



UNIVERSITETI I EVROPËS JUGLINDORE
УНИВЕРЗИТЕТ НА ЈУГОИСТОЧНА ЕВРОПА
SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

MASTER THESIS

A CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF IDIOMS IN ENGLISH AND THEIR EQUIVALENTS IN ALBANIAN.

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**Analizë kontrastive e idiomëve në anglisht dhe
ekuivalentet e tyre në shqip**

**Контрастивна анализа на идиомите на англискиот и
нивните еквиваленти на албанскиот**

Acknowledgments

First I want to thank God for the will and knowledge to complete my master studies. Secondly, I would like to give my warmest thanks to my mentor Prof. Dr. Arta Toci for guiding me through this process. Last but not least, I would like to thank my family for their continuous support. My husband and my best friend, Shkelqim, who motivated me every time I doubted myself and my work and for pushing me forward to achieve great things in life. My son, Rio, who has been my friend and motivation during this process. I would not be able to do this without you. This is to you.

Abstract

This study aims to represent and analyze the lexical corpus of idioms in English and their counterpart or equivalent in the Albanian language. This contrast will be done according to their semantic, lexical, and syntactic meaning ranked in absolute equivalence group, close equivalence group, partial equivalence group and in non-equivalence group. The main aim of this thesis is to shed light on the differences between Albanian and English idioms through illustrated examples of Albanian idioms in comparison to their English equivalents.

As idioms are one of the most important language units in both languages, through the use of contrastive analysis, this study aims to explore similar, different, and identical structures in both languages. The data for the study is mostly from monolingual and bilingual idiom dictionaries. Moreover, it explains in detail the term idiom according to a number of authors, and analyzed idioms from various word classes. Idiom examples are compared with their equivalents and the origin of the presented idiom is clarified. The phraseological units are also analyzed in terms of the mentality and culture of both nations, and this is done by conducting a thorough study of all the underlying conceptual metaphors.

Key words: *Idioms, Phraseological Units, Contrastive Analysis, Equivalence.*

Parathënia

Ky studim synon të paraqesë dhe analizojë korpusin leksikor të idiomave në anglisht dhe homologun ose ekuivalentin e tyre në gjuhën shqipe. Ky kontrast do të bëhet ne baze te kuptimit të tyre semantik, leksikor dhe sintaksor të renditur në grupin ekuivalencës absolute, grupin ekuivalent të afërt, grupin ekuivalent të pjesshëm dhe në grupin jobarasvlerës. Qëllimi kryesor i kësaj teze është të hedhë dritë mbi ndryshimet midis idiomave në gjuhën shqipe dhe asaj angleze përmes shembujve të ilustruar të idiomave të shqipes në krahasim me ekuivalentët e tyre në anglisht.

Duke qenë se idiomat janë një nga burimet gjuhesore tejet me rëndësi në të dyja gjuhët, përmes një analize kontrastive, ky studim u përpoq të eksploronte struktura të ngjashme, identike dhe të ndryshme në të dyja gjuhët. Të dhënat për studimin janë kryesisht nga fjalorë idiomash njëgjuhësh dhe dygjuhësh. Për më tepër, ai shpjegon në detaje termin idiomë sipas një numri autorësh dhe analizon idioma nga klasa të ndryshme fjalësh. Krahasohen shembujt e idiomave me ekuivalentët e tyre dhe sqarohet origjina e idiomës së paraqitur. Nëpërmjet një studimi empirik të metaforave konceptuale të tyre themelore, njësitë frazeologjike analizohen edhe në aspektin e kulturës dhe mentalitetit të të dy kombeve.

Fjalët kyçe: Idioma, Njësi frazeologjike, Analizë kontrastive, Ekuivalencë.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

This Chapter will serve as an introductory chapter for this paper. As a form of introduction, this section includes the problem statement of the thesis, as well as the aims and objectives that will further be explained in the later sections.

1.1 Problem Statement

For many linguists of the English language (and other languages as well) idioms and phraseological units have been a study objective. The beginning of the 20th century in particular, showed a steady growth in this field, with most of them trying to define such units throughout the years.

Traditionally, idioms are seen by linguists as unpredictable and perhaps due to this feature, idioms are considered complex and difficult to define. However, linguists such as Chomsky, Katz, Chafe, etc., have agreed that idioms are phrases whose meaning differs from the grammatical or literal one.

One of the difficulties in defining phraseological limitations is that it frequently relates to a spectrum with the most impenetrable and fixed collocations at one end and the least transparent and variable ones at the other, making it impossible to distinguish one from the other. This is then further complicated when one takes into account free combinations which are not part of phraseology.

Another problem that is as interesting as the first one, is the relationship between metaphors and phraseological units. Many linguists believe that it is human nature to conceptualize everything metaphorically. In addition, Dumistrăcel believes that metaphors and idioms are connected in the sense that they both carry a figurative meaning and, in many cases, have similar function stylistically.

Idioms are metaphors, more specifically, they are metaphors that are now considered dead. They are expressions whose meaning is not depended on the meaning of its constituents, but rather functions as a single word.

Linguists also agree that idioms are language specific, and more often than not, they pertain to a certain culture. However, when trying to understand language, culture, and even human nature, it is always of great interest to compare and contrast to languages in similar contexts.

In English, linguists and scholars have contributed a great deal to understanding and classifying idioms. And although in comparison to English, in Albanian such studies are fairly recent, linguists in this language have contributed their share as well.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

This study aims to show the role and importance of idioms by contrasting them in two languages, namely English and Albanian. The main objectives are as follows:

1. Identify English idioms that are identical in the structure with their equivalent idioms in Albanian.
2. Identify English idioms that are similar in the structure with their equivalent idioms in Albanian.
3. Identify English idioms that are different in the structure with their equivalent idioms in Albanian.

1.3 Research Questions

The analysis in this paper attempts to provide answers to the following questions:

1. How much do the English idioms and their equivalents in Albanian correspond and differ, in a semantic, lexical, and syntactic level?
2. Why is the contrastive method important for analyzing English and Albanian idioms?
3. How do idioms shape human understanding of the world?
4. Do idioms influence the culture to which they belong to?

1.4 The hypotheses of this study are as follows:

1. The majority of the English idioms have equivalents in the Albanian language.
2. Idioms are used to make sense of the world around.
3. Learning idioms contributes to understanding a language better

1.5 The structure of the study

This study will comprise **of six chapters**.

Chapter 1 is the introductory chapter that includes the introduction, the problem statement of this study, its aims and objectives and so on.

Chapter 2 focuses on the methodology used in this paper. This chapter will define the methods used to collect the data for this paper and briefly explain the data collected.

Chapter 3 will define and elaborate the key terms of this study while discussing similar studies such as studies on Contrastive Analysis and idioms. This will be the literature review chapter.

Chapter 4 will show the findings and results of this work, by first presenting findings from the general results, and then presenting the analysis part, which will focus on the three points of view in which the data was collected, namely: semantic, lexical and syntactic.

Chapter 5 aims to further elaborate on the findings mentioned above, using charts to achieve a clearer explanation.

Chapter 6 is the last chapter and will also serve as the conclusion for this study. This chapter will discuss the problem statement once more, will summarize all the findings of the paper, and conclude with recommendations for further studies. Study limitations and suggestions for will also be included in this chapter.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

Chapter 2 reflects on a number of sources and definitions that aim to clarify the key words and objectives of the paper. Serving as the literature review chapter, it will define some of the main terms of this study and elaborate on them; Along the definitions, similar studies will be discussed such as studies on Contrastive Analysis and idioms, so as to further the importance and relevance of the paper's topic.

