



SUBTITLING IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

Subtitling

Third Stage

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Subtitling Idiomatic Expressions

- **Idiomatic expressions** are phrases or expressions that have a meaning different from the literal interpretation of the individual words they contain. These expressions often carry cultural, contextual, or figurative meanings and are used to convey ideas in a more vivid, colorful, or metaphorical way. Idioms are prevalent in everyday language and are a key aspect of language diversity.
- **Subtitling idiomatic expressions** involves the translation of idioms from one language into another within the constraints of subtitles.

“
Put all your
cards on the
table”

“
Cut to the
chase”

“
Don't beat
around the
bush”

“
Get down to
brass tacks”

“
Let the chips fall
where they
may”

“
Tell it like
it is”

“
Come
clean”

“
Call a spade
a spade”



The Challenges of Subtitling Idiomatic Translation

- Translating and subtitling idiomatic expressions can be challenging due to the cultural and linguistic nuances embedded in these expressions. Idiomatic expressions are often deeply rooted in the culture and language from which they originate, and preserving their meaning and intent while translating requires careful consideration.



The Challenges of Subtitling Idiomatic Translation

1- Space Constraints:

Subtitles must be concise and fit within the available space on the screen. Idiomatic expressions are often longer and more complex, making it challenging to convey their meaning in a limited number of characters.

2- Clarity and Readability:

Subtitles should be clear and easy to read. The translation of idioms needs to maintain clarity, ensuring that the audience can quickly grasp the meaning without distracting from the overall viewing experience.



The Challenges of Subtitling Idiomatic Translation

3- Maintaining Flow:

Subtitles should flow naturally with the spoken dialogue. Translating idiomatic expressions in a way that feels seamless and doesn't disrupt the natural rhythm of the conversation is essential.

4- Contextual Adaptation:

Idiomatic expressions often rely on cultural or contextual references that may not directly translate.

Translators must find equivalents that make sense in the target culture while staying true to the original expression.



The Challenges of Subtitling Idiomatic Translation

5- Cultural Sensitivity:

Subtitlers need to be culturally sensitive when translating idiomatic expressions to avoid misunderstandings or the loss of cultural nuances. This involves choosing expressions that resonate with the target audience without perpetuating stereotypes or causing offense.

6- Expressing Emotion:

Idiomatic expressions often carry emotional nuances. Subtitlers need to find ways to convey the emotional tone of an expression without relying solely on literal translation.



The Challenges of Subtitling Idiomatic Translation

7- Adaptation to Language Variations:

Different regions may have variations in language and idiomatic expressions. Subtitlers may need to adapt idioms to align with the linguistic preferences of the target audience.