Spring 5-2013

# What's Love Got to Do with It? A Content Analysis of English and Spanish Idiomatic Expressions

Allie R. Solomon
*University of Southern Mississippi*

Follow this and additional works at: https://aquila.usm.edu/honors_theses

Part of the Arts and Humanities Commons

Recommended Citation

Solomon, Allie R., "What's Love Got to Do with It? A Content Analysis of English and Spanish Idiomatic Expressions" (2013). *Honors Theses*. 178.
https://aquila.usm.edu/honors_theses/178

The University of Southern Mississippi


What's Love Got to Do with It? A Content Analysis

of English and Spanish Idiomatic Expressions


by


Allie R. Solomon


A Thesis

Submitted to the Honors College of

The University of Southern Mississippi

in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirement for the Degree of

Bachelor of Arts

in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures


May 2013

Approved By

_____

Laurel Abreu

Assistant Professor of Spanish

_____

Leah Fonder-Solano

Department of Foreign Languages

and Literatures

_____

David R. Davies, Dean

Honors College

Abstract


Idiomatic expressions are figurative in nature and vary from language to language, offering valuable insight toward understanding cultural connotations concerning the topics expressed.  This study focused on idiomatic expressions that contain the word "love" or its grammatical variants found in the English and Spanish languages.  The aim of this study was to conduct a qualitative analysis of these idiomatic expressions in order to identify cultural connotations, insight, and patterns regarding the communication of love within these expressions.  A sample population of these expressions was obtained from a collection of available idiom and phrasal dictionaries and books written in English and Spanish.  The data were analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively according to the meaning, the type of love, and semantic fields represented within the sources examined.  As a result, this study contributes to the field of cross-linguistic idiom analysis by revealing how love is communicated in these colloquial expressions among English and Spanish speakers. Further, it attempted to provide insight toward cultural similarities and differences in how love is expressed within these language-bound constructs.


Key Words: idiom, idiomatic expression, English, Spanish, love, types of love, culture, figurative language

Acknowledgements

I would like to take a moment to thank my thesis advisor, Laurel Abreu, for her tireless efforts in mentoring me during the process of completing this study.  This piece of work would not have been possible had it not been for her meticulous care and consideration toward my success.  Thank you for your belief in me.

Additionally, I would also like to pay special thanks to the faculty of The Honors College.  During my four years at the Hattiesburg campus of The University of Southern Mississippi, I was blessed with their support and guidance that was truly second to none I have ever experienced.  To Stacey, Paula, Johnell, Sonya, and Dean Davies, I will always treasure the impact you have made in my life. I love you and thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Table of Contents

## List of Tables

**Chapter 1: Introduction**

From culture to culture, the communicative tool of language serves as the vehicle

of expressive thought within concrete and abstract knowledge, conventions of lexical

construction, and concepts specific to each culture's unique microcosm of

communication. According to Boroditsky (2011), the shaping of various "constructions

of reality" is a mechanism that is indigenously rooted and supported within each culture's

language (p. 62). Further, the assembly of particular words and expressions stemming

from one's culture or language is called "realia," as Bulgarian scholars Vlahov and Florin

(1969) coined the phrase in their translation study. According to Vlahov and Florin,

realia constitutes the following:

> Words (and composed expressions) of the popular language representing
> denominations of objects, concepts, typical phenomena of a given
> geographic place, of material life or of social-historical peculiarities of
> some people, nation, country, tribe, that for this reason carry a national,
> local or historical color; these words do not have exact matches in other
> languages. (p. 438)

Thus, language is the key to understanding vital components and perceptions inherent to

the culture the language represents. Additionally, this follows that there are unique sets

of world views from what can be said to be "coined" from a specific language within the

varying linguistic forms.

One of the unique ways in which realia are revealed is in the form of a language's

idiomatic expressions (Marzocchi, 2010). Deriving from the Greek word *idioma,*

meaning "peculiar phraseology," as indicated in the foreword by Boatner, Gates, &

American School for the Deaf (1966), it is these expressions which form the object of

study in this thesis. Known for their colorful and idiosyncratic nature, idiomatic

expressions have been coined as "the spice of language," "the soul of language," "the wild creatures of our talk," and even "gypsy phrases of our language" (Boatner et al., 1966, p. 3). With such creativity within idiomatic expressions, there is also much variety concerning the topics which are expressed. As Mustonen (2010) has noted, idiomatic expressions are a staple of daily use of a language, offering insight into the routine conventions and majority perceptions of the language's speakers for various topics. Because of this significance, as Brenner (2003) relayed, idioms play a crucial societal role within the culture of the language in which they are found. Thus, idiomatic expressions provide an opportunity to glimpse into the culture of a language and reveal differences across cultures regarding certain topics because of this characteristic.

Many sources have attempted to define the term "idiomatic expression," however, several variations exist. Therefore, there is much interpretation of the definition of the term "idiomatic expression." A definition provided by Mustonen (2010) states that "Idioms are generally defined as language-specific expressions which usually carry a non-literal meaning that can be very different from the literal meaning of the expression" (p. 28). Additional definitions for idiomatic expressions will be discussed in the literature review of this thesis. For the purposes of this study, a collective definition of the sampled idiomatic expressions within this study includes figurative coined phrases, varying from a couple of words to full sentences, whose meanings are not literal from their component words. As discussed in the methodology section of this paper, the population of expressions was obtained from idiom and phrasal dictionaries and books

which explicitly state where an idiom is referenced in an attempt to ensure that the sample collected contains only idiomatic expressions.

As Brenner (2003) indicated, "There are idioms for nearly every occasion, life situation, and human activity and emotion—birth, death, work, play, success, failure, love, time, money, and so on" ("An Introduction to Idioms"). Following this, the occasion selected for this study was that of love. As Hatfield and Jungsik (2004) have attested, love takes more than a single form because of the variety of emotions and relationships that exist (p. 179). Additionally, the variable of culture plays a role by affecting how people express love and the varying relationships which stem from it, as Braudel argued (as cited in Hatfield & Jungsik, 2004, p. 175). Hatfield and Rapson (2011) supported this idea in their introduction, when they declared the following: "...despite its universality, culture has been found to have a profound impact on people's definitions of passionate love…" (p. 1). Lastly, Hatfield and Rapson (2000) have looked to the aid of cross-cultural researchers, anthropologists, and historians and have found that each of these authoritative sources point out that cultural variability affects how common the feelings of love are expressed. Therefore, elements within the language speaker's culture and realm of influence can inspire different ways in which love is articulated. Different elements of society and culture may be represented in idiomatic expressions which include love, hence the connection between idioms, culture, and how love may be expressed.

The aim of this study was to conduct a cross-linguistic content analysis of English and Spanish idiomatic expressions in which the word "love" and its grammatical

variants—verb tenses, nouns, adjectives, adverbs, and gerunds—appear, in an attempt to draw conclusions surrounding how love is communicated within these respective language forms and cultures. For example, while some idioms represent romantic or parental love, others include the word "love" or any of its variants, yet express a content and scope separate from the topic of love. Additionally, the types of love, where present, within the idiomatic expressions for this study were categorized as follows: parental love, romantic/passionate love, compassionate love, and other. Variation in semantic fields present within these expressions provided insight into the content of the expression when mentioning love as well as reveal cultural connotations or patterns surrounding what types of love are expressed by each language. Topics unrelated to love can reflect realia within each language's idiomatic expressions, as well as distinctive cultural identities and beliefs. While there exists the universality of expressing human compassion and associated emotions involved in attraction and our relationships to others (Boroditsky, 2011), love and other facets of life are uniquely influenced and shaped within the constructs of language and the presence of the culture in which the language is spoken.

This area of research contributes valuable insight into the nature of translation and the figurative structure and uniqueness of languages, specifically between English and Spanish idiomatic expressions. Additionally, the present study's findings offer an approach to understanding and evaluating cultural perceptions and attitudes revealed through a language's idiomatic expressions, both about the concept of love and about other content encoded within English and Spanish idiomatic expressions in which the word "love" is present. Not only does the study offer an analysis of the differing

conventions and connotations through which the concept of love is expressed in colloquial speech, but the research also allows for language interpretation on a cultural level in order to further the enrichment of language acquisition and differing cultural perspectives.

The following section of the thesis includes a description of prior research related to this study, as well as indications of how this study is different or similar in nature. It explores the definition of idiomatic expressions, the nature of idioms as expressions of culture, and history of research. The study's research questions and accompanying hypothesis can be found at the end of this section.

**Chapter 2: Review of the Literature**

*Definition of Idiomatic Expression*

All languages carry their own set of idiomatic expressions. There are various definitions for the term "idiomatic expression," or "idiom," and it is important to signify these defining dimensions in order to identify what constitutes an idiomatic expression. Additionally, the given conceptual and operational meanings of idioms facilitate the understanding of the information contained within the message of a language's idioms. Tang's (2007) study covering English and Chinese idiomatic expressions involving food names, utilized the American Heritage Online Dictionary's definition of an idiom as "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" (p. 92). Ghafel, Eslami Rasekh, and Pazhakh (2011), in their study about English and Persian idiomatic expressions involving words related to sewing, incorporated the Webster Dictionary definition of idiomatic expressions, which states "idioms, proverbs, slang, famous quotations and other fixed expressions" can be termed as idiomatic expressions (p. 160). Whereas the definition from the American Heritage Online Dictionary supports that the content within an idiomatic expression is specific to a distinctive language, the Webster Dictionary approaches the definition by providing different types of figures of speech that fall under the category of idiomatic expressions.