2.1 What are idioms?

As said previously, there are still ongoing debates about the definite meaning of idioms, and multiple interpretations are acceptable. For the purpose of this study, this section will use the definition of idioms as defined by *The Oxford Learner's Dictionary*, which defines idioms as “a group of words whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words,” (2014). However, it is important to recognize that there are dictionaries available that more than one definition and some are different from the one mentioned above. Listed below are some other definitions of idioms according to other dictionaries, as comparative examples:

The Cambridge Dictionary - “*A group of words in a fixed order that have a particular meaning that is different from the meanings of each word on its own*”.

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English - “*A group of words that has a special meaning that is different from the ordinary meaning of each separate word*”.

The American Heritage Dictionary – “*A speech form or an expression of a given language that is peculiar to itself grammatically or cannot be understood from the individual meanings of its elements*”.

People of every culture and background use language in various ways, for the sole purpose of expressing what they feel, think, or want. The figurative expression, is one of the most used ones in everyday language, due to its tight connection with culture. Reasons behind such usage vary, but one must agree that figurative speech enriches speech, makes it more poetic, or provokes thought. In literary works, some of the best verses written are due to the use of such expressions. Similes, metaphors, and the main topic of this study, idioms, have all found a

place in everyday jargon, literary one, and professional as well. There are some scholars who claim that idioms, metaphors, similes, all have similar meanings, however, it seems that idioms are bit more challenging to interpret than the rest.

Due to their complexity and cultural bound, in translation, idioms prove to be quite challenging. Professor of comparative literature, Susan Bassnett, said that translating idioms makes us consider the question of meaning and translation since they are so culture bound (Bassnett, 2006). Idioms often do not have equivalents in other languages, due to the fact that the meaning of a phraseological unit is not the sum of its literal parts. For example, *be out of one's league*, could be translated word-for-word in Albanian, however, its equivalent would be "*si vie as deri te thembra*", which in turn would translate as "*doesn't even reach their ankle*". In English, a way of wishing someone good luck is saying "*break a leg*" (especially to performers), while in Albanian, any phrase that begins with *break* or *may you break*, is almost always a curse ("*thefsh parmen*").

According to Baker (2001) idioms are frozen in a language and says that one cannot change, delete, add, replace a word in idioms, as they do not have flexible patterns or transparent meaning. While Larson, went further and said that idiom carry certain connotations that may be delicate or sensitive, and which otherwise cannot be conveyed with other lexical items (1984). American linguist, Charles Hockett, also defines idioms as grammatical structures whose meaning is not complete based solely on their form. Since their meanings are so unpredictable, that is also a reason why an idiom often cannot be translated literally.

That idioms should be inspected only as a whole, is an idea that agrees with many scholars. Colin (2005) views idioms as abstract, and while following Moon's take on the matter, notes them as "an ambiguous term, used in conflicting ways", or the result of individual words combined. Since they are unique and built from distinctive features they seem to reflect cultural traditions and show a national character (Martirosyan, 2014).

In order to understand idioms, it is not enough to simply speak or know the language. Rather one must be familiar with the topic, context, history, and culture. In certain cases, there appear to be some idiomatic expressions that seem similar in both languages; however, their meaning may be completely different. Thus, a simple expression, may cause confusion if one is not

aware of the difference, i.e.: In English, “*to eat one’s words*” means to admit a mistake, but in Albanian “*(mos) i ha fjale!*” means to not go back on your word. Then there are idioms in English, such as “*two bird with one stone*” which have the same equivalent in Albanian as well, “*dy zogj me nje gur*”.

As for the origin of the word “idiom”, according to Online Etymology Dictionary the word appears in English in late 16th century:

*“1580s, “form of speech peculiar to a people or place;” meaning “phrase or expression peculiar to a language” is from 1620s; from French **idiome** (16c.) And directly from Late Latin **idioma** “a peculiarity in language,” from Greek **idioma** “peculiarity, peculiar phraseology”, from **idioumai** “to appropriate to oneself,” from **idios** “personal, private,” properly “particular to oneself.””*

To summarize this section, an idiom is a unit of meaning, that can consist of one-word expressions or whole sentences, and whose meaning is understood through its established common usage. Typical characteristics of idioms are their fixed order, figurativeness, used in every language, complexity and grammatical abnormality, difficult to translate, and strong connotative meaning. This definition encompasses all the idioms analyzed in this thesis.

2.2 Contrastive analysis

Since the aim of this study is to compare and contrast idioms of two languages, English and Albanian, making use of the contrastive analysis theory, will help to interpret and explore in greater depth, the importance of this language phenomenon.

As a branch of Applied Linguistics Science, contrastive analysis is used in second language acquisition research, often predicting the difficulties one might experience when learning a new language, according to Wong and Dras (2009). By comparing languages, this theory provides an insight and explains the process of acquiring a second language, by examining their similarities and differences.

The American linguist, Robert Lado considered “*similarity and difference as determiners of ease and difficulty*”, since according to him

“structures that are similar will be easy to learn because they will be transferred and may function satisfactorily in the foreign language...those (structures) that are different will be difficult because when transferred they will not function satisfactorily in the foreign language and will therefore have to be changed” (Lado, 1971).

One of the structures that can be analyzed through the contrastive theory, is the idiom, more specifically, the challenges that learners face when learning them. Once these challenges are identified, they can overcome and avoid any said mistakes. Contrastive analysis in this study, will be used to create a better understanding of how idioms in English and Albanian are learned, used, and how they function, in multiple contexts. By highlighting the main characteristics of both languages in this topic, this study hopes to provide a different perspective on the relationship between English and Albanian.

2.3 Semantic aspects of idioms

Depending on the features in which a linguist chooses to focus, idioms can be classified into multiple groups. Different linguists use different principles when classifying them. Idioms can be grouped or divided, based on their structure, semantics, origin, etc. The semantic unity means that an idiom conveys “a single notion” according to Grant and Bauer (2004); using figurative expressions and depriving phraseological units from their initial meaning, which in turn explains why their meaning is known or familiar only to speakers that possess a native level of proficiency of the language.

Phraseological units are fixed word-group structures that exist in a language as ready-made units and cannot be produced during speech, since their meanings are the result of historical development (Chulanova G.V, 2015).

In her paper, Jelena Nikitkova, refers to Antrushina (1985) and Vinogradov (1977) when listing three types of phraseological units and lists them as followed:

- 1) Phraseological combinations – one can infer their meaning based on the words they contain.
- 2) Phraseological unities – metaphors which are used to form phraseological unities are obvious even if they cannot be

understood in the context of the definitions of the separate words they consist of.

3) Phraseological fusions (or idioms) – The metaphors which are used to form phraseological fusions are obscure. The meaning of phraseological fusions cannot be understood from the meanings of the words it contains.

Phraseological units can also be classified according to Kalinauskas as:

1) Expressive collocational units that derive from a variety of sources, such as myths, conventions, or historical events, and whose meaning is inextricably linked to the meanings of their constituent pieces. To comprehend the original meaning, one must first grasp where they came from.

2) Metaphorical phraseological units are those whose meaning can be understood from the figurative meanings of their parts.

3) Phraseoloids are semi-phraseological units, that depict vivid, stable expressions standing between the free collocations and metaphorical idioms.

Over the years, linguists have built a conceptual structure that could explain idioms' figurative meaning. Idiom structures typically contain conceptual metaphors, and according to Antrushina, "*the more distant the meaning (of an idiom) from the current meaning of its constituent parts, the greater is its degree of semantic cohesion [and the lesser its degree of motivation]*" (Antrushina et al, 1985).

Moon (1998) uses a different classification of idioms:

1) Transparent metaphors: are institutionalized and their meaning can be easily understood.

2) Semi-transparent metaphors: are idioms that require some special knowledge to be understood, since they are not so easily decoded.

3) Opaque metaphors (or pure idioms) are idioms that cannot be understood "*without the*

knowledge of the historical origins of the expression”.

