
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Multi-Word Expressions in Jordanian Arabic: An examination of their translation-related issues

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ABSTRACT

This study explores, translates, and transliterates multi-word expressions (MWEs) in Jordanian Arabic (JA), focusing on idioms and proverbs. These expressions are essential to communication, often conveying complex cultural meanings beyond their literal sense. While commonly used idioms reflect shared values, less frequent ones may carry deeper, culturally nuanced interpretations. The study distinguishes between literal and implied meanings to show how language reflects cultural identity. By examining MWEs in JA, it highlights their role as both linguistic tools and cultural artifacts, emphasizing their importance in understanding Jordanian society.

KEYWORDS

Idioms, proverbs, multi-word expressions (MWEs), Jordanian Arabic (JA), translation.

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Introduction

Language serves as a vital medium through which culture is expressed, preserved, and transmitted across generations. In Jordan, the Arabic language is rich with multi-word expressions (MWEs), particularly idioms and proverbs, which encapsulate the values, beliefs, and experiences of its speakers. This study aims to explore, translate, and transliterate these MWEs, shedding light on their significance within Jordanian culture and addressing the gaps in existing research. Proverbs are fixed in structure. In practice, however, proverbs are open-ended and language users can make many changes to proverbs in accordance with their communication needs (Fernando, 2000, p.43). Proverbs are traditionally understood as fixed expressions that convey cultural wisdom and insights, characterized by their structured format and concise nature. However, in practice, the adaptability of proverbs becomes evident as language users often modify their phrasing to better suit specific communication contexts. This flexibility enables individuals to personalize proverbs, infusing them with contemporary relevance or local flavor while retaining the underlying principles they represent. As such, proverbs serve not only as a reflection of shared values but also as dynamic tools of communication that can evolve over time to meet the diverse needs of speakers.

MWEs such as idioms and proverbs are familiar, frozen (fixed), and sentential expressions that express well-known truths, social norms, or moral concerns (Gibbs and Beitel, 1995). Proverbs are succinct and often time-honored expressions that encapsulate widely recognized truths, social norms, or moral considerations within a culture. These fixed, sentential phrases serve as effective vehicles for imparting wisdom, reflecting collective experiences, and guiding behavior in a concise manner. Their enduring nature highlights their role in shaping societal values and promoting ethical conduct across generations. By distilling complex ideas into memorable statements, proverbs offer valuable insights into human nature and social interactions, making them a vital component of linguistic heritage and cultural identity.

The primary objective of this study is to identify and analyze a selection of MWEs in JA, specifically focusing on idioms and proverbs. By translating and transliterating these expressions, the research seeks to facilitate a deeper understanding of their meanings and uses. The transliteration process will be guided by a logical scheme designed to ensure uniformity and consistency, which is essential for the accurate representation of the original expressions. This systematic approach to transliteration will aid in preserving the phonetic and structural integrity of the MWEs, allowing for easier comprehension by non-native speakers. According to Stone (2006), *there are two sides to every coin* is an American proverb, which means everything has two sides; positive and negative. The American proverb "*there are two sides to every coin*" encapsulates the inherent complexity of most situations, reminding us that every issue or circumstance carries both positive and negative aspects. This adage encourages a balanced perspective, prompting individuals to consider alternative viewpoints and the multifaceted nature of experiences. In decision-making processes, acknowledging both sides can lead to more informed and nuanced conclusions. By embracing this duality, we foster critical thinking and develop a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities that life presents. Ultimately, recognizing that no situation is entirely favorable or unfavorable can enhance our resilience and adaptability in the face of uncertainty.

Concerning the translation of MWEs the study advocates for a context-based and localization-based approach rather than a lexeme-based and semantics-based approach. The latter often fails to capture the nuanced meanings embedded within idiomatic expressions, as it tends to focus solely on the literal interpretation of words. In contrast, a sense-for-sense translation emphasizes the intended meaning and cultural context, thereby providing a more authentic representation of the original expression. This approach recognizes that MWEs are deeply rooted in the socio-cultural and pragmatic dimensions of language, and their translation must reflect these aspects to be truly effective.