It is important to discuss the definitions of idiomatic expressions offered in the books from which the sample of this study was taken as well. These definitions, where present, are expressed below.

"...those countless expressions which everyone uses, which usually evade the normal rules of grammar, and which often have implications quite unconnected with the normal meanings of the words themselves." - *A Concise Dictionary of English Idioms* (Freeman & Phythian, 1976).

"...a mode of expression or a form of speech peculiar to a language or dialect, and is not usually susceptible to grammatical analysis. Individual languages have a native cast, with a structure peculiar to each, with fixed modes of expression which must not be violated....However, idiom defies the rules and its usage depends on the habit of observing words and how they are combined." - *A Dictionary of Idioms for the Deaf* (Boatner, Gates, & American School for the Deaf, 1966, III).

"...a combination of words with a special meaning that cannot be inferred from its separate parts." - *The Penguin Dictionary of English Idioms* (Gulland & Howell, 1986, p. 5).

"An idiom is a set phrase of two or more words that means something different of the language.... Often defying the rules of logic, they pose great difficulties for non-native speakers....the true test of an idiom is whether it changes meaning when rendered word for word in another language." - *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms* (Ammer, 2003).

"A phrase or sentence linked to a meaning that is different from the literal meanings of its component words...." - *McGraw-Hill's American Idioms Dictionary* (Spears, 2007, "What is an Idiom"). "Idiomatic refers to the way a

phrase is linked to a unique meaning rather than to the literal meaning of its

components." (Spears, 2007, "Slang vs. Idiom").

*Nature of Idioms as Culture Vehicles*

The nature of idiomatic expressions, though supported by the language's conventions,

is largely motivated by the culture in which it has been derived. Thus, it is valid to study

the cultural connotations concerning how love is expressed in Spanish and English

idioms. Tang (2007) communicated that the metaphorical interpretation of idiomatic

expressions is anchored by a language's constructs. What this means is that it may be

confusing to others outside the language (and therefore, culture) to understand the

figurative nature of the expressions. As such, this is the case in which expressions that

contain the word "love" may not refer to the same type of love in another culture because

of the context of how it is used. Simultaneously, there is extensive data to support that

the key distinguishable feature about the nature of idiomatic expressions is their innate

link and determination by the culture in which they are found (Tang, 2007). Ivanovska

and Groszeler (2011), in a study on German idioms that include animal names, drew

attention to the relationship between idiomatic expressions and culture in the following

words:

> "[Idioms] are also interesting to study because of the insight they give us into the
> language and the people who use them. These expressions originate in the
> history, literature, religion, and traditions typical of a certain community. For this
> reason, idioms reveal much of the way of thinking of a community." (p. 28)

Thus, while idioms pose a linguistic challenge in effectively interpreting one language's idioms compared to those of another, the more significant challenge is the cultural challenge (Ghafel et al., 2011, p. 160).

Idioms are categorized as cultural expressions. Whereas some scholars suggest categorizing idiomatic expressions as "culture-loaded," (Ghafel et al., 2011, p. 161), others utilize the phrase "culture bound" (Strugielska & Alonso, 2005, p. 1), but both characterizations fall under the phrase "culture specific" by Eftekhari (2008) in his briefing of idiomatic translation. Sharifi (2012) used the phrasing "culture-dependent structures" to describe idioms, while adding the remark that they are mostly language-specific in her study on figurative use of animal names in Kurdish idioms (p. 7). Thus, culture is argued to be the driving force behind idiomatic expressions, shedding light on the frequency and prevalence of idiomatic expressions used in languages on a daily basis. This study will focus on identifying the culture of how idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" are used in each language and what they express.

Even though cultures are unique to nations and people, and thus, to language, the mutability of universalities across cultures remains present, as in the case of the universal human emotion of love. Because of this, similarities in how things are expressed from one language to another exist, as in the example of one idiomatic expression in one language having been identically incorporated into the set of idiomatic expressions for another. From the results of this study, there are identical idiomatic expressions that occur in Spanish and English. However, the purpose of this study does not seek to discern why similar idiomatic expressions occur in English and Spanish. The "fundamental dimensions of human experience: time, causality, and relationships to

9

others" that are shared among cultures, as stated by Boroditsky (2011), provides one source of explanation as to why there are similar expressions in each. In her study, Boroditsky mentioned that a new realm of theories prevailed during the 1970s which argued for the existence of a universality of thought, but also that the degree of this uniformity of thought within a culture may contribute to explaining the break in universality cross-culturally. This study does not seek to identify a uniformity of thought within each language, however. While universalities cross-culturally exist, they may not be expressed in the same fashion or function in idiomatic expressions.

*History of Research*

The universality that this thesis aimed to study is that of love through the cultural analysis of how the appearance of the word "love" and its grammatical variants are used within Spanish and English idiomatic expressions. Torop's work on translation science stated that language can become synonymous with culture via the nature of synecdoche, in which simultaneous understanding occurs when referencing a part to the whole (as cited in Osimo, 2008, Language, Culture, Translation section). That author found that the appearance of certain over-encompassing themes, when present in phrases, aids in the translation of the expression and understanding of cultural beliefs during second language acquisition. Though the present study does not focus on the translation of foreign language expressions, the use of context clues by means of identifying semantic fields represented in the expressions becomes an apparent aid as mirrored by Torop's work (as cited in Osimo, 2008, Language, Culture, Translation section). Following this principle, this study sought to identify English and Spanish idiomatic expression—the whole—on

10

the premise of the appearance of the word "love" or its variants—the part. Then, the culture of how love is used and represented in these expressions in both languages could be explored according to this method. However, there were no indications of any previous studies that revolved around a content analysis of idiomatic expressions which were selected based on the presence of one singular word.

There are many studies, however, in which key words within a unifying topic have been used to compare idioms and other types of expressions within a language and across languages. Thus, this method does not isolate one term. Rather, it embodies a broad scope of ideas or terms which are related to the proposed topic at hand. This research design has been employed in studies involving several topics. For example, in Leung (2009), English and Cantonese idioms involving body parts were analyzed with the aim of distinguishing the linguistic and conceptual similarities and differences unique to each language's expressions. Further, that study included a long discourse on the definition of idioms, idiom acquisition of foreign language students, the processes of human cognition, and recommendations on how to lead idiom instruction for foreign language pedagogy. The present study utilized Leung's design of defining the term 'idiomatic expression' across several dictionaries in order to arrive at an operational definition. However, it did not focus on idiom acquisition or the obstacles that impede this process, as this was not the motivation of the present study. In Leung's study (2009), it was concluded that the appearance of certain body parts were largely represented across both languages yet they differed in the contexts surrounding the meanings of these expressions, signifying the uniqueness of each language's cultural ways of expressing

involving these terms.  The present study was guided by this feature by incorporating the use of semantic fields in order to relate to the cultural characteristics of the usage of love.

Other topics that have served as the basis of idiomatic expression studies include the presence of animal names in various languages.  For example, Sharifi (2012) studied the figurative use of animal names in Kurdish idioms within a specific dialect compared to English and Persian equivalent expressions.  Results from that study indicated that in most cases, there was no sign of an animal name present among the English equivalent expression.  In other cases, there were animal names but not necessarily the same animals represented in the equivalent meaning of the expression when it was common in both languages.  Sharifi concluded that the frequency of idioms which included animal terms signified the importance that animals play in the Kurdish people's culture.  In the present study, the frequency of the idioms in Spanish and English which include the word "love" or its variants were recorded.  However, as this number only reflected a sample population from a limited number of texts, it could not be used as a means of clearly drawing a distinction toward the significance love plays in both cultures.

The interests of studies that have been designed to select idiomatic expressions based on a common theme of identification vary across the board.  In De Toffol (2011) kinship terms (i.e. mother, father, brother, uncle, etc.) served as the identifier for conducting a contrastive analysis within culturally loaded phraseological units present in English and Spanish.  In Ghafel et al. (2011) idiomatic expressions were selected due to their inclusion of terms relating to a sewing frame.  In other studies, colors and food names have also served as the basis of comparing idiomatic expressions between two or more languages.  However, this thesis did not seek to compare idiomatic expressions

based on the appearance of categorical items, and that is where it differs from the design of most studies. Additionally, it did not attempt to locate equivalents as a means of coding and selection, for similarities and differences were drawn from the available sample that came directly from the texts. However, a common theme among most of the idiomatic expressions studies involves the importance of communicating the culturally descriptive nature that idiomatic expressions reflect, in some form or fashion, about the language in which those expressions are found.

While studies involving content analysis on idiomatic expressions across two languages have been conducted, there are several variations that differ from the aim of this thesis yet encompass the topic of love. In Kalyuga and Harbus's study (2007), the noun *love* and verb *to love* were the codes to research the "semantic shifts and patterns of polysemy" (p. 95), and the samples were taken from Russian and English dictionaries and texts of different eras. The data were analyzed according to the era of the text's origin and corresponding cultural attitudes and behaviors concerning the conceptual definitions of love during those time periods. The design of the present study relied on the semantic fields present within the expression in order to draw relations to the nature of the way love was expressed and the cultural connotations that could be derived from the usage and expression of love. Also, the meaning of the idiom helped identify whether a type of love was expressed, and if so, which type according to the selected categories. Another study involving love and a comparison of idiomatic expressions across cultures is Strugielska and Alonso (2005), in which idiomatic expressions from English, Polish, and Spanish were selected for the sample based on the premise of coding texts containing emotional and physical responses to fear and love (Strugielska & Alonso, 2005).