Idioms, according to Kvetko the same as phrasemes, can be *unchangeable*, or fixed and cannot undergo any modifications (e.g. It's raining cats and dogs), and there are *changeable idioms* which allow variations (2009). Arnold, also agreed with this, saying:

“Idioms can be motivated and demotivated. A motivated idiom is homonymous to a free phrase, but this phrase is used figuratively: take the bull by the horns (to face dangers without fear). In the nick of time is demotivated, because the word nick is obsolete” (Arnold, 1986).

The Albanian researcher and professor, Jani Thomai, consider that in idioms, each lexeme is important since, every single one of them is unique and the fulfills the general meaning. Idioms can have different semantic connotations, positive and negative. As stated previously, they are used to express emotions, feelings, thoughts, and other qualities of a person’s character. From this point of view, the natural usage of idiomatic expressions is justified and it makes perfect sense why both, Albanian and English language, have them incorporated in their culture. Perhaps due to the fact that both languages belong to the indo-european branch, and their respective countries are in the European continent, they have experienced similar history, and reflect values in terms of moral and social standing as similar.

2.4 Grammatical aspects of idioms

When focusing on the grammatical aspects, idioms are divided into: nominal, verbal, adjectival, adverbial, pronominal, interjectional, conjunctive, and prepositional idioms Fleischer,W (1997).

(The following examples will be elaborated further, later on this the paper):

1. Nominal Idioms: are idioms that consists of nouns with or without an article (does not matter if a definite or an indefinite one). E.g. *Brain trust, apple of discord, a white elephant, salt of the earth, etc.*

2. Verbal Idioms: are idioms that have verbs as their main part, mostly in a definite form. Verbal idioms can be combined with any other word classes, such as adjectives, adverbs, nouns or

other verbs in any number. E.g. *Dig into, keep the pot boiling, sweat like a pig, take the bull by the horns, put your nose where it don't belong, bite the hand that feeds, fishing for troubled.*

3. Adjectival Idioms: are idioms consisting of adjectives. The adjectives appear mostly with another element, a noun or a verb, which makes then a nominal or verbal phrase. According to **Fleischer** (1997) adjective phrases are found especially as comparatives and as compounds: e.g. *As poor as a church mouse, up in the air, lion-hearted, proud as a peacock, cut and dried, etc.*

4. Adverbial Idioms: contain one or more adverbials. E.g. *Like tooth and nail, in nothing flat, ike a bat out of hell, in donkey's years, through thick and thin, till the cows come home, till the fat lady sings, etc.*

Same as English idioms, Thomai (1989) divided Albanian idioms based on their grammatical/lexical category as well:

1. Nominal Idioms are built up by nouns e.g. *Doren e lehte, kënga e mjellmës*, they may function as a noun and from the syntactic point of view they can play the role of subject, and object. These idioms in Albanian language are in a small group and built up in a simple structure.

2. Adjectival Idioms, according to Thomai, adjectival idioms are a smaller group than nominal idioms (1989). They are built up by adjectives and in general they have the same function as adjectives, e.g. *Goje-mjalte,(ish) shpate, brisk ka goja, dhelpër plakë, zemer luan, (eshte) ujk, zemër pule.*

3. Verbal Idioms include verbs in their structure and function like one. According tp Thomai, verbal idioms are the richest group in Albanian language (1989). E.g. *I jep doren, ta merr krahun, shkel e shko, flet si kodra mbas bregut, e pagoi sa prifti sorrën, merre me leng se mishi u mbarua, tu thaftë dora, etj.*

4. Adverbial Idioms, are also a large group in Albanian language, since they are used to indicate time, manner etc. E.g.: *si pula pa krye, per pese pare, deri te hunda, si xhafërri simiten, si peshku në zallë, ku rafsha mos u vrafsha, etj.*

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

The 3rd chapter is focused on the methodology used to collect the data that were used during this study. This chapter defines any of the methods used while collecting the data as well as briefly mention sources of where such data came from.

3.1 Methods of study

The collected data from the following dictionaries The Albanian Phraseological Dictionary of J. Thomai (2002), The Idiomatic English-Albanian Dictionary of I. Stefanllari (1998) and The English-Albanian Phraseological Dictionary (1980), will be scrutinized under the contrastive analysis for the sole purpose of examining idioms' features. The study also includes units that were derived from internet sources. To accomplish the aims and objectives of this study, other methods, such as descriptive and translation have also been used, in addition to the contrastive method.

Descriptive method: This method was used to describe characteristics of animal idioms in English and Albanian. This method was used in this study to describe the animal idioms according to the semantic, grammatical, lexical, and syntactic levels, in both languages.

Translation method: This method serves to make a comparison, contrast between the structure of one language with the other with inequalities and equivalents translated into Albanian language and vice-versa. So, this method was used to make a comparison and contrast between animal idioms in English and their correspondents in Albanian.

Comparative method: This method was used to point out the similarities and differences according to the semantic, grammatical, lexical, and syntactic levels of animal idioms in English and in Albanian based on the comparison of translated texts, and idiom dictionaries from English into Albanian and vice-versa.

3.2 Data collection

The data were collected from dictionaries, particularly idioms dictionaries, some of them were monolingual dictionaries whereas some of them were bilingual dictionaries. The examples of the idioms were collected from dictionaries as well.

CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS AND RESULT

Chapter 4 aims to present all the findings and the data gathered for this paper. Firstly, the presentation of the findings from the general results, showing the description of English animal idioms and their equivalents in Albanian. Second, there will be the analysis part of the data collected in three different points of view; semantic point of view, syntactic point of view and lexical point of view.

4.1 Description of Idioms in English and their equivalents in Albanian

This subsection outlines idioms in English and their counterpart in Albanian. Additionally, one column provides a summary of the meaning in Albanian and English while the third one gives concrete examples as used in real life, by speakers of both languages.

4.1.1 Idioms describing characters and personalities

The tables below provide examples of idioms illustrating traits of personalities in colloquial language. Each idiom example has a fitting counterpart in English, and is further explained in the pertaining column.

Example 1	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Ja kallxon zorrët e barkut	Tregon cdo fshehtësi	<i>Kur fol ai, i kallxon kejt zorrët e barkut</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Be an open book	To act (or purport to act) honestly, with no secrets.	<i>Ask me anything, I'm an open book.</i>

Example 2	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	U ba si sorra n'prush –	Shpjeton shumë pa lidhje, është i padurueshëm	<i>Kur kam stres, jam si sorra n'prush</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Walking on hot coals	A person that is involved in a volatile	<i>It feels like I'm walking on hot coals</i>

		situation or predicament	
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Example 3	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Ma ka bo zorrën corr n'kry	Më është bërë i mërzitshëm prej budallallëqeve	<i>Ma ka bo zorrën corr n'kry me ato sjellje palidhje</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Get in someone's hair	To annoy or bother someone	<i>His snobbish behavior gets in my hair.</i>

Example 4	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Ka durim prej guri e prej druri	Tepër i durueshëm	<i>Kushedi sa gjëra i kanë ngjarë, por gjyshi ka durim prej guri e druri</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	To be patient as an ox	To be very patient	<i>My grandfather is patient as an ox</i>

Example 5	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Ja ka pi sorra ment	Bënë gjëra të paarsyeshme	<i>Nuk mi ka pi sorra ment</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Go cuckoo	Act insane or foolish	<i>Did you think I'd go cuckoo</i>

Example 6	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Nuk ia ma zuza	Friksohet	<i>Mos e merr me vete, se ati nuk ia ma zuza</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Be a chicken	Is afraid	<i>Don't take him with you. He is such a chicken</i>

Example 7	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
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	S'ban zhegra	S'bën fjalë	<i>Shkoj pa ba zhegra</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Like a lamb to the slaughter	Used when someone is going to do something dangerous, but they do not realize it or have no choice	<i>He went there like a like a lamb to the slaughter</i>