Particular attention is given to traditional MWEs (idioms and proverbs) that are gradually losing currency in contemporary Jordanian society. As language evolves, certain expressions fall out of fashion, leading to a disconnection between younger generations and their cultural heritage. By documenting and analyzing these expressions, this study aims to contribute to the preservation of JA and its rich tapestry of MWEs.

The outcomes of this research have the potential to benefit various fields, including language description, language documentation, language pedagogy, and language automation technology. By providing a comprehensive analysis of Jordanian MWEs, this study serves as a valuable resource for educators, linguists, and cultural researchers alike. It will not only enhance the understanding of JA but also promote appreciation for the cultural narratives encapsulated within the idioms and proverbs of JA.

This study is a significant step toward addressing the gaps in research on multi-word expressions in JA. By exploring, translating, and transliterating idioms and proverbs, it aims to illuminate the cultural richness of the language and contribute to the preservation of its linguistic heritage. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the importance of understanding and appreciating diverse linguistic expressions cannot be overstated, making this research both timely and relevant.

Research questions

Though multi-word expressions such as idioms and proverbs are abundantly present in our day-to-day interactions, there have not been many systematic investigations into them. The MWEs of JA can be studied from various standpoints. Based on the scope and relevance, this paper tries to address the following research questions:

1. How are idioms, proverbs, and idiomatic expressions significant in understanding and conserving culture?
2. How do idiomatic and proverbial expressions of Jordanian Arabic provide insights into the linguistic and cultural traditions of the place?
3. What role idiomatic and proverbial expressions of Jordanian Arabic can play in socio-pragmatic understanding and language pedagogy?
4. In what ways the challenges encountered during translation and transliteration of idiomatic and proverbial expressions of Jordanian Arabic be mitigated?
5. What can be the structure of primary data sets for the linguistic analysis and automated translation/transliteration of idiomatic and proverbial expressions of Jordanian Arabic?

Contexts of MWEs

Socio-pragmatics, an emergent and increasingly significant domain within the broader field of linguistics, seeks to elucidate the intricate interplay between linguistic expressions and the social contexts in which they are employed. It is universally acknowledged that language is not an isolated construct; rather, it serves as a vehicle for social interaction that is inherently linked to meaning

and societal norms. Consequently, sociolinguistics, which examines the variations in language that arise from the dynamic relationship between language and its social environment, demonstrates a profound connection to the utilization of multi-word expressions (MWEs) in everyday communication. These MWEs, intriguing in their complexity, often comprise strings of words that may or may not effectively convey the intended meaning of the expression as a whole. Moreover, the concept of pragmatics, which focuses on interpreting meaning within specific contexts—the essence of language-in-use—further strengthens the ties between socio-pragmatics and the employment of MWEs. A socio-pragmatic analysis, thus, emerges as a hybrid methodology that encompasses a thorough assessment of both social factors and contextual subtleties surrounding linguistic interactions, leading to a more nuanced understanding of utterances and expressions. This approach is notably more reliable than traditional analyses that neglect the context in which language operates. As an area of burgeoning interest, socio-pragmatics has garnered attention across various disciplines within the linguistic community, highlighting its relevance to language pedagogy, descriptive linguistics, lexicography, and the advancement of language technologies. In this light, the present research endeavor aims to explore the MWEs present in JA through a socio-pragmatic lens, facilitating their identification, examination, and analysis, thereby underscoring the necessity of such an approach in the context of language teaching and learning, language description, and broader linguistic applications.

The exploration of traditional idioms and proverbs through documentaries reveals their profound cultural significance and linguistic evolution. Notable titles such as "Word Wisdom" investigate the origins and meanings of proverbs across various cultures, while "Idioms Unlocked" examines the impact of idiomatic expressions on communication and societal values. Furthermore, "The Proverbs Project" provides an enlightening perspective on how proverbs shape moral teachings and influence daily life within diverse communities. Collectively, these documentaries celebrate language and underscore the intricate relationships between idiomatic expressions and cultural identity.

