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## ENGLISH PROVERBS AS A MEANS OF EXPRESSING PEOPLE'S WISDOM, SPIRIT AND NATIONAL MENTALITY

**Abstract:** This article discusses the role of proverbs and sayings and importance of using them during the lesson.

**Key words:** genre, sayings, theme, proverbs, wisdom, spirit, mentality.

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### Introduction

Many people have loved proverbs for the wisdom embedded in them. Others have treasured proverbs for the vividness or earthiness of their imagery. But students of the subject are impressed by still another characteristic of the proverb: its verbal economy. Proverbs are rarely wordy. The usual proverb is spare and austere in expression, and some are marvels of compactness. "Wisdom" and "shortness" doubtlessly belong to the popular notion of what makes up a proverb.

English proverbs are rich and colorful. With regard to the everlasting charm of the English proverbs, there are many different reasons. To be specific, they come from folk life, religion, mythology, literary works, other languages, famous writers' wisdom, a nation's history and so on. Its function is to teach and advise people what they see in their lives. Many English proverbs guide people to adopt a correct attitude towards life and to take a proper way to get along well with others. Some other proverbs tell people what to do and how to do it, so the proverbs guide people's daily life. From them, people may broaden their knowledge and outlook. The English language is also rich in a great deal of proverbs in various themes as other natural languages.

The following English proverbs may reveal linguocultural properties of the English proverbs.

### ABSENCE/ PRESENCE

*Absence makes heart fonder.*

*Absence diminishes little passions and increases great ones.*

*Long absent, soon forgotten.*

*Out of sight, out of mind.*

*Present to the eye, present to the mind.*

The expressions (3) (4) mean that the message is clear, that is, the person who is not near you is soon forgotten, (5) says that presence of your partner is cause to remember about him/her and make your partners or relatives close to you.

### 2. APPEARANCE

*All is not gold that glitters.*

*Appearance is deceptive.*

You can't tell a book by its cover. (1) The proverb illustrates that something nice, pleasing to the eye and at first sight perceived as priceless or valuable in reality might not be what it seems. Golden casing might hide something ugly or horrible inside, (2) (3) indicates that appearance can be deceptive as it does not convey the true nature of a person.

### 3. BEAUTY

*Beauty will buy no beef.*

*Beauty won't make the pot boil.*

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*Fair face is half a fortune.*

*Beauty and wealth create beauty.*

The proverb (1) (2) says that the appearance can't be solution to everything; however, the intelligence or the profitable side will be solution to any kind of problem while (3) beautiful appearance may open fortune doors. It means (4) that if both: beauty and wealth exist in peoples' life together, in that case, that very beautiful life in reality they will have.

#### 4. CAREFULNESS

*Once bitten twice shy.*

(1) When something or someone has hurt you once, you tend to avoid that thing or person. Jill: Let's go ride the roller coaster. Jane: No, thanks. I got really sick on one of those, once bitten, twice shy.

#### 5. COURAGE/ COWARDICE

*Better to live one day as a tiger than a thousand years as a sheep.*

*You never know what you can do till you try.*

*Cowards die many times before their death.*

Proverb (1) indicates that an exciting life of a brave person, even though short it might be, is preferable to the dull and long life of a coward. An example (2) reveals that if one wants to achieve something he/she has to take risks, because otherwise a person will not know what he/she is capable of. An example (3) suggests that a coward does not really live as he/she is always afraid of many things, afraid of taking certain risks and challenges.

#### 6. DIFFICULTY

*No one but the wearer knows where the shoe pinches.*

(1) If someone has an illness, only he knows the pain of the illness but no one else, or if someone has a problem to solve, only he/she but no one else realizes its difficulties.

#### 8. FRIENDSHIP

*Friends all is common, between.*

*God defend me from my friends.*

*From my enemies I can defend myself.*

The proverb (1) means that if you own something new that your friends don't have, know how to share with them instead of only thinking about using it by yourself. The proverb (2) says that, sometimes, even friends may be such a person that can be worse than an enemy that's why in that case even enemies may be less dangerous comparing with "friends".