Example 8	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Ban zhegra	I ikën punës	<i>Mos bën zhegra po kap nisja punës</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Drag (one's) feet	To move slowly and reluctantly because one does not want to do something.	<i>Stop dragging your feet, and get to it</i>

Example 9	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Jom zhgardhnue	Jam plakur	<i>Tash kam nis m'u zhgardhnue</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Over The Hill	No longer young. Not able to do things as before.	<i>Now that I turned 59, I feel like I am officially over the hill.</i>

Example 10	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	I ni vjet	Kur kupton se po vjetrohët	<i>Ja kam nis m'i ni vjet tash</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	To Feel One's Age	To realize that a person is getting older.	<i>I am definitely starting to feel my age</i>

	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
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Example 11	I kohës zhgunit	I kohës së vjetër	<i>Mos e dëgjo cka flet. Ai është i kohës s'zhgunit!</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Long In The Tooth	To be too old to do something.	<i>Don't pay attention to what he says. He is a little long in the tooth</i>

Example 12	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Dikitron	Shumë i/e zgjuar	<i>Ajo vajzë është dikitron</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Sharp cookie	One who is intelligent, bright, or sharp	<i>She's a sharp cookie</i>

Example 13	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Si zhiva	Shumë i/e shkathët	<i>Ajo vajzë është si zhiva</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Quick on the trigger	Quick to act, understand, retort, etc.	<i>She's really quick on the trigger</i>

Example 14	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	E/i mprehtë si shpatë	Shumë i shkathët	<i>Ajo është e mprehtë shpatë.</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	(as) sharp as a needle	Intelligent and quick-thinking	<i>He is as sharp as a needle, so he'll find a solution.</i>

Example 15	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	S'nin për zhupan	S'i jep llogari askujt	<i>S'ke cka i bon, ajo s'nin për zhupan</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English

	To Have Nerves Of Steel	Used to describe a person that doesn't get frightened easily.	<i>No matter what you do, you can't scare him. I swear he has nerves of steel.</i>
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Example 16	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	S'nin për milet	Nuk i'a ka frikën askujt	<i>Vllau im s'nin për milet</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	March to (the beat of) (one's) own drum	To do something, act, or behave in a manner that does not conform to the standard, prevalent, norm.	<i>My brother marches to the beat of his own drum</i>

Example 17	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Ish ba dozhupan	Ish bërë njeri i madh, me ndikim	<i>Prej se ka fillu me punu për ministrin, ish ba dozhupan</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Rule the roost	You are the most important and powerful person in a group or community	<i>It's his wife who really rules the roost</i>

Example 18	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Nuk t'han vucjaki	Për një njeri pa ndikim	<i>Mos u bën merak se vucjaki se han</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Draw a line in the sand	Establishing a limit beyond which a certain situation or activity will not be accepted.	<i>You're just drawing a line in the sand</i>

	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
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Example 19	E boni xhade	E turpëroi	<i>E bani xhade. Nuk i lë më vend të rrij ndër burra</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	To have egg on your face	To be embarrassed, look foolish/stupid or be caught in an awkward moment.	<i>They threw an egg on my face. I have never been so embarrassed</i>

Example 21	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Njeri xhagajdur	I zoti i vetes	<i>Ish i ri po ish xhagajdur</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Be master of your own fate/destiny	To be in complete control of what happens to you	<i>She is the master of her own fate</i>

Example 22	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Krane e xhehenemit	Njeri i dobët nga shëndeti	<i>E pash para disa dite, dukej si krane e xhehenemit</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Be (as) thin as a stick	To be extremely skinny or slender	<i>I saw him a couple of days ago, and he looked thin as a stick</i>

Example 23	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Ish kjen dora e xhymert	Dorëdhënës	<i>I dhe para prapë. Ti je dorë e xhymert</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Generous to a fault	Prone to generosity, perhaps excessively so	<i>Of course you gave him money again—you're generous to a fault.</i>

	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
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Example 24	Nuk e lëshon zemrën	Mban inati	<i>Ka muaj që nuk flet, nuk e lëshon zemrën hiq</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Hold-a-grudge meaning	To stay angry (at someone or something).	<i>He sure can hold a grudge when something goes wrong.</i>

Example 25	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Ta lshon zemren n'grusht	U bën mirë te tjerëve	<i>Me i ardh puna, ta le zemrën n'grusht.</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Take a/the bullet (for someone)	To accept or put oneself in the way of some misfortune, difficulty, blame, or danger as a means of protecting someone else.	<i>If it comes to it, he would take the bullet for you.</i>

Example 26	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Njeri i fjalës/besës	Person i besueshm	<i>Cfarëdo që të ndodh, ai është i besës</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Man/ woman of his/her word	A reliable, trustworthy person who does what he/she promises to do	<i>I know he's a man of his word.</i>

Example 28	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Cel gavra n'ujë	Nuk bën asnjë punë/ bën punë të kota	<i>Ke muaj që vetëm cel gavra n'ujë</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	To make a hole into the water/ To pound water in a mortar	Making vain attempts.	<i>It's been months, and all you do is make holes into the water</i>

Example 29	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Jeton në andrra	Për dikë që ka plane të paarritshme	<i>Nuk jetohej në ëndrra miku im.</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Live in a fantasy world	To have ideas or plans that are not realistic.	<i>You can't live in a fantasy world forever my friend.</i>

Example 30	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	E ka zgorin e madh	Person që lakmon, ose ha shumë	<i>Cfarë zgori ka ai, e ha një darkë e nuk i del</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Could eat a horse	Someone who is extremely hungry	<i>When will dinner be ready? I'm so hungry I could eat a horse</i>

Example 31	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	I kruhet dora	(varësisht prej kontkstit), mund të përdoret për para ose me gofit dikë	<i>Po m'duket po m'kruhet dora. Kam me marr pare</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Itching palm	Someone who is greedy	<i>I must say, you have an itching palm</i>

Example 32	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	E ka syrin e unt	Lakmitar	<i>Cka t'sheh do me marr. E ka synin e unt</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Stuff your face	To eat a lot	<i>I've been stuffing my face all morning.</i>

Example 33	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	E han cefinin e t'dekneve	Grykës i madh, bën gjithcka për para	<i>Me mujt, edhe cefinin e t'dekneve ata e hajn</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Would sell ones own mother	Having no sentiments or scruples and would do anything for money	<i>When it comes to money, she would sell her own mother</i>

Example 34	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Qen i t'fortit	Person i shitur	<i>Ki pak respect për vete. Nuk ja vlen të jesh qen i t'fortit</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Lap dog	A person who is readily inclined to submit to, seek the favor of, or agree with someone else, especially a person of higher authority	<i>It sickens me to see you be a lap dog. Have a little self-respect!</i>

Example 35	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	E ka qit synin e qenit	I ka dalë turpi	<i>Me atë sjellje atë ditë, e ka qit synin e qenit</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Make a fool of oneself	To behave in a very foolish or silly way	<i>He got so drunk that day and made a fool of himself.</i>

Example 36	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Është gjarpër	I poshtër	<i>Mos i beso. Gjarpën është ai</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Snake in the grass	A deceitful or treacherous person.	<i>He's just a snake in the grass and a guy you can't trust.</i>

Example 37	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Kingji i butë i thith dy nana	Person i dashur nga të gjithë	<i>Të gjithë e dojn, se kingji i butë i thith dy nana thojn</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Golden boy/girl	A person who is much admired	<i>He retains the graceful ease that once made him the golden boy of Hollywood.</i>

Example 38	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Si mbret/mbretëreshë	Ta trajtosh dikë shumë mirë, me shumë respekt	<i>Duhet ta presësh mysafirin si mbret</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Treat (one) like royalty	To treat one exceptionally well.	<i>They treated me like royalty the last time I was there.</i>

