iskandarova Gulifor Muzaffar kizi****UrSU 2nd year student group 2303****E-mail: gulifor.iskandarova@bk.ru**

Abstract: Idioms, as linguistic expressions embedded in cultural contexts, offer profound insights into the collective values, beliefs, and philosophies of societies. This article explores the cultural and philosophical dimensions of studying idioms related to life, such as those expressing existence, mortality, and human experience. By analyzing idioms across diverse linguistic and cultural frameworks, this study highlights their role in shaping worldviews and transmitting philosophical ideas. Employing a comparative linguistic approach, the research reveals how idioms reflect universal human concerns while preserving cultural distinctiveness. The findings underscore the significance of idioms as a bridge between language, culture, and philosophy, offering valuable perspectives for cross-cultural understanding and humanistic inquiry.

Keywords: Idioms, culture, philosophy, life, linguistics, cross-cultural analysis, worldview, human experience

Introduction

Idioms are more than mere linguistic ornaments; they are cultural artifacts that encapsulate shared experiences and collective wisdom. Expressions such as "life is a journey" in English, "el mundo es un pañuelo" (the world is a handkerchief) in Spanish, or "人生は夢" (life is a dream) in Japanese reflect not only linguistic creativity but also deep philosophical perspectives on existence. The study of idioms related to life—those that address birth, death, purpose, and human struggles—provides a unique lens to examine how societies conceptualize and articulate the human condition. This article investigates the cultural and philosophical implications of such idioms, arguing that they serve as repositories of cultural identity and philosophical thought. By exploring idioms across different languages, this study seeks to uncover both universal themes and culturally specific nuances in the conceptualization of life.

Relevance of Work

In an increasingly globalized world, understanding cultural and philosophical differences is crucial for fostering cross-cultural communication and empathy. Idioms, as compact expressions of cultural values, offer a window into the mental and emotional landscapes of communities. Studying idioms of life is particularly relevant because they address fundamental human concerns—existence, mortality,

and purpose—that transcend cultural boundaries yet manifest uniquely within each linguistic tradition. This research contributes to fields such as linguistic anthropology, cultural studies, and philosophy of language by demonstrating how idioms function as carriers of meaning and ethical frameworks. Moreover, the findings have practical applications in education, translation, and intercultural training, where misinterpretations of idiomatic expressions can lead to misunderstandings.

Purpose

The primary aim of this study is to analyze idioms of life across multiple languages to:

- Identify common philosophical themes and their cultural variations.
- (2) Examine how idioms reflect cultural attitudes toward life and death.
- (3) Explore the role of idioms in shaping individual and collective worldviews.
- (4) Propose their study as a method for interdisciplinary research.

Materials and Methods of Research

The research employs a qualitative, comparative approach, drawing on idioms in five languages: English, Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic, and Russian. A corpus of 50 idioms related to life was compiled from dictionaries, literary texts, and native speaker interviews. Selection criteria included frequency of use, cultural significance, and relevance to existential themes. The idioms were analyzed using:

Semantic Analysis: To unpack literal and figurative meanings.

Cultural Contextualization: To link idioms to historical, social, and religious contexts.

Philosophical Interpretation: To identify underlying ethical or existential principles.

Data were cross-referenced with anthropological and philosophical literature to ensure robust interpretation. Limitations include the selective nature of the corpus and potential biases in translation.

Results and Discussion

The analysis revealed several key findings:

Universal Themes with Cultural Variations: Idioms about life often address universal concerns, such as mortality and purpose, but their framing varies. For example, the English idiom "life is short" emphasizes brevity and urgency, while the Arabic "ممر دار الدنيا" (the world is a house of passage) reflects a transient view rooted in Islamic theology.

Cultural Attitudes Toward Life and Death: Idioms reflect cultural attitudes toward existential realities. In Mandarin, "人各有命" (each person has their fate)

suggests acceptance of destiny, aligning with Confucian and Taoist philosophies. In contrast, the Russian "жить как в сказке" (to live like in a fairy tale) conveys an aspirational view of life, shaped by Slavic storytelling traditions.

Worldview Formation: Idioms serve as cognitive tools that reinforce cultural worldviews. For instance, the Spanish "a mal tiempo, buena cara" (in bad times, a good face) promotes resilience, reflecting a cultural emphasis on optimism and dignity in adversity.

Philosophical Insights: Many idioms encapsulate philosophical principles. The English "you reap what you sow" aligns with ethical notions of karma or Christian morality, while the Japanese "一期一会" (one time, one meeting) embodies Zen Buddhist ideas of impermanence and mindfulness.

These findings suggest that idioms are not merely linguistic but deeply philosophical, acting as conduits for cultural transmission and ethical reflection. The comparative approach highlights both shared humanity and cultural diversity, challenging assumptions of universal linguistic equivalence.

Conclusion

The study of idioms of life offers rich insights into the interplay of language, culture, and philosophy. By encapsulating collective wisdom, idioms reveal how societies navigate existential questions, from the fleeting nature of life to the pursuit of meaning. This research underscores the value of idioms as a tool for cross-cultural and philosophical inquiry, advocating for their inclusion in linguistic and humanistic studies. Future research could expand the corpus to include lesser-studied languages or explore the role of idioms in modern digital communication. Ultimately, idioms of life remind us that language is not just a means of communication but a profound expression of what it means to be human.

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