Studies about the nature of love, types of love, and cultural identities surrounding the nature of love have also provided valuable background information to aid in the design of this thesis. In Bergner and Hegi (2010), participants of the study were presented with four types of love—romantic, parental, compassionate, and altruistic—and charged them with rating the essential characteristics about each type concerning what must be present for each. As a result, the authors were motivated to contribute knowledge toward the nature of love and people's concepts of various types of love. Those authors revealed that they felt compelled to conduct a study which focused on people's perceptions of different types of love due to the following supposition: "It is an observable commonplace that people use concepts that embody criteria they are unable to articulate" (p. 622), as in the examples of time, personality, and humor. The study also aimed to identify love as an essentialist concept rather than prototypical, as previous studies have been designed to identify love as purely prototypical. Bergner and Hegi had also asked participants to supply preferred features of relationships that stem from these types of love, but which are not necessarily essential. They had found that an "investment in the well-being of the other for his or her own sake" (Bergner & Hegi, 2010, p. 633) was an essential feature in all types of love and that love was categorized as an essentialist concept rather than a prototypical one, meaning that certain criteria needed to be satisfied that distinguished each form of love from one another. Further, it was remarked that love can be conceived as a term which spans across a diverse set of relationships, which differ in their form based on the combinations of the factors of intimacy, compassion, and commitment.

Bergner and Hegi's (2010) study informed the method of the present study by supplying types of love that could be used to categorize the types of love expressed in this sample's English and Spanish idiomatic expressions. As a result, "parental love," "romantic love," and "compassionate love" were selected as a means of coding for the idiomatic expressions contained in this study. Though no set definition of these terms was provided due to the nature of the study having required the participants to subjectively rate essential characteristics for each type of love, these terms serve the purpose of this thesis as each one can be considered to be mutually exclusive from the other one. Further, "romantic love" was ultimately re-titled as "romantic/passionate love" in order to draw distinction from "compassionate love," which is not romantic or sexual in nature but more concerned with the welfare of another. "Altruistic love" was not selected as a method of coding in order to serve two purposes. The first was to avoid confusion between it and "compassionate love," and the second was to more clearly provide a distinction between it and "passionate love." The remaining category for type of love selected for this thesis is "other," based on the contexts represented by the idiomatic expressions within this study. Each form of love is clarified in the methodology section of this study.

In other studies by Hatfield and various colleagues, the distinction between "passionate love" and "companionate love" and the factors that contribute to various culture's perceptions and inclinations for each were examined. In Hatfield and Rapson (2000), it was noted that psychologists distinguish between two types of love, passionate vs. compassionate, in romantic relationships. Whereas the former embodies an "intense longing for union," involving tenderness and sexuality, the latter encompasses a less

intense, yet affectionate attachment and concern for one's well-being (p. 898). For the purposes of this study it is not necessary to distinguish between types of romantic relationships, and thus these two terms are not utilized according to this context. Further, in Hatfield and Rapson (2000), it was remarked that scientists once assumed passionate love was not a cultural universal and was merely a western phenomenon (p. 898). Though, most scientists and people today would argue that it is a "pan-human characteristic" as Jankowiak had stated (as cited in Hatfield & Rapson, 2000, p.898).

Thus there have been many studies about idiomatic expressions, culture as it relates to idiomatic expressions, and love and culture. Throughout the majority of the studies, the researchers have made it a point to highlight the significance idiomatic expressions bear in communicating characteristics and features of the specific culture in which that language is found. Idiomatic expression studies have been conducted across languages where the idiom was selected based on the appearance of a category of words from a specific theme. In many of these cases, the idioms were collected from dictionaries. Further, love has been studied within idiomatic expression research as well as research related to the concepts of love and how it may be expressed and perceived differently from one culture to another. All of these reasons contributed to the present study's design of researching idiomatic expressions that were selected based on the appearance of "love" or a grammatical variant, from dictionaries and phrasal books in the English and Spanish languages. Based on the previous work related to this topic, the following research questions and accompanying hypotheses will be explored.

*Research Questions and Hypotheses*

1. What are the English and Spanish idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" and its grammatically-related variants?

2. What types of love do English and Spanish idiomatic expressions refer to in which the word "love" or its grammatically-related variants appear?

3. What semantic fields are represented within English and Spanish idiomatic expressions in which the word "love" or its grammatically-related variants appear?

Two hypotheses guided this research. The first was that English and Spanish idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" and its variants would render cultural insights specific to each language's use of the word "love" within these expressions. This hypothesis was formulated based on the overwhelming evidence upheld in previous idiomatic expressions studies, which have supported that cultural connotations can be taken directly from a language's idiomatic expressions. The second hypothesis that guided this research was that similarities would also be found among cultural connotations regarding how love is expressed in English and Spanish idiomatic expressions. This hypothesis was based on previous research which suggests that universality among cultures exists when it comes to topics experienced by all humans, and love is one of these entities.

The next chapter is the methodology section of this study. It includes a description of the methods that were used for the selection of texts and idiomatic expressions within those texts that serve as the population for this thesis. Additionally, it describes the types of love that were identified, the means by which cultural content was

identified within the use of the idiomatic expressions, and a description of the procedure

of these analyses.

**Chapter 3: Methodology**

*Text Selection*

      The data collected for this research were in the form of idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" in the English and Spanish languages.  A population of the idiomatic expressions was taken from an array of dictionaries and phrasal books that specifically contained idioms and idiomatic expressions.  Only texts in print form were used as a means of maintaining consistency in the type of resource that was used to obtain the idiomatic expressions.  Table 1 includes the complete list of texts used in this study.  The selection of texts contained work written in American English and multiple varieties of Spanish, as well as combined American English and Spanish texts.  In total, six books in English, four books in Spanish, and two books in combined English and Spanish were used for this study.  Additionally, it is important to note that there was one book that, while written in Spanish, contained English idiomatic expressions with explanations in Spanish.  The complete collection of idiom texts selected for this study in English, Spanish, and the combination of the two languages cover a similar range in years.  The range of years of publication of the texts was chosen based on the texts that were available for use and for purchase.  The English texts span from the years 1966-2007, the Spanish from the years 1970-2004, and the combined texts are from 1976 and 2004.  Comparatively antiquated text in either language would have served as an outlier and could have skewed the results of this study, as expressions of antiquity may no longer be in use today.

It is also important to note why these texts were chosen. As previously mentioned, only texts which served as a compilation of idiomatic expressions and figurative phrases where idioms were specifically identified as idiomatic expressions were selected to fit the purpose of this study. Only books containing the terms "idiom" or "idiomatic expressions" and "*modismos,*" "*expresiones idiomáticas,*" or "*frases hechas*" in the respective English and Spanish titles of the books were referenced, as these signified that idioms and idiomatic expressions were included in the text. It was attempted to discover a comparable number of texts in each language as another means of maintaining consistency in the size of the sampled texts across both languages. It is true that while the origin of the idioms found in these texts may come from centuries past, the fact that these expressions were still included as entries speaks to the significance of the continued usage of these expressions. Additionally, the origin of the expressions was not specifically explored, thus, it was deemed valid to include these idioms as long as they appeared in these texts.

These books were further chosen due to their degree of availability and characteristic of containing at least one idiomatic expression within the referenced language. These books were either purchased online or rented at no cost from the Cook Library and Learning Commons on the Hattiesburg Campus of The University of Southern Mississippi. The budget for the books that were purchased online did not exceed $150.00. Thus, the number of texts purchased online was limited by the available budget and the number of books within the local university library was limited by what texts were housed within the library. Because of these reasons, the idiomatic expressions found in this study do not represent an all-inclusive account of all idiomatic expressions

that contain the word "love" or its grammatical variants in English and Spanish.
Therefore, this study represents a sample population based on availability of resources
and an attempt to maintain consistency in terms of the type of source and date range from
which the data were obtained.  Table 1 lists the selection of texts from which the
population of expressions was collected.

| Table 1 *Texts Used in Study* | |
|---|---|
| **English Texts** | |
| *A Dictionary of Idioms for the Deaf* | Boatner, Gates, & American School for the Deaf, 1966 |
| *A Concise Dictionary of English Idioms* | Freeman & Phythian, 1976 |
| *The Penguin Dictionary of English Idioms* | Gulland & Howell, 1986 |
| *The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms* | Ammer, 2003 |
| *Webster's New World American Idioms Handbook* | Brenner, 2003 |
| *McGraw-Hill's American Idioms Dictionary* | Spears, 2007 |
| **Spanish Texts** | |
| *Florilegio: Ó Ramillete Alfabético de Refranes y Modismos Comparativos y Ponderativos de la Lengua Castellana* | Sbari & Osuna, 1970 |
| *Diccionario de Modismos: (Frases y Metáforas) Primero y Único de su Género en España* | Rubio, 1970 |
| *Guide to Spanish Idioms: A Practical Guide to 2500 Spanish Idioms* | Pierson, 1985 |
| *Vox Gran Diccionario de Frases Hechas* | McGraw-Hill, 2004 |
| **Combined English and Spanish Texts** | |
| *2001 Spanish and English Idioms* | Savaiano & Winget, 1976 |
| *The Big Red Book of Spanish Idioms: 12,000 Spanish and English Expressions* | Weibel, 2004 |

It must be noted that no idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" or any of its grammatical variants were found in *Guide to Spanish idioms: A practical guide to 2500 Spanish idioms* (Pierson, 1985).