Example 39	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	I shkoj ftyra	U turpërua	<i>I shkoj ftyra kur e pa në atë gjendje djalin e vet</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Lose face	Be embarrassed or humiliated, especially publicly.	<i>His terrible performance in the debate caused him to lose face</i>

Example 40	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Si pulë e nemur	Shëndetligë	<i>Këto kohë po duket si pulë e nemit</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Sick as a dog	Very sick	<i>I've been sick as a dog these days</i>

Example 41	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Si pulë e nukt	Për dikë që ndien ftohtë shumë	<i>Edhe ti ma si je ba, si pulë e nukt</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	As cold as ice	Very cold.	<i>Her hand was as cold as ice</i>

Example 42	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Pus njeri / nuk vyn për sen	I pavyeshëm	<i>S'ke cka pret prej tij, është pus njeri</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Good-for-nothing	A person who is lazy and not helpful or useful:	<i>She told him he was a lazy good-for-nothing and should get a job.</i>

Example 43	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Zë pushk	Ka zë të fortë	<i>E ka zërin pushk</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Loud enough to wake the dead	Extremely noisy and disruptive.	<i>Would you two be quiet—you're loud enough wake the dead!</i>

Example 44	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Mirë kos, mirë tamël	Mirë me të gjithë	<i>Me vet atë thot, mirë kos, mirë tamël</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	A kind/good word for everybody	A friendly, amiable, and positive regard for one and all.	<i>I believe that if I can have a kind word for everybody.</i>

Example 45	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	E ka koshin thatë	Torollak, nuk është shumë i zgjuar	<i>A nuk të duket se e ka koshin thatë</i>

	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	An airhead	A mindless or stupid person	<i>Isn't it obvious that they're all airheads</i>

Example 46	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Është kungull	Njeri që nuk është fort i zgjuar	<i>Pse e ngacmon kur e di se është kungull</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	As Smart As Bait	Referring to low mental intellect	<i>I can't say, but he seems as smart as a bait</i>

Example 47	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Kokë tul	Budalla, torollak	<i>Je vëtet kokë tul ti?</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Dunderhead	A stupid or slow-witted person	<i>Are you really such a dunderhead?</i>

Example 48	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Është i trashë	Budalla	<i>Je më i trash ngase kujtoja, nëse beson fjalët e saj</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Thick in the head	A stupid person	<i>You're thick in the head if you're listening to what she's telling you</i>

Example 49	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Farë e keqe	Një antarë i familjes që i sjell nderim ose turp familjes	<i>Ka dal farë e keqe</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English

	Black sheep	A person who has done something bad that brings embarrassment or shame to his or her family	<i>He's the black sheep of the family</i>
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Example 50	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Knusi i xhenemit	Njeri zemërkeq	<i>Mos ja ki besën. Është si knus i xhenemit</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Satan's minion	A person spreading evil on small and large scale	<i>There he goes again – the Satan's minion</i>

Example 51	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	I kish qit sytë mas kodre	Për dikë që është i/e zemruar dhe kërcënon	<i>Kujdes, se dëgjova që i kish qit sytë mas kodre</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	To Be Out For Blood	Used to describe someone who is angry about something and is seeking revenge	<i>Watch your back. She is out for blood!</i>

Example 52	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Qitke tym	Për dikë që është shumë i/e zemruar	<i>Ish tu qit tym që nuk e kanë ftu n'darkë</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	All steamed-up/ breathing fire	Angry and ready for a fight or quarrel	<i>I've noticed that you get all steamed-up when people hurt my feelings</i>

4.1.2 Idioms describing situations and unfortunate events

In this subsection, the main feature serving as classification is idioms describing situations and unfortunate events. As in the previous subsection, this one also, uses tables to illustrate the meaning and give examples of idioms in both languages.

Example 1	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	E mur zjarrmi at punë	Nuk mund të pritet më asgjë prej saj	<i>Nuk ke c'të bësh më, e mori zjarmi atë punë tash</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	That ship has sailed	That opportunity has already passed	<i>There's nothing we can do now, that ship has sailed</i>

Example 2	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Shkoj për dreq	Dicka që ka shkuar keq	<i>Ka kohë që gjërat po shkonin për dreq</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	To go to the dogs	Completely lost	<i>For a while now, things were going to the dogs</i>

Example 3	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	U ba kurban	U flijua/ një person merr përsipër fajin ose gabimet e të tjerëve	<i>Që të gjithë ne kishim faj, por atë ditë ajo u bë kurban</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Scapegoat	A person who is blamed for the wrongdoings, mistakes, or faults of others, especially for reasons of expediency	<i>We needed a scapegoat, and it happened to be her</i>

Example 4	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	I meti zorra n'dor	I mbeti se e bëri ai një gjë, të keqe	<i>U bë si u bë, zorra i mbeti ati në dorë.</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Punchbag	Someone who is blamed when things go wrong, even for things that are not their fault	<i>Be that as it may, you're the punchbag my friend</i>

Example 5	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Ja murr sorra zorrën	I shkuan kot të gjitha planet	<i>Tërë atë punë, edhe n'fund ja murr sorra zorrën</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	In vain	Without success or a result	<i>All that work, and it was all in vain</i>

Example 6	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Ju ka ba zorra tel	Ka një kohë të gjatë pa ngrënë	<i>Ju kish ba zorra tel, me ditë nuk kish hangër</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Eat like a bird	Someone who is not eating	<i>She's been eating like a bird lately</i>

Example 7	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Nuk ka zemër	Për një person që nuk ka kurajo, ose që nuk mund të përballoj dicka të pakëndëshme.	<i>Nuk kam zemër me pa gjak</i>

	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Have no stomach for (something)	To lack the courage, determination, or resolve to do, face, or experience something unpleasant. Can also be phrased as "not have the stomach for something."	<i>I have no stomach for blood.</i>

Example 8	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Syrin e unt	Merr më shumë ushqim se sa mund të ha	<i>Ti vetëm syrin e ke të unt.</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	(One's) eyes are bigger than (one's) stomach	One has taken more food than one is actually capable of eating.	<i>My eyes are always bigger than my stomach when I see brownies</i>

Example 9	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Në prag të vdekjes	Për dikë që është shumë sëmurë	<i>Herën e fundit kur e pash, ishte në prag të vdekjes.</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	To be at death's door	Describing someone who is really sick	<i>Last time I saw the guy, he looked like he was at death's door.</i>

Example 10	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	A met si pyka në lis	Nuk di ka t'ja mbaj	<i>Prej asaj dite, është mbet si pyka n'lis</i>

	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Not know where/which way to turn	To not know what to do or who to ask for help	<i>She didn't know which way to turn, ever since that day</i>

Example 11	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Secilin lis e shkyen pyka e vet	Secili ja bën t'keqen vetes	<i>A e di cka thojn t'moqmit – secalin lis e shkyen pyka e vet</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Shoot yourself in the foot	Inadvertently make a situation worse for oneself	<i>You must stop shooting itself in the foot if it wants to get over its troubles</i>

Example 12	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Ja bën gropën vetës	Ia bën të keqen vetës	<i>Kam frikë se mos po ja bën gropën vetes bir</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Dig a hole for yourself	Get oneself into an awkward or restrictive situation	<i>I'm afraid you're digging yourself a hole</i>

Example 13	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	E hongri pykën e Dërmon Lushës / Deli Ramës	U mashtrua (si Dërman Lusha i Rahovecit kur pat blerë tokë)	<i>Same as the idiom</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Fell for the oldest trick in the book	Was deceived in a way that is well-known or has been used for a long time.	<i>Same as the idiom</i>

Example 14	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Dardhë me bisht	Kur të del dicka keq	<i>E prita ndryshe, po m'doli dardhë me bisht</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Catch 22	When the situation is so tricky that you can't find the solution	<i>This situation is starting to feel like a Catch 22</i>

Example 15	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Punë me bisht	Për një punë që s'kryhet mirë	<i>A e di cka është kjo? Kësaj i thonë punë me bisht</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Job half done	(of a job, task, project, etc) only partially completed.	<i>She sent me the assignment half done</i>

Example 16	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Punë e papunë	Për një punë që s'bëhet	<i>Pse moj bijë po t'del punë e papunë</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	To get into a mess	To get into a difficult situation	<i>Why would you get yourself in that mess</i>

4.1.3 Idioms describing financial circumstances

Similar to the two subsections above, this one provides an outline of idioms that describe financial circumstances, using the format table as explained at the beginning of this section.