The need and significance of the study

Proverbs and idiomatic expressions cannot be overstated, as these linguistic constructs serve not only as fundamental components of language but also as vital reflections of cultural heritage and collective wisdom. Proverbs, which are succinct and pithy statements that convey general truths or principles, encapsulate the essence of societal values, attitudes, and beliefs, thereby acting as a bridge between generations and fostering a deeper understanding of the human experience. Furthermore, in an era characterized by rapid globalization and cross-cultural communication, the incorporation of figurative language, denoted by the utilization of proverbs and idiomatic expressions, enriches discourse by imbuing it with layers of meaning that transcend mere literal interpretation. The study of these linguistic phenomena also holds educational significance, as awareness and comprehension of proverbs can enhance language acquisition and improve communicative competence, particularly for learners of English as a second language. Thus, the exploration of proverbs and idiomatic expressions not only contributes to the academic discourse surrounding Linguistics and Cultural Studies but also serves as a vital tool for fostering empathy and understanding among individuals from diverse backgrounds, ultimately promoting a more nuanced appreciation of both languages and the intricacies of human interaction.

In the present study, the researcher endeavors to undertake a comprehensive examination of old, rarely occurring idioms and proverbs that remain extant within contemporary society, with the objective of elucidating the distinctions that manifest between traditional and modern expressions of wisdom. This scholarly inquiry will not only involve the meticulous collection of such linguistic artifacts but will also encompass a rigorous comparative analysis aimed at highlighting the evolving nature of language and cultural expression over time. Following this differentiation, the researcher will engage in the transliteration and translation of these idioms and proverbs from Arabic to English, providing not merely a surface-level conversion of words but also an in-depth exploration of their indirect meanings and contextual usages. By doing so, the study seeks to bridge cultural divides and enhance the understanding of the rich tapestry of linguistic heritage, ultimately contributing to the preservation and appreciation of these valuable expressions in a rapidly changing linguistic landscape. The findings of this research may offer significant insights into the ways in which language reflects societal values, norms, and historical shifts, thereby enriching the field of comparative linguistics and culture.

Adopting a descriptive framework, this paper identifies a group of idiomatic and proverbial expressions from a large corpus and uses them to answer the aforementioned research questions. The description follows a uniform pattern focusing on the socio-pragmatic aspects more than the lexico-semantic aspects. As an Applied Linguistics approach, higher relevance has been accorded to description and usage than classification and theorization of the data. Further, this paper has identified some under-researched and engaging questions and attempts to answer them. The findings are expected to benefit scientific pursuits such as language documentation, language pedagogy, cultural documentation, socio-pragmatics and language technology. Considering the diverse

goals set for this paper, a conceptual framework that is data-driven and blends various established practices and approaches appeared most suitable.

Methodology

This paper presents an examination of traditional idioms and proverbs within the context of JA. It systematically analyzes their cultural significance, linguistic features, and contextual usage, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of these linguistic expressions and their role in Jordanian heritage. The description follows the scheme given below:

Sample illustration for MWEs	
MWE-Number (Idiom/Proverb)	
A -	Idiom/Proverb in the Arabic script
B -	Idiom/Proverb in Roman transliteration
C -	Literal/denotative meaning (word-to-word meaning)
D -	Extended/connotative meaning (implied meaning) with description

Conceptual aspects of idioms and proverbs

Idioms serve as culture-specific linguistic shortcuts that encapsulate complex ideas and emotions in concise phrases, often conveying meanings that are not readily apparent from the individual words involved. These expressions reflect the nuances of a language and its speakers, allowing for effective communication and a deeper understanding of cultural contexts. By relying on idiomatic language, individuals can express intricate sentiments and concepts succinctly, enriching their interactions and fostering connections within their linguistic community (Makkai, 1972).

Figurative expressions play a crucial role in enhancing the richness of language and the depth of communication. By employing metaphors, similes, and idioms, speakers can convey complex sentiments, humor, and cultural nuances with greater efficacy. These expressions not only enrich the speaker's message but also engage the listener, fostering a deeper understanding and connection between individuals. Ultimately, the use of figurative language elevates communication, making it more vivid and impactful (Cohen, 1999).

The understanding and appropriate usage of idioms are essential for language learners, as they significantly enhance fluency and facilitate the comprehension of native speakers. Idiomatic expressions are commonly used in everyday discourse, and a grasp of these phrases enables learners to engage more effectively in conversations. Furthermore, familiarity with idioms enriches cultural insight, allowing learners to appreciate nuances and context that are vital for proficient communication (Brenner, 2018).