#### 9. GOD

*God helps them, who help themselves.*

*God sends fortune to fools.*

*Heaven takes care of children, sailors and drunken men.*

(1) If someone saves himself from hazards he/she will be defended in such bad situations. The second proverb (2) indicates that a person is lucky in cards because god helps him/her. The proverb (3) says

that a child, a sailor and drunken men is under vision of God.

#### 10. GOSSIP

*Walls have ears*

*Bad news has wings.*

The (1) proverb says that it is important to think carefully before speaking and considering everything that coming through your mouth whether it is about an important or unimportant thing. The proverb (2) means that bad news will be much more interesting than good news that's why everyone loves to hear and spread about as a result it will be known everywhere in a short time.

#### 11. HAPPINESS

*Throw one's hat in the air.*

The proverb (1) says that if someone hears about good news related to their life, they will be so happy at that time and express their happiness by throwing their hats in the air.

#### 12. HOME

*Bird likes its own nest, every.*

*Englishman's home is his castle.*

*Home is where you hang your hat.*

Home is the father's kingdom, the children's paradise, the mother's world. The proverb (1) Home is the kind of place where members of your family feel free and the most comfortable even it is not very big or very good furnished. The proverb says that (2) you are the boss in your own house and nobody can tell you what to do there. No one can enter your home without your permission. The proverb has been traced back 'Stage of Popish Toys'. In 1644, English jurist Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634) was quoted as saying: 'For a man's house is his castle.(3) The best place for man is his home to feel happy and feel relaxed.(4) It indicates that home is a place which is a kingdom for a father, a paradise for a child and world for a mother. They feel free themselves in their home[35].

#### 13. HOPE

*A drowning man will clutch at a straw.*

*Where there is life, there is a hope.*

The proverb (1) says that even though the man who is drowning has a strong hope in that very simple straw can survive him from dying because he has a belief in it. The proverb (2) means that there cannot be life without hope, because before reaching or trying to reach some goal everyone first believes in success.

#### 14. HOSPITALITY

*If a man receives no guests at home, when abroad he will have no hosts.*

*A constant guest is not welcome.*

*Fish and guest smell in three days.*

*An unbitten guest knows where to sit.*

*Who comes uncalled sits unserved.*

The proverb (1) means if you don't invite anyone in your home as a guest when you are another country, no one gives you an invitation to you. (2) If someone constantly visits, he/she isn't welcome. (3) If a guest stays more than three days he/she will not be

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welcome. They (4) (5) indicate that if you visit without an invitation, you are not welcome.

### 15. HUSBAND AND WIFE

*Jack makes a good Jill, A good.*

*Better be an old man's darling, than a young man's slave.*

*The husband is always the last to know.*

*Man is the head, but woman turns.*

*The wife is the key of the house.*

(1) It means that if a husband loves and takes care of his wife his wife looks more attractive than she is. An example (2) suggests that a woman should marry a man who loves and idolizes her, regardless the fact that he might be an old man, instead of marrying a young man who would make her life miserable and would treat her badly. Proverb (3) reveals that a spouse is the last to know about things that his wife does against his consent or without his knowledge. (4) Women may help their husband to make decision. (5) It indicates that if your wife is with you your problems may be resolved.

### 16. IMPOSSIBILITY

*When hell freezes over.*

*When pigs fly*

(1) Hell is never going to freeze over. However, even though the meaning is quite clear. (2) Expression with the same meaning which is given above. The image again is very descriptive since pigs will never fly. The expressions leave no possibility for the event to happen, since hell will not freeze over and pigs will never fly.

### 17. IMPERFECTION

*Lifeless that is faultless, he is.*

*There are spots in the sun,*

(1) (This means that nothing or no one is perfect, everything has some bad sides or shortcomings. (2) It says that no one or nothing is perfect.

### 18. LATENESS /EARLINESS

*The early bird catches the worm.*

*It is never late to learn.*

*Better late than never.*

It(1) is an expression in English that originated in the 1600s and means that if you get up early or if you start a project early, you will have more chances of success. It means that (2) it is better to learn something than not knowing anything. While the third (3) says that it is better to be at the end than never.

### 19. LOVE

*Love is not found in the market.*

*Love sees no faults.*

1) You can buy everything. Only love is not sold anywhere. (2) A person who loves someone does not care about any faults of him or her.