Example 1	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Si qengji në drrasë	Në kushte shumë të mira	<i>Nuk e kanë problem, ata flejnë si qengji në dërrasë</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Money to burn	A large amount of money to spend	<i>They have plenty of money to burn</i>

Example 2	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	I ka punët pick/pis	Ka rënë në hall	<i>I ka punët pick tash që e la punën</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Feel the pinch	To be under financial hardship.	<i>He'll feel the pinch now since he's out of job</i>

Example 3	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	I ka qit pun't / n'ren/ n'vi/ n'dyzen	I ka rregulluar punët	<i>Këtë javë kanë me ra pun't n'vi, e sheh.</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Back on your feet	Well or successful again after being ill or having problems	<i>They're hoping they'll be back on their feet by next week</i>

Example 4	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
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	(ka) punt pus	Në gjendje të vështir	<i>Këtë vit i kish punët pus</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	To tighten your belt	You have to spend less money because you have less money than you used to have.	<i>You'll need to tighten your belt this year.</i>

Example 5	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Pus e dri	Gjendje e vështirë	<i>Shumë njerëz këtë vit janë pus e dri</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Down and out	Destitute or otherwise devoid of any resources financially.	<i>Many of people this year have been down and out</i>

Example 6	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	A metë pykë	Një gjendje të vështirë ekonomike	<i>Ish metë pykë</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Flat broke	You mean that you have no money at all.	<i>He is flat broke and on the dole.</i>

Example 7	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	I ka shti për grykë t'pushk's	Ua ka prurë ngusht	<i>M'vje keq që po ju shti për grykë t'pushkës, po s'kam zgjidhje tjetër</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English

	In a tight spot	They are in a difficult situation.	<i>I would want to put you in a tight spot but there is nothing I can do</i>
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4.1.4 Idioms describing actions (indicatives)

Both Albanian and English idioms have the ability to serve as indicatives. This subsection gives several examples illustrated in sentences as well as providing the meaning attached to these units, when used by speakers of the language (s).

Example 1	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Hyni me krye n'zjarr	I hyri problemit vetë pa menduar	<i>Janë tu hi me krye n'zjarr. Pa i pas renet kërka tu desht me pas fmi</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Jump the gun	To do something too soon, especially without thinking carefully about it	<i>They just got married - isn't it jumping the gun to be talking about kids already?</i>

Example 2	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	I shti dy durt n'zjarm	Garanton për dike me shumë siguri	<i>I shti dy durt n'zjarr për qe tradhton ai</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	You (can) bet your (sweet) life	You can be absolutely certain that something will happen.	<i>I'd bet my life that he would never cheat</i>

Example 3	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Xixë e kish ba	Shkëqlejn nga pastërtia	<i>I kam llustrue kpuct i kam ba xixë</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	(as) clean as a hound's tooth	Very clean; spotless.	<i>This house needs to be clean as a hound's tooth</i>

Example 4	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	E kanë kakarisë tërë natën	E kanë diskutaur hollë këtë çështje	<i>E kam nda mendjen. Tënë natën mbrëm e kam kakarisë këtë çështje</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Take a (long) hard look at something/somebody	To think carefully about something	<i>You should take a long hard look at the issues before committing yourself</i>

Example 5	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Ja dathi mirë e mirë	Foli hapur e pa ngurrim	<i>E ula e ja datha kejt mirë e mirë</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Put one's cards on the table	Be completely open and honest in declaring one's resources, intentions, or attitude	<i>I would have a confrontation with him and put my cards on the table</i>

Example 6	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	E bani me fol vetmevete	I bërtet dhe e largon dikë	<i>Babi i bërtiti aq shumë, sa e bani me fol vetmevete</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Send (one) away with a flea in (one's) ear	To turn one away forcefully or angrily.	<i>Dad send her away with a flea in her ear last night</i>

Example 7	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Kish fjet si kingj	Peacefully	<i>Ishte ditë e lodhshme sot. Ke me fjet si qingj</i>

	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Sleep like a baby	To experience a very deep and restful sleep; to sleep soundly.	<i>You had a long day! You're going to sleep like a baby tonight.</i>

Example 8	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Koka qu n'krah t'shmajt	Nervoz, padisponim	<i>Ke kujdes, se ishe qu n'krah t'majt sot.</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Definition of get up on the wrong side of the bed	To be in a bad mood throughout the day	<i>Be careful. He got up on the wrong side of the bed this morning</i>

Example 9	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	I vajton puna	S'e kryën punën mirë e shpejt	<i>Që sa e ke nis atë detyrë, ka nis me vajt.</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Drag (one's) tail	To deliberately work or perform slowly, sluggishly, or reluctantly; to idle rather than perform one's work or duties	<i>Stop dragging your tail on that assignment</i>

Example 10	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	I vuni maje ksaj pune	E përfundoi mirë këtë punën	<i>Më në fund, i vumë maj kësaj pune</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English

	Put an end to (something)	To stop, cease, or conclude something.	<i>I'm going to put an end to this scene</i>
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COMMANDS – IMPERATIVES

Example 1	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Me kosit n'shi	Flet kur nuk duhet	<i>E di ai, nuk kosit n'shi</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Blow the gaff	To make known a secret	<i>He's a good bloke - he wouldn't blow the gaff on us.</i>

Example 2	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Mos e hap kosishtën	Mos je shumë i hapur	<i>Mbaje sekretin e mos e hap shumë kosishtën</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Let the cat out of the bag	To allow a secret to be known, usually without intending to	<i>I was trying to keep the party a secret, but I accidentally let the cat out of the bag.</i>

Example 3	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Mbaj gojën	Kujdes cka flet – mos fol/trego më shumë se që duhet	<i>Nuk je më e vogël, besoj e di kur duhet ta mbash gojën</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Hold your tongue	Spoken used to tell someone to stop talking or to not tell someone about something	<i>I reckon you've just got to learn to hold your tongue.</i>

Example 4	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Mos më hin n'at krah	Mos hyr në atë temë	<i>Mos ja kujto se ska qef m'i hi në atë krah</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Open a can of worms	To create a complicated situation in which doing something to correct a problem leads to many more problems	<i>She doesn't want to open a can of worm</i>

Example 5	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Mos luj koce	Mos u tall, mos u mahit	<i>A je tu lujt koce me mu?</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Pulling someone's dick	To be joking /messaging with someone or not being serious.	<i>Are you pulling my dick?</i>

Example 6	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Mos e kaj kalorin	Mos i qaj hallin dikujt që i vënë punët mirë	<i>Ata i kanë punët si është më së miri, e ti ma qan kalorin.</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Take pity on (the rich)	Don't pity someone who lives in good conditions	<i>They live in a mansion, so don't go taking pity on the rich with me.</i>

Example 7	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Mos kepni pa nyje	Mos puno pa plan	<i>Mos kep pa nyje, punën bëne mirë</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English

	You need to bait the hook to catch the fish	You need to take the necessary preparations in order to do something successfully.	<i>Look, if you want to continue working here, you have to do it right – bait the hook to catch the fish</i>
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Example 8	Albanian Idiom	Meaning in Albanian	Example in Albanian
	Mos më qit kodër mas bregu	Trego drejt	<i>Mjaft m'qite kodra mas bregu, po fol ma.</i>
	Equivalent idiom in English	Meaning in English	Example in English
	Beat around the bush	To avoid giving a definite answer or position	<i>Please stop beating around the bush and tell me what's going on.</i>

4.1.5 Idioms describing intentions (wishes and curses)

A large number of idioms in English and Albanian are used to wish well upon people, or the opposite, wish ill. This subsection gives a list of examples of idioms used in both manners, and their counterpart in English, however, since these phraseological units are quite straightforward, there is no need for columns describing their meaning or illustrating their usage.