*Idiomatic Expression Selection*

The idiomatic expressions were identified based on the appearance of the word "love" or its grammatical variants in both the English and Spanish languages. As Brenner (2003) notes, "In the English language there is only one small word to describe all varieties of affectionate feelings of the heart, and that word is simply love" (p. 107). For this study, in English, the variants of "love" included all verb tense conjugations, all plural and singular noun forms, adjectives, adverbs, and gerunds. Therefore, the following variants of the word "love" were examined: *love, lover(s), loves, loved, lovely, lovingly, loving*. In Spanish, there are several words that express love. For nouns, this research identified the singular word *amor* ('love') and plural word *amores;* for verbs, the conjugations in all tenses for *amar* ('to love'), *enamorar* ('to make fall in love'), *enamorarse* ('to fall in love'), and *encantar* ('to love') were included; and adjectives, adverbs, and gerunds included the root for the verbs *amar, enamorar,* and *encantar*.

It is important to mention a few characteristics regarding the representation of the idioms that were studied. As some of the texts used in this study contained other forms of figurative language, such as proverbs, slang, and clichés, only expressions labeled as idioms were selected and analyzed. Additionally, the idioms in this study were deemed to sufficiently represent idioms still in common use today; the date range of the texts referenced as well as the frequency of entries for the same idiomatic expression

22

throughout the selection of texts assisted this claim. However, this study did not focus on establishing which idioms are used most frequently.

*Identifying Types of Love*

One of the purposes of this study was to determine whether love is the topic expressed in idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" or any of its grammatical variants in English and Spanish. The meanings of the expressions, as provided by the texts in which they were found, assisted in determining whether the expression reflected something characteristic of a form of love or not. The categories for the types of love that were selected for this study were based on types that were classified according to previous research, as well as preliminary observations of patterns that developed during data collection. Where an idiomatic expression did not fall into a category borrowed from prior research, non-specific categorizations of love were created. It is possible that other researchers could classify additional and different types of love expressed in these idiomatic expressions. However, the method of classification for this study is defensible because it had used specific types of love as referenced in former studies, in addition to non-specific categories with a provided defense for each entry's placement within these remaining classifications.

Where the expression was about love, the type of love was identified and fell into one of the following categories pursued by this study: specific types, including parental love, romantic/passionate love, and compassionate; and non-specific types, including other and mixed love. Parental love was characterized anywhere in which sentiments of love were expressed between a parent and his or her child. Romantic/passionate love was

characterized by an expression of strong affection or emotion expressed for a lover or

when one is in love. Compassionate love encompassed the love expressed between

friends or that is platonic or altruistic in nature. The category of "other love" was

selected to include any other expression that did not explicitly fall into the three

categories for love that were chosen for this study as expressed above. This was done so

after preliminary observations deemed this necessary, as some types of love were

expressed differently. The discussion section will address these "other" types of love.

Also, the category of "mixed love" represents expressions that were found to have

different connotations based on the context of the message that the speaker wishes to

express. "Mixed," here, signifies a combination of the love that is being expressed,

whether it is a type of love or if no love is expressed at all. Where love was not

expressed, the idiom was coded as not applicable.

*Identifying Components of Culture*

One of the main purposes of this study was to discern the existence of cultural

connotations in how love is treated or expressed within the selected idiomatic

expressions. In some cases, the idioms expressed topics that reflect a component of

culture, such as religion or recreation/game. Thus, as a means of identifying these

connotations, the following information was used in order to determine this feature: the

meaning of the idiomatic expression as provided by the text, the type of love identified

according to the prescribed method, and the semantic fields represented within the

expression. Each of these categories served a purpose. The meaning of the expression

defined the message and purpose behind the expression's use within that language. The

type of love disclosed the nature of the culture in how love is expressed, when a type of love is expressed in the idiom.  Lastly, the semantic fields of the expressions, where applicable, signified other topics and ideas that accompanied the usage of the word "love" within the idiom.  In some cases, a semantic field was apparent and was identified by a specific object or aspect of culture that can be expressed in language.  In others, a semantic field was not represented and labeled as "none" because the expression did not contain an aspect or category that could be quantified or identified as a category or item for semantic fields.  It was important to include the semantic fields in this study in order to uncover whether specific areas of society or culture, such as politics, religion, or currency were referred to by the people in that language when using idiomatic expressions that contain the word "love."  This method was supported by previous research (Osimo, 2008) regarding the context of phrases and key words that help capture cultural connotations and beliefs of the people expressing them.

*Procedure*

The sample population of idiomatic expressions from each text was determined by using varied strategies.  As the majority of the texts were arranged alphabetically and by key words represented in the idioms, the idioms could easily be identified and recorded using this method.  However, because some texts were arranged by topic or may have listed the idiomatic expression based on another key word found within the same phrase, the index and tables of contents of each text were referenced as well to avoid failing to locate an idiomatic expression in another portion of the text.  The sample size included the total number of idiomatic expressions that were found within the texts.

After the idiomatic expressions were collected for each language, they were separately numbered and coded according to the length of the expression, as illustrated in Tables 2 and 3 in the following chapter. Next, analyses were carried out concerning what type of love and which semantic fields were represented, where applicable. This information is presented in Tables 4 and 5.

For the types of love that were found to be expressed, the proportion of each of these categories within each language's sampled data was calculated as a percentage and rounded up to the nearest tenth of a percent. This action was performed because the population of idioms observed in this study served as a sample out of the total possible amount of idiomatic expressions which contain the word "love" or its grammatical variants across both languages. Thus, these proportions were used to reveal a more detailed depiction of how love is expressed in each language's idiomatic expressions when the word "love" or its grammatical variants appear. Differences in the content of the material within each idiomatic expression were recorded and patterns and distinctions that emerged for how the word "love" is used within two languages' idiomatic expressions were analyzed.

The next chapter presents the results of the study. Here, the data is illustrated in tables as described by the aforementioned procedure. From the data, resulting analyses follow the tables, explaining the findings obtained from the sample population of idiomatic expressions that were found within the texts used in this study. Similarities and differences that were observed in the English and Spanish idiomatic expressions were explained in detail, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

**Chapter 4: Results**

The tables in this section illustrate the samples collected in this study. The information is divided by language, and an analysis of the data follows the tables.

Table 2 lists the English idiomatic expressions represented in this study, followed by Table 3, which lists the Spanish idiomatic expressions obtained in this study. The idioms are numbered in each table and arranged by their length in words. Analysis of the total number of idiomatic expressions found in the study, length in words of the expressions, and variant and part of speech of the respective word for "love" follows the tables.

| Table 2 | | |
|---|---|---|
| *English Idioms* | | |
| 1 **Love**-sick | 19 | To fall in **love** (with someone). |
| 2 Calf-**love** | 20 | For **love** or money |
| 3 **Love** affair | 21 | **Love** in a cottage. |
| 4 **Love** game | 22 | To play for **love** |
| 5 **Lover**'s lane | 23 | **Love** at first sight. |
| 6 Puppy **love** | 24 | Give/Send someone my **love**. |
| 7 **Love**-birds | 25 | Lord **love** a duck! |
| 8 Cupboard **love** | 26 | **Love** me, **love** my dog. |
| 9 Young **love** | 27 | For the **love** of Pete/Mike/God! |
| 10 **Love** handles | 28 | Somebody up there **loves** me. |
| 11 To make **love**. | 29 | To fall out of **love** (with someone). |
| 12 No **love** lost (between them). | 30 | To **love** someone/something to death/pieces/bits. |
| 13 Labour of **love** | 31 | All's fair in **love** and war. |
| 14 Tender **loving** care | 32 | Don't get **lovey**-dovey with me! |

| 15 | Star-crossed **lovers** | 33 | A face that only a mother could **love**. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | Fool for **love** | 34 | To fall head over heels in **love** with someone. |
| 17 | Misery **loves** company. | 35 | **Love** of money is the root of all evil. |
| 18 | To be in **love** (with someone). | | |

Table 3
*Spanish Idioms*

| 1 | Hacer el **amor** (a/con alguien). | 10 | Por el **amor** de Dios. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Abrasarse de **amores**. | 11 | ¿Qué tal andas de **amores**? |
| 3 | **Amor** al prójimo. | 12 | Estar **enamorado** hasta los tuétanos. |
| 4 | **Amor** con **amor** se paga. | 13 | Hacer algo por **amor** de/a alguien. |
| 5 | Con/de mil **amores** | 14 | Estar al **amor** de la lumbre. |
| 6 | ¡Salud, **amor**, y pesetas! | 15 | **Amor** de niño, agua en cestillo |
| 7 | Al **amor** del fuego. | 16 | Desgraciado en el juego, afortunado en **amores**. |
| 8 | En **amor** y compañia | 17 | De malas en el juego, de buenas en **amores**. |
| 9 | Por **amor** al arte. | | |

In sum, 35 English idiomatic expressions and 17 Spanish idiomatic expressions were found. Thus, there were more than double the number of idiomatic expressions in English than in Spanish that included the word "love" or one of its grammatical variants from the selected population of books. These results may indicate that more idiomatic expressions exist in English that involve the word "love" or one of its various grammatical variants than in Spanish. However, because the data were taken from a population of selected texts, the data collected represents only a portion of the entire array of English and Spanish idiomatic expressions. Thus, the claim that there are more

than double the amount of this type of targeted idiom can only be applied to the sample population included as part of this thesis.

