IDIOMS AND IDIOMATIC PHRASES AND EXPRESSIONS USED IN TRAVELLING AND TOURISM

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Abstract: This paper aims at focusing on idioms and expressions related to travelling and tourism and attempts to show a fresh look at the idiomatic phrases that make English the rich and intriguing language that it is. A corpora from both monolingual and bilingual dictionaries will be selected. The theoretical instruments of analysis will lead me in the investigation of the linguistic and lexical pattern of idioms and idiomatic phrases and will help me identify the way these words and expressions are reflected in idiomatic language. Having these goals as a background the paper is focused on developing a practical direction which will include a list of idioms related to travelling meant to be an useful tool for students and teachers of English, both at university level and for English as a second language as well as for anyone interested in the more colourful side of the English language.

Keywords: idioms, practical direction, research, fresh look at

Introduction

Among figures of speech, idioms represent a set expression of two or more words that means something other than the literal meaning of its individual words. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary[1], an idiom " is a phrase or sentence whose meaning is not clear from the meaning of its individual words and which must be learnt as a whole unit" (p.616). The meaning of the idioms can be sometimes understood by looking the words up in a dictionary and using some common sense and imagination and the context of the phrase. Makkai[2] divides idioms into two categories:

Idioms of encoding (identifiable) which are those idiosyncratic lexical combinations that have transparent meaning involving collocational preferences and restrictions.

Idioms of decoding (non-identifiable) refer to those non-identifiable and misleading lexical expressions whose interpretations could not be comprehended on the basis of only learning linguistics connectors. (e.g. *to beat about the bush).*

Idioms has swiftly proven to raise controversies due to their versatility and unpredictable behaviour. To learn a language a person needs to learn the words in that language and how and when to use them. But people also need to learn idioms separately because certain words together or at certain times can have different meanings.

Knowledge of these idioms would be useful to all English speakers who are planning to spend some time travelling or working in Britain as the saying goes: „when in Rome do as Romans do". Given the nature of this study namely to capture the way connotations attributed to travelling are reflected in idiomatic expressions the present paper is referred to a wide variety of sources. Miscellaneous information will be correlated from academic and non-

[1] p.616
[2] Idiom Structure in English, Janua Linguarum, Series ,Maior, 1972, p. 23

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academic reviews, websites, travel brochures, etc. English is a versatile language and tourism and travelling English is no exception, but there is a real challenge for students and those who need to practice translation of some idioms or idiomatic expressions related to travel and tourism.

Practical direction- a list of idioms /idiomatic expressions/common phrases related to travelling

In the section below I provide a list of some common English phrases used by travellers which will assist you in developing your vocabulary in a wide variety of possible travel-related situations:

Verbs& phrasal verbs

to drop somebody off-to let somebody exit your car at a specific time
to give somebody a lift- to drive somebody to a specific place
to thumb a lift- to hitch-hike
to pick somebody up- to collect at a specific time
to get away- to leave, to fo on holiday
to stop over- to change your flight
to steal a ride- to travel without paying for your ticket
to hit the road-to begin a journey
to put up feet- to relax
to broaden the mind-to help you to understand and accept other people's beliefs, customs, etc.
to have itchy feet- the desire to go somewhere new
to go off the beaten track- you have deviated from the route that most people take to follow a more adventurous path
to see somebody off- to say goodbye at airport/station
check-in- register at a hotel
check-out- leave/pay the hotel
to set out- to start a journey
to drop somebody off- to let somebody exit your car at a specific place
to ride the rails-to travel by railway train, trolley, etc.
to pound the pavement- to travel on foot, to walk or to run
to go to the dogs- declined in quality(it used to be good but now it is bad)
to break the bank restaurant- a restaurant where you spend a lot of money
to live out of suitcase- to be away from home
to travel light- to take very little luggage with when you travel
to run the sights- to go sightseeing
to be out of this world (a place)- a very good/beautiful place
to go round the houses- a very complicated route that requires a lot of time; to g to a lot of places before reaching your destination
to paint the town red- to go out and have a good time
to fall short of my expectations (time/holiday, etc)- not as good as expected by someone
to go native- dress and act like the native inhabitants
to have the run of the place- to be able to move around some place whenever and wherever one desires

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to leave/go somewhere bag and baggage- to leave/go somewhere with all your possessions

to endeavour to give its guests the best – to meet the client's requirements

to greet someone with open arms- to make somebody welcome

to cross-to travel a very large sea

to go trekking- to do a long and difficult walk in a place far from towns and cities.

to fly the eagle- to brag about one's country

to hit the bull's eye- to satisfy a specific taste or desire

to shake the dust of this town one's feet- to leave a place that you don't like at once

to wait on hand and foot- to meet the client's requirements

to be steeped in many traditions—to folllow ideas and methods that have existed for a long time and continue in the same way

to put you in a good mood- to relax you

to tak e off (the plane)- go into the air

to be on a sea cruise- to sail slowly, especially for pleasure

to receive positive reviews- to get reviews that praised it a lot

make for- head for

to pack up- to put things into cases, bags, etc

to short change somebody- to cheat somebody by not giving him the correct money in change

to go out of somebody's way- to do everything possible so that someone has a pleasant stay.

to go/to move/to travel at a good clip-very rapidly

to go/to move/to travel a mile a minute- very fast

to travel through something- 1.to make a journey through some area or country

2.to make a journey through some kind of weather conditions.

to be just the ticket- to describe something that is exactly what you want

to trek- 1. to travel (to migrate) slowly or with difficulty

2.(South Africa) to travel by an ox wagon (a four-wheeled vehicle pulled by oxen).