CURSES/ ILL WISHES

	Idioms in Albanian	Idioms in English
Example 1	T'kallt zjarmi i xhehnemit	May you burn in hell
Example 2	T'hangërt dreqi	Go To Hell In A Handbasket
Example 3	T'plaqinm sytë	Cry your eyes out

Example 4	Shtatqind t'hankshin	Let hell loose
Example 5	Damlla t'raft	May you be struck by lightning
Example 6	Tu tert langi nër guh	Dry up your drip
Example 7	Fryma tu daft	Shut your mouth.
Example 8	T'shtifsha n'dhe	Swim with the fish
Example 9	Toka t'lëshoft	drop dead
Example 10	Kapaki i kresë tu daft	Fall of your horse and die
Example 11	Fare dalt	May your name

WELL WISHES

Idioms in Albanian	Idioms in English
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Example 1	Hanksh me lugë t'dukatit	Eat with a silver spoon
Example 2	U bafsh plak i katunit	(May your) dreams come true
Example 3	I shkyfsh	Break a leg
Example 4	Të rroni ta gëzoni	Pat on the back
Example 5	Të rroni ta kujtoni	Live to tell

Example 6	U plakshi me një jastëk	(May you) grow old together
Example 7	T'i marrsha t'ligat	Bully for you
Example 8	Shkofsh e mos u kthefsh (në haxh)	don't come back
Example 9	Mos ju raft me harru	Better days are coming

4.2 Typology of idiom analysis

The idioms used to complete the collection of this database have been gathered from various sources. As mentioned in the introduction, this thesis uses a number of reference books, but a great majority of the English idioms were found in online data as well as dictionaries (monolingual and bilingual ones). Albanian idioms on the other hand are sourced mainly from printed dictionaries, using mainly two different ones, as well as other sources.

As it is normally the case, not all idioms in English have identic or even equivalent counterpart in Albanian, and vice-versa. In cases, where there are no equivalents whatsoever, the paper provides non-idiomatic equivalents, translated or paraphrased, as a counterpart. The one hundred plus idoms analyzed for this thesis, are sorted into categories showing their correspondence, primarily on a semantic level. Despite the fact that the typology in this thesis was influenced by a comparative interlinguistic analysis, it has been modified to accommodate the differences and individuality of the English and Albanian languages.

In the sections below, a selected number of idioms in English have been analyzed and divided into four categories (absolute equivalence, close equivalence, partial equivalence, and no equivalence), based on the equivalence they have with the Albanian idiom counterpart.

- **Absolute equivalence**

Idioms in this category include expressions with the same interpretation in both languages and have the same grammatical structure as a verbal or non-verbal idiom. The idioms that are compared in this section are similar on all three levels: semantic, lexical, and syntactic (formal).

I fortë si kalë	(as) strong as a horse
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The English idiom (*as*) *strong as a horse* with its Albanian equivalent serve as an example. The lexical means used here are identical; both idioms evidently use the same animal, and both of them belong to adjectival idioms. These idioms are syntactically, lexically, and semantically identical.

- **Close equivalence**

Kush bëhet dele, e hanë ujqit	He that makes himself a sheep shall be eaten by the wolf
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These idioms are comparable in meaning and figuration, and they correspond on a lexical level, as seen in the example above; nonetheless, they occasionally reveal subtle variances by utilizing different lexemes. In the presented example, both idioms use the animals as the main lexeme, such as: sheep and wolf, however, their syntactic structure differs.

- **Partial equivalence**

The idioms included in this group are idioms that parallel each other only on the semantic level. They either show differences in the syntactic structure or are lexically non-equivalent. This type of partial equivalence is reached in a variety of ways, such as: using different verbs, using words that are lexically different, using a different syntactic structure and so on. This study will only focus on semantics and the lexemes used

Qeni i tregoi dhëmbët e tij	The dog showed his teeth
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It should be noted, however, that not all of the aforementioned characteristics that can influence the degree of equivalence between idioms are always displayed separately for each idiom. It's not uncommon to see them together. In this research, however, the idioms are organized according to the most distinctive feature that sets the particular pair of idioms apart, even though they might fit with their properties into other categories as well.

- **Non-equivalence**

The idioms belonging to this group do not have any idiomatic equal and when used in the target language, their meaning is given by paraphrasing the expression.

Bëj punën e tjetrit	Shoot someone else's fox
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In the example above, the English idiom with the meaning “*shoot someone else's fox*”, from the research done, it has been concluded that it does not have an equivalent in Albanian. As a result, paraphrase is required to transmit the correct meaning of the idioms in this group, either from English to Albanian (as in the example above) or from Albanian to English (i.e., to use a description that is most frequently used in English–Albanian dictionaries).

The following tables present some examples of idiom equivalence between the two languages.

4.2.1 Characters and personalities idioms

Characters and personalities idioms with absolute equivalence	
As peshk as mish	Neither fish nor fowl
Characters and personalities idioms with close equivalence	
Drita e syrit	Apple of one's eye
Characters and personalities idioms with partial equivalence	
Sy të qenit	Puppy dog eyes
Characters and personalities idioms with no equivalence	
Ja kallxon zorrët e barkut	Be an open book

4.2.2 Situation idioms

Situation idioms with absolute equivalence	
Ja bën gropën vetës	Dig a hole for yourself
Situation idioms with close equivalence	
Zi e sari (mavi)	Black and blue
Situation idioms with partial equivalence	
Te sill rrethit	Beat around the bush
Situation idioms with no equivalence	
E mur zjarrmi at punë	That ship has sailed

4.2.3 Finance idioms (idioms describing financial circumstances)

Finance idioms with absolute equivalence	
Tregu i zi	Black market
Finance idioms with close equivalence	
I ka punët pick/pis	Feel the pinch
Finance idioms with partial equivalence	
Pus e dri	Down and out
Finance idioms with no equivalence	
Shtrëngo rripin (direct translation)	To tighten your belt

4.2.4 Idiomatic expressions that express wishes/curses

Absolute equivalence	
T'kallt zjarmi i xhehneimit	May you burn in hell
Close equivalence	
U plakshi me një jastëk	May you grow old together
Partial equivalence	
Tu tert langi nër guh	Dry up your drip
No equivalence	
T'kupt kupa e kresë	Die a gruesome death

4.2.5 Action idioms

Action idioms with absolute equivalence	
Ra në vesh të shurdhër	Fall on deaf ears
Action idioms with close equivalence	
Armatos deri n'fyt	Armed to the teeth
Action idioms with partial equivalence	
Syrin e unt (greedy)	Hungry eyes (sexual implications)
Action idioms with no equivalence	
Dha shpirt	Kick the bucket

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

The typology section in this paper, shows that idioms may correspond in their form but then have a rather different meaning or vice-versa. This thesis used a number of English idioms which were closely analyzed contrastively to their equivalents in Albanian. However, every so often it is problematic to explain which idioms may be viewed as equivalent, since speakers of the target language differentiate idioms and their usage in different ways.

Over a hundred English idioms were analyzed in this study, as well as their counterparts in Albanian. After consulting the various sources, the collected data shows that the primary usage of idioms, from a semantic point of view, is as euphemisms.