*Length of Expression*

The length of the idiomatic expression in number of words was originally included in the analysis of the sampled data, but later discarded due to the problematic nature of this calculation. Recording this characteristic with accuracy would have been questionable, due to the context of the situation or conversation in how an idiomatic expression may be employed for use. For example, an idiomatic expression can vary in length depending on which words needed to be inserted for idioms that list 'someone' or 'something' in their expression, as in English idiom 30, "to love someone/something to death/bits/pieces." Additionally, the structure of each language calls for different grammatical rules that may alter the length in words of the expression as well, such as in Spanish where the article before a noun is required in more contexts than in English. An example of this feature is reflected in idiom 1 from the Spanish data, "*Hacer el amor.*"

Although the length of the idiomatic expression in number of words was not depicted in the tables, the length of the sampled English idiomatic expressions as taken directly from the texts ranged from two to nine words, and the length of the sampled Spanish idioms as entered in the texts ranged from three to nine words. While there were many two-word expressions in English as represented in the sampled data, there were no two-word idiomatic expressions in Spanish involving the word "love" or any of its grammatical variants from the sampled population.

*Variant and Part of Speech*

This thesis distinguished idiomatic expressions on the conditions that the word "love" or one of its grammatical variants in English and Spanish were present. As illustrated in Table 3, 27 of the 35 idioms had the word "love" as a noun; six idioms expressed the word "love" using verbs, in which idiom 27 included the verb "to love" twice; and two idioms, 14 and 32, expressed "love" as an adjective, "loving" and "lovey," respectively. Thus, the variation in the English idioms of their grammatical variants of "love" included three parts of speech: nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

From the Spanish data represented in Table 4, 16 of the 17 idioms expressed the word "love" as the noun *amor*; and one idiom, 12, used the participle of *enamorar*, *enamorado*. Thus, the variation in the Spanish idiomatic expressions of its variants of "love" included two parts of speech: the noun form of *amor*, and the participle form of *enamorar*. There were no idioms in the Spanish data that contained variants of *enamorarse*, *encantar* or *amar*.

Comparing this characteristic from the data in English and Spanish, the respective noun form of the word for "love" occurred the most frequently in both languages of the sampled idiomatic expressions. Additionally, other variants of "love" in English were the verb "to love" and the adjectives, "loving" and "lovey." It is important to note that the word "lovey" is not a conventional adjective of the word for "love," and thus was not included in the options for the word "love" in English as described in the methodology portion of this thesis. From the Spanish data, the only other variant that had appeared in the sample was the participle *enamorado* of the verb *enamorar*. Thus, the English data represented the word "love" and two grammatical variants while the Spanish data

represented the word for "love," *amor*, and one grammatical variant of only one of the

three verbs used in that language to express a meaning of love.

Tables 4 and 5 list the definition, type of love represented, and semantic fields

present among the English and Spanish data, respectively.  The number of the idiom

refers to the idiomatic expression for each language as labeled in Tables 2 and 3.

Analysis of the data contained in Tables 4 and 5 follows, which includes similarities and

differences among the data as well as patterns that emerge.  This is expressed both

qualitatively and quantitatively.

Table 4
*English Idioms: Meaning, Type of Love, and Semantic Field*

| Number assigned | Meaning | Type of Love | Semantic Field |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | To feel overwhelmingly in love with someone or something; to feel so much in love that one feels sick or unable to act in a normal way. | Romantic/Passionate | Health |
| 2 | Adolescent love; a first love affair, usually not very serious. | Romantic/Passionate | Animals |
| 3 | A genuine romance, or a sexual affair with a lover; also, a strong enthusiasm for something. | Romantic/Passionate | None |
| 4 | A game of tennis which is won without the opponent scoring. | N/A | Recreation/Game |
| 5 | A hidden or secluded road or walk where a couple can park or walk in the evening for privacy. | Other | Location |
| 6 | Adolescent love; a first love affair, usually not very serious. | Romantic/Passionate | Animals, Age |
| 7 | Two people who are very much in love with each other. | Romantic/Passionate | Animals |
| 8 | A display of affection motivated by a selfish interest or motive. | Other | Household Item |
| 9 | Young people who believe they are in love but are not; implies innocence and wonder. | Romantic/Passionate | Age |

Table 4
*English Idioms: Meaning, Type of Love, and Semantic Field*

| Number assigned | Meaning | Type of Love | Semantic Field |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | Portions of extra fat on either side of the body. | N/A | None |
| 11 | To have intercourse; To have sex with someone. | Romantic/Passionate | None |
| 12 | Extreme dislike and unfriendliness between people. | N/A | None |
| 13 | Work performed from affection or one's own satisfaction, and without expectation of payment; sometimes, it can be for the sake of someone else. | Compassionate | Work/Labor |
| 14 | Solicitous and compassionate care, not necessarily romantic. | Compassionate | None |
| 15 | Ill-fated lovers | Romantic/Passionate | Astronomy |
| 16 | To express that you would do anything for the person you love or that you develop emotions of love easily | Romantic/Passionate | None |
| 17 | Fellow sufferers make unhappiness easier to bear. | N/A | None |
| 18 | To love another person. | Romantic/Passionate | None |
| 19 | To begin to have the emotions of love for another person; implying that one has lost one's balance or that something has happened accidentally. | Romantic/Passionate | None |
| 20 | By any means necessary; for anything; "for all the world." | N/A | Currency |
| 21 | A lack of sufficient means to keep a couple in comfort. | N/A | Location |
| 22 | To play a game without gambling on it. | N/A | Recreation/Game |
| 23 | An instantaneous attraction to someone or something. | Romantic/Passionate | Senses |
| 24 | Used when a person wishes to have their love or simply kind regards expressed to someone. | Compassionate | None |
| 25 | An exclamation of surprise, similar to "My goodness!" | N/A | Religion, Animal |
| 26 | When you love someone, you love everything about them or connected to them and accept them as they are. | Romantic/Passionate | Animal |

Table 4
*English Idioms: Meaning, Type of Love, and Semantic Field*

| Number assigned | Meaning | Type of Love | Semantic Field |
|---|---|---|---|
| 27 | For the sake or consideration of God; an exclamation used to denote surprise, exasperation, or some similar feeling. | N/A | Religion |
| 28 | To feel that you are having good luck or that things are in your favor, generally used half-jokingly; alluding to either heavenly intervention or to the help of a temporal higher authority. | N/A | Location, Religion |
| 29 | To stop feelings the emotions of love for another person. | Romantic/Passionate | None |
| 30 | To love someone or something a great amount. | Romantic/Passionate, Other | Death |
| 31 | Conventional morality does not apply to the most important activities in life; all conduct is permissible in certain circumstances. | Romantic/Passionate & N/A | War |
| 32 | An expression used to reject affection from someone. | Romantic/Passionate | Animal |
| 33 | A very ugly face, usually used in a joking manner. | Parental | Body Part |
| 34 | To develop the emotion of love for another person. | Romantic/Passionate | Body Part |
| 35 | Love of money (greed) causes many problems and grief. | Other | Currency |

Table 5
*Spanish Idioms: Meaning, Type of Love, Semantic Field*

| Number assigned | Meaning | Type of Love | Semantic Field |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | To have intercourse; to have sex with someone. | Romantic/Passionate | None |
| 2 | To be burning with love; to be madly in love with someone. | Romantic/Passionate | Natural Element |
| 3 | Love thy friend or neighbor; moral phrase that expresses metaphorically the care and respect for another's well-being. | Compassionate | None |
| 4 | Love with love pays; corresponds to the benefits and like desires one can receive when a good match of lovers exists. | Romantic/Passionate | Currency |
| 5 | With a thousand loves; adverbial phrase that is the equivalent of expressing a pleasure to have met someone. | Compassionate | Number |

Table 5
*Spanish Idioms: Meaning, Type of Love, Semantic Field*

| Number assigned | Meaning | Type of Love | Semantic Field |
|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | To health, love, and money; used when giving a toast. | Compassionate | Health, Currency |
| 7 | Adverbial phrase that expresses a close proximity to a source of fire. | N/A | Natural Element |
| 8 | In harmony and in good company. | N/A | None |
| 9 | Doing something graciously, without receiving compensation; "For the love of art." | N/A | Art |
| 10 | Exclamation signifying "For the love of God," used when asking for something out of humility and with great care or during times of frustration. | N/A | Religion |
| 11 | How is your love life? | Romantic/Passionate | None |
| 12 | To be head over heels in love with someone. | Romantic/Passionate | Body Part |
| 13 | To do something for the sake of someone else; to do something out of love for someone. | Compassionate | None |
| 14 | To be or sit by the fireside/fireplace. | N/A | Natural Element |
| 15 | References what used to happen in caring for children, comparing it to pouring water in a basket. | Parental | Natural Element, Household Item |
| 16 | Unlucky at cards, lucky in love. | Romantic/Passionate | Recreation/Game, Luck |
| 17 | Unlucky at cards, lucky in love. | Romantic/Passion | Recreation/Game, Luck |

*Type of Love*

Whether English and Spanish idiomatic expressions where the word "love" or its grammatical variants appeared expressed a form of love and, if so, which type of love, was a critical feature of this study. This characteristic was used to assist in interpreting the cultural connotations in how love is expressed within the sampled English and Spanish languages among their native speakers and respective societies. Among the

types of love to be identified following this design of this study—romantic/passionate, parental, compassionate, other, and mixed—all variations were found to be represented among both English and Spanish, with the exception of mixed love. Additionally, in both sets of the sampled population of English and Spanish idiomatic expressions, there were expressions which were recorded as "not applicable," as they did not pertain to a type of love.