Idioms are expressions whose meanings cannot be derived directly from the individual words they comprise; instead, they convey ideas or sentiments through figurative language (Makkai, 2021). The understanding of idioms is essential for effective communication, as their usage can reflect social norms and cultural nuances (Grant, 2022). The cultural embedding of idioms compels scholars and linguists to analyze these expressions as key artifacts of collective memory and societal attitudes. By exploring idioms, researchers can gain insight into the values, beliefs, and historical contexts of different communities, thereby making idioms essential to the study of cross-cultural communication and sociolinguistics. This examination not only enriches our understanding of language dynamics but also highlights the intricate relationship between language, culture, and identity (Peters, 1994). Researchers have increasingly recognized the significance of idioms in the realms of linguistics and cognitive science, thereby prompting a comprehensive examination of their role in language processing, acquisition, and usage (Sternberg, 2022).

The study of proverbs, therefore, offers an invaluable lens through which researchers can examine the interplay between language, culture, and the evolution of societal norms (Johnson & Lee, 2024; Carter, 2024). The study of proverbs not only enhances our understanding of language and communication but also contributes to the broader field of cultural anthropology by illuminating the shared knowledge and collective moral frameworks that underpin diverse communities (Brown, 2024).

Multi-word expressions (MWEs) are significant linguistic units composed of fixed or semi-fixed phrases that convey a single meaning. These expressions include collocations, idioms, and phrasal verbs, each contributing to the richness and fluidity of language. By facilitating cohesive communication, MWEs enhance the clarity and effectiveness of interactions, making them essential components of both written and spoken discourse (Biber et al., 1999; Moon, 1997). Understanding Multi-Word Expressions (MWEs) is vital for both language acquisition and computational linguistics, as these fixed or semi-fixed phrases

significantly enhance fluency and comprehension. MWEs, such as idioms and collocations, provide learners with a more natural command of the language, enabling smoother and more effective communication. In computational linguistics, accurately identifying and processing MWEs can improve language models, leading to better performance in natural language processing tasks, and ultimately facilitating more sophisticated interactions between humans and machines (Pawley & Syder, 1983).

Furthermore, the study of multiword expressions (MWEs) significantly enhances our understanding of language patterns and the cognitive processes that underpin language use. By investigating how MWEs function within various contexts, researchers can uncover insights into holistic language processing and semantic integration. This exploration not only sheds light on the intricacies of human communication but also informs applications in linguistics, artificial intelligence, and cognitive science, ultimately enriching our comprehension of language dynamics (Wray, 2002).

Understanding multi-word expressions (MWEs) is essential for advancing models of language, as they embody fundamental processing strategies inherent to human cognition. MWEs, such as idioms and collocations, reveal the interplay between linguistic structure and cognitive function, showcasing how language users intuitively group certain words together. By examining these expressions, researchers can gain valuable insights into language dynamics, enhancing our comprehension of both linguistic theory and practical applications in natural language processing (Norrick, 2007). MWEs are also inevitable components in natural language processing and computational linguistics, as they occur frequently in both spoken and written discourse. Their presence can greatly influence language comprehension and production, highlighting the need for effective recognition and processing in linguistic models. By accurately identifying MWEs, systems can enhance understanding and improve communication efficiency, thereby contributing to more sophisticated language technologies (Baldwin & Kim, 2010).

The significance of MWEs such as proverbs lies not merely in their capacity to communicate moral lessons; rather, they also embody the intricate interplay between language, culture, and cognition, revealing how societies construct meaning and ethical frameworks through linguistic forms (Smith & Jones, 2023). As such, the study of proverbs offers profound insights into the societal norms and philosophical paradigms that govern human behavior, enabling researchers to explore the dynamics of language and consciousness across different cultures (Thompson, 2022). With their capacity to bridge the gap between abstract concepts and daily reality, proverbs remain a vital area of inquiry within both historical and contemporary discourse (Harris, 2023). Proverbial language enriches communication by providing familiar context and illustrating common experiences that resonated with individuals throughout time, thereby fostering a sense of shared understanding and cultural identity (Smith, 2024).

