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ENGLISH IDIOMS: ESSENCE AND VALUE

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The work is deals with the consideration of the essence of English idioms, their origin and, in general, feasibility of using them in a language.

An idiom - (from Greek "feature, originality") is a fixed phrase which is inherent only to a certain language and that expresses an only concept. This term is used to denote English phraseological units. Phraseological units are set phrases, that give a bright emotional colouring to the language, represent history of a country, people and language, originality of culture and a way of life. There are about 20,000 English idioms. In the process of English language formation and development plenty of expressions were accumulated, which people found felicitous and accurate, and they became English idioms.

The Swiss linguist Charles Bally is considered to be the founder of the theory of phraseology. His works on systematization of phraseological units started the detailed study of phraseological units in French and other languages, including English. To understand idioms, we use their equivalents. There are different methods of idioms classification. Classification of phraseological units from the point of view of their origin, that was worked out by A. Kunin, includes:

a) Old English phraseological units; b) Middle English phraseological units; c) Modern English phraseological units; d) borrowed phraseological units (including biblical expressions *Achilles' heel*, *one's own flesh and blood* of Greek origin) [1].

Thematic classification is the most widespread one. For example, phraseological units characteristic of the language of business: *calculated risk* - поміркований ризик, *cut-rate* - знижка.

English idioms research is an interesting, but at the same time a difficult task. The study of this layer of the vocabulary helps to feel the culture of the country and people`s mode of life.

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1. Кунин А.В. Курс фразеологии современного английского языка / А.В. Кунин. – М.: Высшая школа, 1996. –381 с.