*Romantic/Passionate Love*

It was found that the majority of the sampled idiomatic expressions in both sets of Spanish and English data could be categorized as a communication of romantic/passionate love. An example of this was idiom 7 in the English data, "love-birds," and idiom 4 in the Spanish data, "*Amor con amor se paga.*" Out of the English data, 16 of 35, or approximately 45.7%, of the sampled idiomatic expressions were related to this form of love as reflected in Table 4, and 7 of 17, or approximately 41.2%, of the sampled Spanish idiomatic expressions were found to express this form of love as reflected in Table 5. These expressions consisted of the following numbered English and Spanish idioms respectively: idioms 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 23, 26, 29, 32, and 34; and idioms 1, 2, 4, 11, 12, 16, and 17.

*Compassionate Love*

Compassionate love was expressed in both sample populations of the English and Spanish idiomatic expressions. An example of compassionate love expressed in English was idiom 24, "Give/Send someone my love," and idiom 3 in the Spanish data, "*Amor al prójimo*." Out of the English data, 3 of 35, or approximately 8.6%, of sampled idiomatic

expressions related to this form of love as reflected in Table 4, and of the Spanish data, 4 of 17, or approximately 23.5%, were found to express this form of love as reflected in Table 5. These expressions consisted of the following numbered English and Spanish idioms respectively: idioms 13, 14, and 24; and idioms 3, 5, 6, and 13.

*Parental Love*

Instances where parental love was expressed within the sampled idioms in this study occurred once in both the English and Spanish data. An example of an English idiomatic expression that related to parental love was idiom 33, "A face that only a mother could love," and an example from the Spanish data was idiom 15, "*Amor de niño, agua en cestillo.*" Out of the English data, 1 out of 35, or approximately 2.9%, of the sampled idiomatic expressions related to this form of love as reflected in Table 4, and of the Spanish data, 1 out of 17, or approximately 5.9%, was found to express this form of love as reflected in Table 5. These expressions consisted of the following numbered English and Spanish idioms respectively: idioms 33 and 15.

*Mixed*

Though remaining variations in the forms of love that were to be identified in this study were labeled "Other" and instances in which an idiom did not express sentiments relating to any form of love was to be labeled "N/A," two expressions were found in the sampled English data which carried multiple connotations relating to love. Because of this unexpected result, these entries were labeled "Mixed." The two idiomatic expressions that were not found to purely express one form of love but expressed mixed connotations relating to love were "To love someone/something to death/bits/pieces"

(idiom 30), and "All's fair in love and war" (idiom 31). For idiom 30, this expression communicated both a form of romantic/passionate love as well as love expressed for an inanimate object. For idiom 31, this idiom related to a form of romantic/passionate love as the connotation of the word "love" can be inferred as this type, often being used to provide explanation for the problems that persist between love interests or lovers. However, the meaning behind the expression refers to important life situations in which rules or conventional morality does do not always apply, referencing no form of love at all; this is why this expression was also labeled "N/A." These two "mixed" idiomatic expressions constitute 5.7% of the total sampled English population of idiomatic expression. Because these expressions described did not relate to one singular form of love, they occupied a separate category and were treated as separate mathematical calculations independent of the other categories of love of the total sampled data.

*Other Types*

Of the idiomatic expressions observed in this study, there were instances in which a form of love was singularly expressed but did not fall into one of the prescribed categories that were to be identified in this study. These expressions were labeled "Other," and only occurred in the English set of data among idioms 5, 8, and 35 respectively. Idiom 5, "Lover's lane," referred to a location and not a form of romantic/passionate love. Idiom 8, "Cupboard love," describes a type of love that is led by selfish motives and not that which exists in a romantic, compassionate, or parental form of love. Lastly, idiom 35, "Love of money is the root of all evil," refers to a love of an inanimate object. Love of money is also referred to as a form of greed. These three

idioms labeled as "Other," out of the 35 English idiomatic expressions constitute

approximately 8.6% of the sampled English data.

*Not Applicable*

In both the English and Spanish idiomatic expressions sampled in this study, there

were instances in which the expression had nothing to do with expressing love but

included the word or one of its grammatical variants.  Out of the English data, 10 of 35,

or approximately 28.6%, of the sampled idiomatic expressions were unrelated to a form

of love as reflected in Table 4, and of the Spanish data, 5 of 17, or approximately 29.4%,

were unrelated to a form of love as reflected in Table 5.  These expressions consisted of

the following numbered English and Spanish idioms respectively: idioms 4, 10, 12, 17,

20, 21, 22, 25, 27, and 28; and idioms 7, 8, 9, 10, and 14.

Out of the English sampled idiomatic expressions, idiom 4, "Love game," did not

express a form of love because "love" here referred to the score of a tennis match. Idiom

10, "Love handles," refers to the portion of fat that accumulates on the oblique muscles

of the human anatomy.  Idiom 12, "No love lost (between them)" is used to signify

extreme distaste or dislike between two people, completely contrary to a form of love.  In

idiom 17, "Misery loves company," the verb "loves" appears; however the expression is a

means of saying that those who gather during grief or suffering can find comfort in each

other's company.  Idiom 20, "For love of money," is used when someone wishes to

express that nothing will stop him or her from accomplishing a goal or task.  Idiom 21,

"Love in a cottage," refers to the lack of sufficient finances to adequately keep a couple

in comfort.  Idiom 22, "To play for love," is used when someone participates in a game or

form of recreation without gambling on it.  In idiom 25, "Lord love a duck!" the verb

"love" appears but the expression is the equivalent of the exclamation, "My goodness!" Idiom 27, "For the love of Pete/Mike/God," is another exclamation that is used to denote surprise or exasperation. Lastly, idiom 28, "Somebody up there loves me," is used by a person when they feel that fate or luck is on their side or something is in their favor. It may also take on a religious connotation.

Out of the sampled Spanish idiomatic expressions, idiom 7, "*Al amor del fuego,*" is an adverbial phrase that expresses a close proximity to a source of fire, such as a fireplace. Idiom 8, "*En amor y compañia,*" means to be feeling harmonious when one is in good company. Idiom 9, "*Por amor al arte,*" expresses that something is done or completed without receiving compensation for it. It signifies that it is done out of sheer enjoyment. Idiom 10, "*Por el amor de Dios*" is similar to the English idiom 27, "For the love of Pete/Mike/God," and is used as an exclamation when asking for something out of humility or at times of frustration. Lastly, Spanish idiom 14, "*Estar al amor de la lumbre,*" is similar to the Spanish idiom 7, "*Al amor del fuego,*" meaning to be or sit near a source of fire.

*Semantic Field*

The semantic fields in the study included the fields that are found within each language's sample of idiomatic expressions. This study was innovative not only because of this identification, but also because it sought to identify objects or topics that expressed elements relating to the realm of culture. It is possible that other categories not reflected in this study could be located by other researchers, due to the individual interpretation of how to accurately identify the represented semantic fields. However, the labels for the resulting semantic fields were categorized according to the patterns of the

related items that were found. For example, "body part" was selected as a semantic field for categorization due to the presence of different parts of the human anatomy that were found to be referenced, such as idiom 33 of the English data, "A face that only a mother could love," and idiom 12 of the Spanish data, "*Estar enamorado hasta los tuétanos,*" where *tuétanos* means "marrow." The differences and similarities within the semantic fields of the languages' idioms assisted in revealing the context surrounding how the word "love" or its grammatical variants are used.

Both sets of data for each language displayed a wide range of content in their expressions' respective semantic fields. Of the English data, illustrated in Table 4, the fields embedded within the sampled data were as follows: health, recreation/game, household item, body part, currency, religion, animal, location, age, work/labor, death, astronomy, senses, and war. Of the Spanish data, illustrated in Table 5, the semantic fields embedded within the sampled idiomatic expressions were as follows: health, recreation/game, household item, body part, currency, religion, number, natural element, art, and luck. Both languages' idiomatic expressions shared the common semantic fields of health, recreation/game, household item, body part, currency, and religion.

The idiomatic expressions in English and Spanish of the sample population differed as well: in English, these semantic fields included animal, location, age, work/labor, death, astronomy, senses, and war; and in Spanish, these semantic fields were number, natural element, art, and luck. The most commonly occurring semantic fields in the sampled English data as demonstrated in Table 4 were animal, location, and religion, having occurred three to four times within the sampled population size of 35 expressions. The English semantic fields that were represented at least twice in the sampled data

included body part, recreation/game, age, and currency.  The remaining semantic fields represented in the English data as previously mentioned occurred once.  On the other hand, the most commonly occurring semantic fields in the sampled Spanish data as demonstrated in Table 5 were currency and natural element, having occurred two and four times respectively out of the sampled population size of 17 expressions.  All remaining semantic fields represented in the Spanish data as previously mentioned in this section occurred only once.

The following chapter presents further discussion of the results from this study.  It relates the findings from the analysis of the data to the research questions and hypotheses that guided this research.  It also includes suggestions for future research.