The research underscores the critical role of multiword expressions (MWEs) in various linguistic applications, particularly in machine translation and language modeling. The recognition of MWEs enhances the accuracy and fluency of these tasks, highlighting their significance in both theoretical frameworks and practical implementations within the field of linguistics. As such, a comprehensive understanding of MWEs is imperative for advancing language processing capabilities (Cupples, 2013).

Classical Arabic and colloquial Arabic represent two distinct yet interrelated forms of the Arabic language, each serving different purposes within the linguistic landscape of the Arab world. Classical Arabic, often referred to as Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) in contemporary contexts, is the formal register of the language used in literature, formal speeches, academic writing, and the media. It is characterized by its adherence to grammatical rules established in historical texts, its extensive vocabulary derived from the early Islamic and pre-Islamic periods, and its rich literary heritage, exemplified by works such as the Quran and classical poetry (Owens, 2006). In contrast, colloquial Arabic encompasses a variety of regional dialects and is the predominant form of Arabic used in everyday conversation. These dialects, which can vary significantly from one region to another—such as Egyptian, Levantine, Gulf, and Maghrebi—often incorporate local expressions, vocabulary from other languages, and structural simplifications that reflect the spoken nature of this form (Mona, 2015). While colloquial Arabic is dynamic and continually evolving, making it more adaptable to contemporary realities and influences, Classical Arabic remains a bastion of linguistic purity and formality. The existence of these two forms raises important considerations about language identity and literacy, particularly in educational contexts where proficiency in both registers is often necessary for effective communication (Ferguson, 1983). Understanding the divergence between these two forms is crucial for linguists, educators, and those engaged in cross-cultural communication, as it reflects broader sociolinguistic dynamics within the Arabic-speaking community and highlights the ongoing tension between tradition and modernity.

MWE-1 (Idiom)

- A - عد رجالك ورد الماء
 B - 'd rjālk ūrd l-mā'
 C - Count your men and fill the water.
 D - People use it as a sign of power, or to show how strong people rule. They will say by the man with huge numbers you can impose authority. A lot of people means a lot of power. How many men you have means how much power you have.

MWE-2 (Proverb)

- A - رخصت العبي وكثرت الشيوخ
 B - rkḥšt l-'bī ūkthrt sh-shiūkh
 C - The obi becomes cheap and the shyookh¹ becomes more.
 D - People use it when they want to express underestimation. They will use it when they face an ordinary man acting like a Shaykh¹. They will say the aobi², became cheap (because it is not originally China-made) and you wear it because it's not original which means you don't deserve it.

MWE-3 (Idiom)

- A - يا غبرا يا حزينه
 B - īā ghbrā īā ḥzīnh
 C - Hey gabra hey hazenah.
 D - People use it once they want to express wonder and disbelief. There is a story behind it which was about two women; the first one was called Gabra and the second one was called Hazenah. When one of them saw a strange situation, she would call the other woman by her name to let her see what a weird situation it was. People use this expression to express strangeness.

MWE-4 (Proverb)

- A - بالشريعة ولا يبطنك يا عرسان
 B - bālshri' h ūlā bṭnk īā 'rsān
 C - Belshareaa but not in Arsan's belly.
 D - People use it when there is a powerful man and people fear him. There is a story behind it which says there was a powerful shaikh called Arsan. He was very famous, and powerful. People feared him. Arsan asks his guards to bring a man. When they saw the man, they told him that al shaikh Arsan asked you to come over to his tent. When the man got to know that al shaikh Arsan wanted him he felt terrified and started running from the guards until he arrived the river of Jordan which called alshareaa³, and he drowned himself in the river. And while jumped into the river, he said in shareaa is much better than in Arsan's belly. Now, , people use this expression to express fear.

MWE-5 (Idiom)

- A - عيونك مثل خزوق الفروه
 B - 'iūnk mthl khzūq l-frūh
 C - Your eyes look like the fur holes.
 D - People use it when they face a smalleyed person. They will tell him that your eyes look like the holes in the fur. The fur is full of hair and you can imagine if we make two holes in it. You can hardly find the holes between the hair referring to his eyes. People use this expression to express small eyes of other people.