Considering the fact that the English phraseology has been the main subject of many researches with different objectives, whereas the Albanian phraseology has not been as often a focal point for researches, has limited the contrastive analysis of these two languages with a marginal role in the contrastive phraseology.

The results show that out of one hundred idioms analyzed, 50 are idioms used to describe traits of people, or their characters.

Furthermore, in 110 idioms describe people using animals, while when describing situations derogative connotations are used to emphasize the situation while avoiding a direct confrontation. Nouns are used as the main lexeme in a large percentage.

Based on their level of equivalence, the animal idioms collected were classified into four groups: *absolute equivalence*, *close equivalence*, *partial equivalence* and *non-equivalence*. As it can be seen in the chart above, the group of absolute equivalence contains the smallest group of idioms, thirty idioms in total, which is followed by the group of non-equivalence, containing thirty-six idioms in total, then is ranked the close equivalence group which consists fifty-five idioms in total. So, the group of partial equivalence comprises the largest number of idioms, seventy-one idioms in total.

While collecting the data from the Longman Idioms Dictionary, extra information was provided in regards to idioms that are used only in British English and idioms that are used only in the American English. Even though it was not one of the aims of this paper to divide the idioms used only in the received pronunciation with the idioms used only in the general American pronunciation, however it is a curious finding to divide them. Such a division is lacking when considering Albanian idioms, but it could be of great interest for future linguistic studies in Albanian.

During the time the data used in this thesis was collected, it was noticed that the idioms can be classified from the point of view of their construction as phrasal idioms and as sentence idioms. And that is another thing that could be of a great interest in future linguistic studies, is the division of idioms based on their construction.

So, as it can be seen in the chart given above, the vast majority of idioms are sentence idioms (idioms that consist verbs in their structure) whereas the group of phrasal idioms (idioms that do not consist verbs in their structure) comprises just a small number of them.

Another interesting result from the findings was that some English idioms and their equivalents in Albanian used nouns as the main lexeme, even if the word was not equivalent; however, there was a large number of English idioms' equivalents that consisted of a different structure all together.

While translating idioms, it seems that the best approach is considering the context and discussing the meanings in interactive conditions. Overall, language learners' who show interest in learning a language outside the classroom, seem to improve their understanding of idioms more. When learning idioms in both languages, the approach that seems to work best, is to be by living or traveling often in English (or Albanian) speaking countries, socializing with native speakers, reading in the target language and being in contact with language speakers of the target language.

This, being the final chapter, summarizes the thesis by discussing the problem statement one more time, and providing a conclusion of the main findings, elaborating the study limitations of this thesis and finally giving suggestions for further researches on this study's topic.

The two key parts that complete the aim of this study are that of the theoretical and practical part. The theoretical part covers the explanations of the basic concepts of phraseology and of contrastive studies as well. This part of the study proved to be quite beneficial, due to the fact that it served as the basic part of this research, which served for further contrastive analyses of the data collected. According to many linguists and based on previous studies, this study includes notions as: idioms, phraseological units, lexemes, idiomatic expressions.

The use of the comparative and contrastive analysis method was built on the equivalence notion between the English idioms and their equivalents in Albanian. Based on the level of equivalence, the idioms were then divided into four categories: the absolute category, close category, partial, and non-equivalent category of idioms.

The assessment of the idioms was conducted in terms of semantic connection, and then their syntactic structures were compared to the constituents' concentration on certain aspects of speech. Last but not least, the lexical aspect was taken into consideration.

The large number of idiomatic expressions in every culture, and their figurative meaning, makes them one of the hardest parts to master when learning a new language. Based on the analysis above, it is easy to deduce that, there are similarities and differences between English and Albanian idiom. However, a proper examination of idiomatic expressions in multiple languages enables a priceless understanding of the human psychology, even though they are categorized more often than not as cultural expressions. The study shows more similarities on a semantic level and less on the structure of these units.

Divided into groups according to structural and semantic characteristics, they reveal emotional, emotional, and personality traits in both languages. Synonymous units of expression occur in both languages. There are many idioms that have different vocabulary components but have the same meaning. The results of this study show that the idioms that express personality traits are usually about the same in both languages. However, it is important to note that while cross-cultural universality exists in English and Albanian, this study also shows that functions and structures are often different.

The English language comprises a large number of idioms that are used frequently in everyday

conversations. According to this research, the Albanian language also has a large number of idiomatic expressions that go unnoticed to the familiar ear. However, due to lack of research in this particular topic, and the nature of idioms in general, a study like this is delicate and very much needed.

Furthermore, the study reveals that for a number of idioms in English there were no corresponding ones in Albanian, based on the examples that the English-Albanian dictionary provided, and in cases such as those, there had to be provided either a translation or a paraphrased explanation of its meaning.

Learning expressions of another language can be difficult if a corresponding phrase is not known, understood, or even nonexistent in the native language. One can acquire a better understanding of variations in idioms nevertheless by looking at theories and thoughts about their usage and structure be that in English language as well as in Albanian language.

This part summarizes all the results of the research. This thesis carried out an analysis, aiming analyze English idioms and their equivalents in Albanian; focusing on their similarities and differences in three different aspects: semantic, syntactic and lexical aspect.

To truly complete such an analysis, we needed to find out what an idiom was, its characteristics and its specific function. All idiom definitions in this research are based on monolingual and bilingual dictionaries, as well as numerous linguistic publications on the topic.

By collecting and closely studying approximately 120 idioms (in total), one can witness the resemblances between English and Albanian speakers, especially in terms of culture and mindset. Thus, one can deduct that those idiomatic expressions in general embody universal features and characteristics, even in cases when they include unique descriptions in other languages, since their flexibility of universals across cultures stays present and consistent, in almost all cultures or nations.

In particular, the outcomes of this study come as result of all the preceding studies in regards to idiom comprehension. After collecting the satisfactory number of English idiom and its equivalent from the Albanian corpus, each idiom pair was divided into four major categories in terms of the level of equivalence. According to the data collected, the survey found more

than 200 English idioms, but analyzed only 110 English idioms and their equivalent Albanian.

Firstly, English animal idioms and their equivalents in Albanian were classified according to the semantic attributions and their usage. As for the equivalence levels, the group with the smaller number appears to be that of absolute equivalent idioms.

However, the surprising result of this analysis was the number of idioms used to represent personality and human traits. In this regard, an interesting question to consider in future research is why and why certain idioms are more similar than other idioms.

The second hypothesis resulted to be true as well considering the fact that from the semantic point of view, the majority of idioms refer to difficult situations. A large number of English animal idioms and their equivalents in Albanian are used to describe feelings, but some of them are used to describe financial situations, some of them refer to activities and serve as advices, and on the other hand a great number of English idioms are used to describe behaviors while in Albanian a number of idioms express wishes and curses as well.

6.1 Suggestions for further studies

As it has been stated previously throughout this thesis, idioms are essential to every language and culture. A study like this, is able to show only a fragment of their importance and relevance. To examine their impact more carefully, further research is needed, especially when considering mythological choices which affect any study. In addition, further research is needed to further investigate the cultural impact of idioms on their understanding and their exposure to language.

Researchers are recommended to further elaborate the findings in this research and deal with similar topics in future studies. Considering the importance of idioms in language comprehension and language learning, teachers, professors and linguists of both languages (Albanian and English) are suggested to pay more attention to idioms and advised to research more on the connection of language learning and idioms.

Also, this study suggests Albanian researchers to analyze the Albanian idioms and their equivalents in English in a semantic, and lexical point of view, however not in syntactic point of view considering the fact that these two languages share different grammar rules. In order to further increase and enrich studies in the large field of phraseology, this study invites future linguists to study and take different approaches, from both languages, on this topic.

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