Noun phrases

slack/dull/dead season-weaker/less active season

jetsetter-a person who regularly flies to one place or another

banana belt-a segment of a larger geographic region that have warmer weather conditions than the region as a whole, especially in winter

backpacking-the activity of travelling for pleasure, usually with not much money and who walks or uses public transport and carries a backpack.

high/peak season-the busiest part of it

festive season- Christmas and New Year's Eve period

season ticket- a ticket that allows you to make a lot of journeys during a particular period

globetrotter- a person who spends a lot of time travelling to many different countries

the foot of a mountain/cliff- the lowest/bottom part of it

must-see place- a place that is so good, interesting, exciting that you think people should see it

panoramic view-the whole area that you can see from somewhere,especially when it is beautiful or impressive

day trip-a visit to an interesting place when you go there and come back the same day

grey nomads- often retired couple with a caravan

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scenic route- a road that goes through an area of natural beauty such as mountains
long-haul- travelling a long distance
seal legs- the ability to travel by ship without becoming seasick.
shank-nag- to travel on foot
cut-price budget airlines- very cheap airlines
culture shock- confusion or anxiety that travellers experience in a different country
picking-hole tourist- a turist that is always complaining about unimportant things
tourist-trap- a place that is is a very good location to attract tourists but it is overpriced and generally provides poor service
a whistle-stop tour- visiting a lot of places in a short period of time
a real henhouse hotel- a dirty, uncomfortable hotel which is usually very cheap
in the middle of nowhere- very isolated area
in the back of beyond place- very remote from any towns or villages untouched by people
backseat driver- a passenger in a car who insists on giving the driver directions or offering unsolicited advice
busman's holiday- a vacantion in which somebody is doing the same thing he does when he works
land of milk and honey- utopia, perfect place where there is plenty of goods
top notch- of the highest category
baggage car – the part of a train where boxes, bags are carried
baggage reclaim- the place at the airport where you collect your cases/bags after a flight
independent holiday – without calling the service of a travel agency
bed and breakfast hotel-a private house or a small hotel where you can sleep and have breakfast
hostel- a very cheap hotel where people can stay for a short time while they are travelling
as the crow flies- by the shortest and most direct route
at the best of hand- lowest price, all facilities included
at every hand- everywhere
many places to wander- many place to roam/to stroll
healing natural spring- a place where water comes up naturally from the ground used for curing some diseases
a natural lido- an outdoor public areas, often at a beach, lake, etc for swimming and lying in the sun
hustle and and bustle simply melts- to be far away from a busy and noisy activity
sightseer- a tourist who is visiting a famous or interesting place
tourist class- the cheapest standard of travelling conditions on a plane, ship, etc
touristry- a place that is full of tourists and the things that attract the tourists (used to show disapproval)
tour-operator- a company that arranges travel tours
on offer- available to be bought, chosen, used
the ideal place to recharge your batteries- the ideal place to get back your strength and energy again
sweeping views over the valleys- along curved of valleys or area of land
afficionado- someone who is very interested in a particular activity/subject and knows a lot about it
a lodge- a house or a hotel in the country or mountains where people can stay when they want to go hunting, shooting, etc.
lookout terrace-a place to watch from
cottage- a small house in the country
mansion- a very large house

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terraced house- a house which is part of a row of houses that are joined together
chateau- a castle or a large country house in France
budget flights, airlines- specially low prices
far-off- a long way from you are
at the plinth- a square block , usually made of stone that is used as a base for a pillar or a statue
thoroughfare- the main road through a place such a city or a village
no thoroughfare- a written sign used to tell people that they cannot go on a particular road or path.
pedestrian crossing – a specially marked place for people to walk across the road
pedestrianize-to change a street or a shopping area so that cars and trucks are no longer allowed
mainland-the main area of land that forms a country, as compared to islands near it that are also part of that country
inland- an area which is not near the cost or in a direction away from the coast and towards the centre of a country
cut-throat prices- very competitive ones
at a stone's throw- very near to something
when in Rome do as the Romans do- you should adjust to your surroundings in order to live like the local people do.
in a body- as a group of people, as a group, in a group.
dog days of summer-those hottest, dampest, worst days of a hot summer
Indian summer-the period after summer and it starts to cool off in the fall, if it gets nice and warm again for a week.
flight of fancy- an impractical idea
price conscious travellers- travellers that are on the road for longest spans of time, with the tightest budgets
Nordic walking- a total body version of walking that can be enjoyed both by non-athletes as a health promoting physical activity and it is performed with specially designed walking poles.
Blue Flag award- a certification by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) that a beach /marina or a sustainable boating tourism operator meets its stringent standards.
wellness travel- travelling for the purpose of promoting health and well-being through physical , psychological or spiritual activities.
Bleisure traveller- a professional who is refraining the all-work and no-fun kind of business trip by mixing them with vacation time.
Hipster holiday- which follows the latest trends and fashions, especially those outside the cultural mainstream.

Conclusion

The meaning of the idioms can be sometimes understood by looking the words up in a dictionary. Finding idioms in a general dictionary is a slow and laborious task so it is hoped that this list of idioms and idiomatic phrases and expressions used in travelling and tourism will provide assistance in a practical way. It has been observed that native English speaking professors use idiomatic expressions when teaching in EFL/ESL classrooms having an important impact on academic performance. This paper represents an important practical tool due to the scarcity of research in this field of idioms and English-Romanian linguistics. It is based upon a based analysis that covers an established corpus of travelling idiomatic expressions phrases in both English and Romanian. The idiom and idiomatic phrases

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present troublesome expressions that cannot be translated word by word, that's why they must be given in a special dictionary as ready-made expressions with their translation; otherwise they bring to typical language mistakes to misunderstandings due to their apparent similarity in their structure.

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