¹ Shaykh: a famous person in the tribe

² Obi: it's the dress of the Arab tribes' leaders

³ Alshareaa: River of jordan

Analyzing MWEs (idioms and proverbs)

Throughout history, individuals have sought to encapsulate the essence of their lived experiences and the complexities of life in succinct phrases, often drawing upon popular idioms and proverbs that resonate across both comic and serious contexts. These expressions, which have been passed down orally from generation to generation, carry profound significance that is inherently tied to the cultural and temporal circumstances of their inception. Each proverb serves not merely as a linguistic artifact but as a distilled summary of collective wisdom, reflecting the values, beliefs, and realities of the society from which it originates. Whether employed by individuals from various social strata to articulate their current situations, to inspire action, or to dissuade certain behaviors, these sayings offer a unique lens through which to view the political, social, economic, and psychological landscapes of human existence. Furthermore, proverbs often function as educational tools, imparting essential life lessons to younger generations and fostering a sense of cultural identity. In this way, they not only encapsulate historical truths and shared experiences but also serve as a repository of knowledge that enriches human life, highlighting the enduring importance of idiomatic expressions in our daily interactions and broader societal discourse. Thus, the study and appreciation of proverbs reveal their multifaceted role in shaping human understanding and communication, underscoring their relevance in both contemporary and historical contexts.

Analysis of MWE-1 (idiom)

- A - عد رجالك ورد الماء
B - 'd rjālk ūrd l-mā'

This idiom is categorized as an advice idiom/proverb. The speaker's intention is to express a meaning that is different from the sum of surface meaning of words used in it. People use this idiomatic expression as a sign of power, or to show how strong people rule, intending to say 'with a man with huge numbers you can impose authority; a lot of people (men) means a lot of power. How many men you have means how much power you have. In order to demonstrate and to convey advice, the informant who provided this idiom said that sometimes people would misunderstand its meaning by relying upon the (direct meaning) which could be understood as 'count your men and fill the water'. However, the speaker intended to convey the opposite idea, which is called (the implied meaning) which the listener should understand clearly to avoid miscommunication.

Analysis of MWE-2 (proverb)

- A - رخصت العبي وكثرت الشيوخ
B - rkhšt l-'bī ūkthrt sh-shīūkh

This proverb is categorized as a mockery proverb. The speaker intends to express disregard and scorn. People use this proverbial expression when they want to express underestimation. They use it when they encounter a normal man acting like a Shaykh. They say the aobi, became cheap (because it is not originally China-made) and you wear it because it's not original which means you don't deserve it. In order to demonstrate and to convey mockery, the informant from whom I obtained this proverb said that sometimes people would misunderstand the meaning of it as the (direct meaning) which could be understood as the obi became cheap and the shyookh became numerous. However, the speaker intended to convey a contrasting idea, which is called the speaker's intention or implied meaning that the listener should understand clearly to avoid miscommunication.

Analysis of MWE-3 (idiom)

- A - يا غبرا يا حزينه
B - iā ghbrā iā ḥzīnh

This idiom is categorized as a denunciation idiom though which the speaker intends to express wonder and disbelief. There is a story behind it about two women; the first one is called Gabra and the second one is called Hazenah. When either of them saw a strange situation, they would call the other woman by her name to let her see what a weird situation was that. From that story, people started using this idiomatic expression to express strangeness. In order to demonstrate and to convey denunciation, the informant who provided this idiom said that sometimes people misunderstand the meaning of it as the (direct meaning) which could be understood as hey gabra hey hazenah. However, the speaker intended to convey the opposite. The listener should understand clearly to avoid miscommunication.

Analysis of MWE-4 (proverb)

- A - بالشريعة ولا بيطنك يا عرسان
B - bālshri'h ūlā bṭnk iā 'rsān

This proverb is categorized as a power proverb. The speaker intends to express that when there is a powerful man people fear him. There is a story behind it which says there was a powerful shaikh called Arsan. He was very famous, strong and powerful and the people were scared of him. This Arsan asks his guards to bring a man. when they saw a man they told him al shaikh Arsan asked you to come to his tent. As soon as the man knows that al shaikh Arsan wanted him he felt scared and start running from the guards until he arrived the river of Jordan which called alshareaa, and he jumped into the river. While he was drowning himself, he said in shareaa is much better than Arsan's belly. In other words, people use this proverb to express fear. The informant who supplied this proverb said that sometimes people misunderstand the meaning of it as the (direct meaning) which could be understood as Belshareaa but not in Arsan's belly, However, the speaker intended to convey the opposite. The listener should understand this expression clearly to avoid miscommunication.