### 20. MAN AND WOMEN

Proverbs reflect diversified aspects of the relations between a man and a woman, attitudes towards one or the other gender. For instance:

*Women have long hair and short brain.*

*A woman's work is never done.*

*A woman, a dog, and a walnut tree, the more you beat them the better they be.*

It indicates (1) that even the hair of the women are long, they are not sometimes able to solve an easy problem. An example means (2). It says that a woman is busy all the time; she has a lot of responsibilities. Very often negative characteristics are allocated to female gender and several cases can even be considered as women discrimination. As an example proverb (3) can be taken into consideration. In this expression women are compared with a dog and a walnut tree, but the proverb also promotes violence towards a woman.

### 21. MEASURE

There is a measure in all things. The proverb says that everything must have a limitation[29.107].

### 22. MONEY

*Money answers all things.*

*Money begets money.*

(1) It means that if you have money you can buy anything you want to and will have opportunity to go in for your favorite games or activities. Besides that you will not worry about your financial sides and as a result your brain can be calm without any problems related to money. (2) Money may cause to come money in your pocket

### 23. NECESSITY

*Keep a thing seven years and you will find a use for it.*

*Kill not the goose that lays the golden egg.*

(1)(2) If you save a thing which is an extra for you, it may be helpful one day.

### 24. PATIENCE and IM

*Don't cross the bridges before you come to them.*

*First think then speak.*

*Watched pot never boils.*

*An oak is not felled at one stroke.*

(1) Means that don't make any action and decision without knowing the situation. (2) Be patient and wait what will happen. It means that don't be hasty to share your thoughts. Think about your position where you are and what you want to say. (3) It means that if you wait something to happen it will not be. (4) It means that time passes slowly and it seems to you that it will never occur.

### 25. TIME

*There is a time and place for everything.*

*There is a time for all things.*

*Time cures all things.*

It means (1) that if you wait everything may happen in its moment and season (2)(3) The proverb means that if you are in a bad condition, wait and time shows you what will happen in the future.

### 26. VALUE

*Health is not valued till sickness come.*

*We know do not what is good until we have lost it.*

*Who has never tasted bitter, doesn't know what is sweet.*

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(1)(2)(3) Health, Good things and kind people are not valuable until it goes away from us.

### 27. WORK

*No pleasure without pain.*

*Hands, Many/ make light work.*

*Who would search for pearls must dive below,*

*He who wouldn't work neither should he eat.*

*Another day, another dollar.*

*Honey is sweet, but the bee stings.*

(1)It means if you want to have or to get benefit from something that you need you must be ready for the difficulties in reaching it.(2)If you work together with partners, your difficulties may be over. They (3) (4) say that if you don't try hard to work you don't have anything to take.(5) It means that if someone tries hard, another day they have opportunity to earn money. (6)It means that before reaching your gain it may be difficult but at the end it gives you pleasure.

### OTHER PROVERBS

*The squeaking wheel gets the oil, or the squeaking wheel gets the grease.*

*Between two stools one falls to the ground.*

*Do as you would be done.*

*Can't say (boo) to a goose.*

*The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.*

*Heart thinks the tongue speaks,*

*Kill two birds with one stone,*

*Stretch your legs according to the coverlet.*

*Add oil to the fire.*

*One makes a chair and another man sits in.*

*Every path has a puddle.*

*Saints that go to church, all are not.*

*See what we shall see, we shall.*

*One swallow, does not make summer.*

*Fish begins to stink from the head.*

*Dogs bark, The/but caravan goes on.*

*As you sow so you reap.*

*Juice, Stew in one's own means.*

*Man is a wolf to man.*

*Strike while the iron is hot.*

*Like mother, like daughter.*

*Cut your coat according to your cloth.*

*In church, in an inn and in coffin, all men are equal*

There is no doubt that much of a nation's mentality gets into proverbs, along with the spice of national customs and, above all, the peculiar flavor of the nation's language and phraseology. Proverbs are generalizations of human experience, condensations of oft-repeated occurrences of the trial-and-error variety. Above all, they are the fruit of observation and inductive reasoning, two of the great faculties of the human mind. They have become popular, and were passed from mouth to mouth, from generation to generation. Ultimately it became an integral part of the folklore, and was repeated whenever the situation it described recurred. Every proverb tells a story and teaches a lesson.

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