Teaching Idioms Through Etymology - With Reference to The Bible

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Abstract

Idioms are one of the important aspects of the English language. An Idiom is a phrase or a fixed expression that has figurative and literal meanings. Idioms teach about customs and gives worldly knowledge. Teaching idioms is a challenging task. Etymology is the history or origin of words with the help of which teaching idioms becomes relevant. Since idioms are culture bound, it is available across all languages. Teaching idioms by explaining the etymological background helps learners, particularly, L2 learners learn usages and to understand meanings. Idioms have its origin from literature, the Bible, fables, sports, animals, etc. Biblical references play a significant role in today’s English. The idiomatic expressions found in the Bible enrich the English language. The paper focuses on teaching biblical idioms with the help of etymology.