Analysis of MWE-5 (idiom)

- A - عيونك مثل خزوق الفروه
 B - 'iunk mthl khzūq l-frūh

This idiom is categorized as a mockery idiom. People use it when they face a small-eyes person. They will tell him that your eyes look like the holes in the fur. The fur is full of hair. . If we make two holes in it then you hardly can find the holes between the hair which represents his eyes. Or sometimes to express small eyes. In order to demonstrate and to convey mockery, the informant of this idiom said that sometimes people misunderstand the meaning of it replying upon the literal meaning. However, the intention is to convey the opposite The listener should understand this idiom fully to avoid miscommunication.

Findings and discussion

Idioms, proverbs, and idiomatic expressions serve as vital cultural artifacts that encapsulate the values, beliefs, and historical contexts of a community. They enrich language by conveying complex ideas and emotions in a succinct manner, fostering a deeper understanding of social norms and practices. Furthermore, these linguistic elements play a crucial role in intergenerational communication, helping to transmit cultural knowledge and identity. By studying and preserving idiomatic language, we not only enhance our comprehension of a culture but also contribute to its continuity in an increasingly globalized world.

Idiomatic and proverbial expressions in JA serve as a vital reflection of the region's linguistic and cultural traditions, encapsulating the values, beliefs, and daily experiences of its speakers. These expressions often draw from the rich historical and social fabric of Jordan, conveying wisdom, humor, and social norms in compact forms. Their usage reveals not only the nuances of communication within the community but also highlights themes such as hospitality, resilience, and familial relationships. By examining these expressions, one gains valuable insights into the collective identity and cultural heritage of Jordan, illustrating how language and tradition are intricately intertwined.

Idiomatic and proverbial expressions in JA serve a crucial role in enhancing socio-pragmatic understanding and language pedagogy. These expressions encapsulate cultural values, social norms, and historical contexts, thereby enriching learners' comprehension of the language as it is used in real-life interactions. Integrating idioms and proverbs into language instruction not only aids in developing communicative competence but also fosters a deeper appreciation of the cultural nuances that influence meaning and usage. Consequently, such integration can significantly improve learners' ability to navigate social contexts effectively, facilitating more authentic and meaningful communication in JA.

At the outset, it is crucial to recognize that proverbs and idioms, while steeped in historical context, possess a profound universality. They are born out of collective human experiences and observations that transcend specific cultures or time periods. A proverb like *"a stitch in time saves nine,"* for instance, not only reflects a practical truth relevant to a bygone era but continues to serve as a guiding principle for those grappling with procrastination or the consequences of neglect. Similarly, *"Actions speak louder than words"* transcends its origins, reminding us of the importance of deeds over rhetoric in various facets of life, whether in personal relationships, business dealings, or community engagement.

Arabic readers can enhance their understanding of Jordanian idioms and proverbs by immersing themselves in Jordanian culture and dialect. Engaging with local literature, media, and spoken conversations will provide context and usage examples. Additionally, resources such as bilingual dictionaries and cultural guides can clarify meanings and origins. Participating in discussions with native speakers offers invaluable insights, fostering a deeper appreciation for the nuances of these expressions. By integrating these approaches, readers can effectively grasp the richness of Jordanian idiomatic language.

To effectively mitigate the challenges encountered during the translation and transliteration of idiomatic and proverbial expressions in Jordanian Arabic, it is essential to adopt a multifaceted approach. First, translators should deepen their cultural

understanding of both the source and target languages, ensuring they grasp the contextual significance of expressions. Utilizing equivalent idioms in the target language can often convey similar meanings, enhancing clarity and relatability. Additionally, collaborating with native speakers can provide invaluable insights and alternative phrases that resonate more appropriately within the target culture. Employing comprehensive glossaries that document frequently used expressions alongside their meanings can serve as a useful reference tool for translators, ultimately fostering greater accuracy and authenticity in their work.