**Chapter 5: Discussion**

*Research Questions and Hypotheses*

The data obtained in this study were analyzed in order to address the research questions and hypotheses that guided this study. The first research question sought to identify the idiomatic expressions within English and Spanish where the word "love" and its related grammatical equivalents appeared. As a result of this study, 35 English idiomatic expressions and 17 Spanish idiomatic expressions were found. Though these idiomatic expressions do not constitute all idiomatic expressions in the English and Spanish languages that involve the word "love," this study succeeded in identifying this sample population of idiomatic expressions among the two languages. Although more expressions were found in English than in Spanish, this does not necessarily signify that more idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" or its grammatical variants exist in English than in Spanish. This is due to the nature of this study in its representation of a sample population of the total amount that does exist. The accuracy of the sources of these expressions was maintained, as it was mentioned before that only books and dictionaries specifically designed for presenting idiomatic expressions were selected for the purposes of this study. Also, as outlined in the description of the study, any instance where a phrase was characteristically compositional in meaning or labeled as a type of expression other than idiom or idiomatic expression was not included in this study.

Regarding the second research question, several types of love were found to be represented in the sampled population of idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" or its grammatical variants in both English and Spanish as a result of this study. Each of the proposed categories of love implemented in the design of this thesis was discovered

in both language's expressions.  Out of the English sampled data, approximately 45.7% expressed romantic/passionate love, approximately 8.6% expressed compassionate love, approximately 2.9% expressed parental love, and approximately 8.6% expressed other forms that did not fall into the previous three categories (refer to tables 4 and 5). Additionally, approximately 5.7% of the English data represented idiomatic expressions which contained more than one connotation regarding the type of love represented or if love was represented at all, labeled as "Mixed."  Out of the Spanish sampled data, approximately 41.2% expressed romantic/passionate love, while approximately 23.5% expressed compassionate love, and approximately 5.9% expressed parental love.  There were no Spanish expressions that represented other types or mixed types of love, but this does not mean that this does not exist outside the sampled population in this study.  Of the English data, approximately 28.6% of the expressions did not express a form of love, and of the Spanish data, approximately 29.4% did not express a form of love.

Thus, out of the sampled population represented in this study, both languages' idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" or its grammatical variants primarily functioned to express romantic/passionate love, while more Spanish expressions than English expressions were found to express compassionate love.  Further, the sampled data reflected that both languages may have a small number of expressions to reflect parental love when the word "love" or its grammatical variants appear.  The data also revealed that a noteworthy proportion of the idiomatic expressions in both languages that contain the word "love" or its grammatical variants do not actually reflect a type of love. As the nature of colloquial speech employs a variety of topics and matters of interest

when referencing a single topic, it is understandable why many expressions in both languages that included the word "love" or one of its variants did not reflect a type of love. This finding contributes valuable information concerning the extent at which idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" or one of its grammatical variants express the topic of love. Applying the results from the sampled population to the entire population of these idiomatic expressions, this may signify that as much as one-fourth to one-third of the total number of idiomatic expressions in English and Spanish which contain the word "love" or one of its variants does not have anything to do with love.

The third research question of this thesis explored the semantic fields represented in English and Spanish idiomatic expressions where the word "love" or its grammatical variants appeared. From the sample population obtained in this study, a variety of semantic fields were found to be represented in both languages. Both languages' expressions shared commonalities in the semantic fields, as well as differences, and each language had uniqueness in the semantic fields that occurred more frequently among the expressions obtained in the study.

Across the sampled population for both the English and Spanish idiomatic expressions, the common semantic fields were found to be health, recreation/game, household item, body part, currency, and religion. The commonality of these fields in both languages contributes insight into aspects of culture that are shared among both languages' idiomatic expressions where the word "love" and its grammatical variants appear. On the other hand, the differences that were found to exist among the semantic fields in the sampled population of this study revealed uniqueness in the cultural components that are incorporated into each language's idiomatic expressions involving

the word "love" or its variants.  It was found that the semantic fields of animal, location, age, work/labor, death, astronomy, senses, and war in the English data obtained as a result of this study were not represented among the sampled Spanish idiomatic expressions.  Likewise, the study revealed that the semantic fields of number, natural element, art, and luck in the Spanish data obtained as a result of this study were not represented among the sampled English expressions.  Again, it must be noted that these differences do not necessarily deny the possibility that these semantic fields are shared between both languages' set of idiomatic expressions in which the word "love" or its grammatical variants appear.  Also, the sample population in this study does not represent the entire representation of semantic fields within these types of idiomatic expressions in English and Spanish.  However, the purposes of this study did reveal differences among the sampled population, which represents what semantic fields exist as a possibility between both languages' expressions.

Lastly, the more frequently occurring semantic fields represented by the sampled English population in this study included animal, location, and religion.  In Spanish, these included currency and natural element.  This repetition of these semantic fields in English and Spanish reveals a distinction in the components of society and culture from the people in each language when this type of idiomatic expression is employed.  What these findings tell us is that certain aspects of culture could be more likely to be referenced in idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" or one of its variants than others, and that this frequency differs among different languages.  The reason why certain topics may be referenced in one language compared to another may be based upon preference of the language, the significance of that area of culture as it relates to referencing it alongside

the word "love," or other conventions within the language and culture of the people that determine why this is so.

As the three research questions were addressed by the results of the study above, so were the two hypotheses which guided this thesis. While it has been mentioned several times that this study represented a sample population of the total number of English and Spanish idiomatic expressions which involve the word "love" or its grammatical variants, both hypotheses were found to be validated by the data that was sampled in this study.

The first hypothesis that guided this study was that distinctive features would be found in the way in which idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" and its grammatical variants in English and Spanish express cultural connotations that are embedded within these unique phrases. From the analysis of the sampled population in this study, it could be concluded that both languages represented a unique set of semantic fields within the sampled expressions which related to different aspects of culture represented in these phrases. The difference that was found within the frequency of specific semantic fields unique to each language's set of idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" or its grammatical variants also revealed which components of culture are more commonly referenced within these expressions among each language. The differences in the occurrence and frequency of the semantic fields support that specific areas of culture are referred to in both English and Spanish idiomatic expressions that contain the word "love" or one of its grammatical variants—a finding that was not found to be researched prior to this study. Further, the different number of idiomatic expressions among each language's usage of "love" or its grammatical variants reflected

the frequency in which the word "love" is found within each language's idiomatic expressions.  Also, the proportions regarding which types of love were found to be represented among the English and Spanish data in this study varied as well.  A larger proportion of idiomatic expressions that referred to compassionate love were found in Spanish rather than in English in this study.  This suggested that compassionate love is expressed either more openly or more commonly in Spanish idiomatic expressions that involved the word "love" or its grammatical variants in this study than in the English expressions.

The differences summarized above as concluded from the analysis of the data contributed insight into different ways in which the word "love" and its grammatical variants function in the sampled English and Spanish idiomatic expressions.  Uniqueness of the expressions themselves according to their meaning and semantic components offered explanations for how idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" or its grammatical variants are employed in the cultures in which each language is spoken, which had not been previously researched for these specific types of idiomatic expressions.  Additionally, the variety of the types of love represented, if love was represented in the expression at all, provided insight as to how the topic of love is encoded and communicated in the culture of these people's idiomatic expressions where the physical appearance of the word "love" is included.

Aside from the cultural differences that emerged concerning these type of idiomatic expressions in the study's sample, similarities in the types of love and semantic fields represented were also found to exist and provide insight into the culture of the use of these expressions in each language.  Thus, this supported the second hypothesis that

guided this study, which stated that common cultural connotations could be detected between English and Spanish idiomatic expressions where the word "love" or its grammatical variants appeared. From the sampled population observed in this study, several commonalities were revealed across both languages' idiomatic expressions regarding types of love expressed and semantic fields represented. In both the English and Spanish sampled data, health, recreation/game, household item, body part, currency, and religion were found to be represented as a result of the study. This proved that universality exists in the types of cultural connotations that accompany the word "love" that are communicated in English and Spanish within these idiomatic expressions' semantic fields. Further, nearly identical expressions were uncovered in both languages, which were "to make love," "to be head over heels in love," and "For the love of God!" The fact that there are equivalents at all between these two languages in the use of idiomatic expressions is important to recognize, as this means that the message and context within these expressions have been exactly replicated in both English and Spanish, despite their lexical and morphological disparities.

*Limitations and Directions for Future Research*

There are many ways in which this study could be extended. One of the main limitations of this study is in the sample size of the idiomatic expressions. The idiomatic expressions selected for the study came from books and dictionaries specifically designed to present information on idioms and idiomatic expressions. They were selected based on their titles which described their content as such. This was done to avoid errors in the selection of idioms and to maintain a consistency for the type of scholarly source that was

used to collect the data. However, idiomatic expressions can be found outside of these sources, whether scholarly or not, and either online or within other printed publications that may not be explicitly designed as collections of idiomatic expressions. Thus, exploring these avenues may provide more information of better quality as long as they can be considered authoritative, scholarly sources. The publication year of the texts was also considered, as older idiomatic expressions would pose complications during the analysis portion of the project due to their antiquated nature. Thus, this sample only included expressions dating from texts from 1966 to 2007. A larger analysis of idiomatic expressions across a broader period of time could provide a more detailed representation of the total amount of idiomatic expressions that are possible to observe.

Additionally, the idiomatic expressions were taken from texts of American English and Spanish varieties. Therefore, an all-inclusive account of dialects other than American English and a few regional Spanish dialects was not studied within this research. All dialects for both English and Spanish could be taken into account and differences and similarities can be distinguished according to these regional dialects. However, such an undertaking was beyond the scope and purposes of this study. Lastly, further study of the conditions under which each expression is used, the origin of the expression, and the history of the people and culture of society surrounding the expression's usage will aid in this research. The purpose of this study was not to identify the origin or historical context in which the expression was used, and thus, this information is not provided within this paper.

The last chapter of this study is the conclusion. It reiterates the significance idiomatic expressions play in our daily lives. It also serves to summarize the results of this study and discusses the future relating to how people will continue to express love worldwide in common conversation.

**Chapter 6: Conclusion**

Idiomatic expressions are a staple in daily conversation and part of the creativity behind the colloquialisms of a language's people. They are found across all the world's languages, confounding non-native speakers of that language around the globe because of their specific cultural ties to the people who created them. Varying in structure, content, tone, message, and motivation for use, idioms contribute in adding to the colorful nature of language and can offer vital information to speakers outside the language who yearn to understand these unique linguistic idiosyncrasies. The similarities and differences in the manner in which love is expressed from language to language contribute a similar shade of color and intrigue toward how this universal human emotion is communicated between cultures.

What this study accomplished was a closer inspection of the linguistic, semantic, and cultural nature of idiomatic expressions present in English and Spanish. Specifically, this thesis aimed to study idiomatic expressions which involved the word "love" and other idiomatic expressions which contained a grammatical variant of the word "love" in both English and Spanish. As a result, a collection of 35 English idioms was compared to the 17 Spanish idioms that were found among the selected English, Spanish, and combined English and Spanish texts. Analysis of the data from this sample revealed that there were more than twice the number of English idiomatic expressions than those of Spanish that explicitly contained the word "love" or any grammatical variants of this infamous word. Further, many types of love were revealed within both language's sampled population of idiomatic expressions, as well as instances in which a form of love was not represented at all, even though the word "love" or one of its grammatical variants

was present.  It was proven that idiomatic expressions involving the word "love" or any grammatical variants do contain varying semantic fields representing different areas of culture between each respective language's people, reflecting both the choice of the people and society concerning what topics of culture and vocabulary accompany the word "love" within these expressions, as well as how expressions involving the word "love" are used within the cultures from which they originate.

What this study has shown is that universality can and does exist between communicating emotions among cultures.  This is supported by the results of this study within the commonality of certain expressions that were found, types of love that were communicated, and semantic fields represented.  The diffusion of people and ideas around the globe will continue to produce more shared features between cultures and the medium of language through which cultural connotations can be inferred.  Nonetheless, love is not easy to predict, and how it will be expressed in different cultures among future generations will be just as difficult to determine.  The following statement provided by Hatfield and Rapson (2011) explained why this will be challenging:

> "To some extent, the world's citizens may be becoming one but in truth, the delightful and divisive cultural variations that have made our world such an interesting (and simultaneously dangerous) place are likely to add spice to that brew of love...for some time to come.  The convergence of cultures around the world may be reducing the differences in the ways passionate love is experienced and expressed in the modern era, but tradition can be tenacious and the global future of passionate love cannot be predicted with any certainty" (Conclusion section).

Love is a tricky topic to express.  This study is important for its attempt to contribute insight into how love is communicated in two different cultures, English and Spanish. However, it functions most effectively in revealing that although insight into a

language speaker's culture can be deduced from its idiomatic expressions, love, sometimes, has nothing to do with it at all.

# References

Ammer, C. (2003). *The American heritage dictionary of idioms*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Bergner, R. M. & Hegi, K. E. (2010). What is love? An empirically-based essentialist account. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 27*(5), 620-636. doi:10.1177/0265407510369605

Boatner, M. T., Gates, J. E., & American School for the Deaf, Hartford. (1966). *A Dictionary of idioms for the deaf*. West Hartford, CT: American School for the Deaf.

Boroditsky, L. (2011). How language shapes thought. *Scientific American*, *304*(2), 62-65.

Brenner, G. A. (2003). *Webster's new world American idioms handbook*. Indianapolis, IN: Wiley.

De Toffol, M. (2011). *An English-Spanish contrastive analysis of culturally loaded phraseological units containing kinship terms*. (Unpublished master dissertation). Complutense University of Madrid, Madrid. Retrieved from http://eprints.ucm.es/14097/1/Marta_De_Toffol.pdf.

Eftekhari, N. (2008). A brief overview on idiomatic translation. Retrieved from http://www.translationdirectory.com/articles/article1739.php.

Freeman, W., & Phythian, B. A. (1976). *A concise dictionary of English idioms* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: English Universities Press.

Ghafel , B., Rasekh, A., & Pazhakh, A. (2011). Idiomatic expressions of the sewing frame in English and their Persian counterparts: Nida's dynamic equivalence theory in focus. *International Education Studies*, *4*(2). doi: 10.5539/ies.v4n2p160.

Gulland, D. M., & Howell, D. H. (1986). *The Penguin dictionary of English idioms*. New York, NY: Penguin Group.

Hatfield, E. & Jungsik, K. (2004) Love types and subjective well-being: A cross-cultural study. *Social Behavior and Personality: An International Journal, 32*(2), 173-82. Retrieved from http://www.csulb.edu/~djorgens/kim.pdf.

Hatfield, E. & Rapson, R. L.  (2000). Love. In W.E. Craighead & C.B. Nemeroff (Eds.) *The concise Corsini encyclopedia of psychology and behavioral science.* New York: John Wiley & Sons, 898-901.  Retrieved from http://www.elainehatfield.com/ch72.pdf.

Hatfield, E. & Rapson, R. L. (2011). Culture and passionate love. In Fanziska Deutsch, Mandy Boehnke, Ulrich Kühnen, & Klaus Boehnke (Eds.) *International Congress of the IACCP. XIXth.* Berman, Germany: International Academy of Cross Cultural Psychology (IACCP). Retrieved from http://www.elainehatfield.com/121.pdf.

Ivanovska, B., & Groszler, A.S. (2011). Animal idioms in German and their Macedonian Equivalents, 27-36. Retrieved from http://eprints.ugd.edu.mk/4617/1/ugd.edu.mk_private_UserFiles_biljana.ivanovska_Desktop_Groszler_Ivanovska2.pdf.

Kalyuga, M., & Harbus, A. (2007). Expressing love in English and Russian: Common and language-specific features. *Scando-Slavica*, *53*(1), 95-108. doi 10.1080/0080676701758364.

Leung, C. H. (2009). *Metaphor and metonymy in Cantonese and English body-part idioms: A comparative, cognitive semantic study, with pedagogic applications.* (Doctoral thesis). The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. Retrieved from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Full Text.

Marzocchi, C. (2010). On idioms, intertextuality, puddings, and quantum physics. Retrieved from http://translationjournal.net/journal/32idioms.htm

McGraw-Hill. (2004) *Vox gran diccionario de frases hechas.* New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Mustonen, S. (2010). Translating idioms: A case study on Donna Tartt's 'the secret history and its Finnish translation'. 5-88. Retrieved from https://jyx.jyu.fi/dspace/bitstream/handle/123456789/25001/urn:nbn:fi:jyu-201009142572.pdf?sequence=1

Osimo, B. (2008). *Translation course: Language, culture, translation*. Retrieved from http://courses.logos.it/EN/1_24.html

Pierson, R. H. (1985). *Guide to Spanish idioms: A practical guide to 2500 Spanish idioms = Guía de modismos españoles*. Lincolnwood, IL: Passport Books.

Rubio, R. C. (1970). *Diccionario de modismos: (frases y metáforas) primero y único de su género en España.* Madrid, Spain: Romero.

Savaiano, E., & Winget, L. W. (1976). *2001 Spanish and English idioms, 2001 modismos españoles e ingleses*. Woodbury, N.Y: Barron's Educational Series.

Sbarbi y Osuna, J. M. (1970). *Florilegio: ó ramillete alfabético de refranes y modismos comparativos y ponderativos de la lengua Castellana*. Madrid, Spain: A. Gomez Fuentenebro.

Sharifi, S. (2012). Figurative use of animal names in Kurdish idioms. *International Journal of Research in Linguistics & Lexicography, 1*(4), 7. Retrieved from http://profdoc.um.ac.ir/articles/a/1031984.pdf.

Spears, R. A. (2007). *McGraw-Hill's American idioms dictionary* (4th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Strugielska, A., & Alonso, M. R. A. (2005). Idiomatic expressions in multicultural integration: A cross-linguistic perspective. 1-12. Retrieved from http://inter-disciplinary.net/ati/diversity/multiculturalism/mcb1/strugielskapaper.pdf.

Tang, C. (2007). A comparative study of English and Chinese idioms with food names. *USTWPL*, *3*(7), 83-93. Retrieved from http://ling.nthu.edu.tw/USTWPL/vol3/7_A%20Comparative%20Study%20of%20English%20and%20Chinese%20Idioms%20with%20food%20Names_Tang,%20Chihsia.pdf.

Vlahov, S., & Florin, S. (1969). Neperovodimoe v perevode. realii. *Masterstvo perevoda*, *6*, 432-456.

Weibel, P. (2004). *The big red book of Spanish idioms: 12,000 Spanish and English expressions.* New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.