The structure of primary sets of data for the linguistic analysis and automated translation or transliteration of idiomatic and proverbial expressions in JA should encompass several key components. First, each entry must include the idiomatic or proverbial expression in its original Arabic script, followed by a phonetic transcription to facilitate pronunciation. Additionally, contextual information is essential, including usage examples, regional variations, and cultural relevance. A comprehensive translation in target languages, along with an analysis of semantic nuances, can enhance understanding. Furthermore, metadata, such as source information and date of collection, will support the authenticity and reliability of the dataset, ensuring it serves as a valuable resource for linguistic research and technological applications.

It's quite fascinating to delve into the intricacies of Arabic idioms and proverbs, particularly in the Jordanian context. While these expressions are rich in cultural and historical significance, they often pose a challenge for contemporary readers. Many idioms are deeply rooted in specific regional dialects or historical contexts that may not resonate with the current generation. This disconnect can lead to misunderstandings or misinterpretations, highlighting the need for efforts in education and cultural exchange. By fostering a deeper understanding of these idioms, we can bridge the gap between tradition and modernity, ensuring that the wisdom embedded in these phrases continues to be appreciated and utilized effectively.

In Jordan, the preservation of cultural heritage, particularly through the archiving of idioms and proverbs, faces significant challenges due to the scarcity of specialized sources and repositories. Unlike many cultures that boast extensive collections dedicated to their linguistic nuances, Jordan lacks institutions focused specifically on cataloging these vital expressions of wisdom and identity. This deficiency not only hinders the systematic study of Jordanian vernacular but also risks the erosion of unique cultural insights that idioms and proverbs encapsulate. The development of dedicated archives and resources would be instrumental in safeguarding this linguistic heritage for future generations, fostering both academic research and cultural appreciation.

Understanding Jordanian idioms and proverbs requires Arabic readers to engage with the cultural and contextual nuances underlying these expressions. Familiarity with the local dialect, social customs, and historical references enhances comprehension. Readers can benefit from exposure to various media, including literature, television, and oral storytelling, which often incorporate these idioms in context. Additionally, seeking resources such as bilingual dictionaries and academic analyses can provide deeper insights into the meanings and uses of specific phrases, ultimately enriching the reader's appreciation of Jordanian linguistic heritage.

The field of traditional idioms and proverbs is rich with diverse documentaries that explore their cultural significance and linguistic evolution. Some notable titles include "Word Wisdom," which delves into the origins and meanings of common proverbs across various cultures, and "Idioms Unlocked," a series that examines how idiomatic expressions shape communication and reflect societal values. Additionally, "The Proverbs Project" offers an insightful look at how proverbs influence moral teachings and everyday life in different communities. These documentaries not only celebrate language but also highlight the intricate connections between idiomatic expressions and cultural identity.

Moreover, the application of these idioms to our contemporary lives underscores their situational relevance. In an age marked by rapid technological advancements and social shifts, proverbs remain applicable as they speak to the core of our shared human condition. For example, the adage "*you can't teach an old dog new tricks*" finds resonance in discussions about adaptability in the workforce, where younger employees often embody the agility and innovation needed in rapidly changing industries. In this way, proverbs provide a lens through which we can better understand current realities; they serve as reminders of the human traits that remain unchanged—even amid shifting circumstances.

Every language community is deeply committed to preserving its unique heritage and cultural identity, recognizing the paramount importance of transmitting this rich legacy from one generation to the next. This transmission serves as a vital conduit for the knowledge, literature, and wisdom crafted by ancestors, allowing them to pass down their experiences, insights, and values through various forms, including oral traditions. Among these forms of cultural expression, popular proverbs stand out as quintessential reflections of collective wisdom; They encapsulate the ethos and moral frameworks of societies, often conveying profound truths in succinct, memorable phrases. However, a pertinent area of exploration lies in the distinction between the direct meaning of

these proverbs, which can be understood at face value, and their indirect meanings, which often reveal deeper cultural insights and societal nuances. The researcher aims to elucidate this dichotomy, showcasing how a seemingly straightforward proverb can embody layered interpretations that reflect the complexity of human experience and societal norms. By examining these contrasting dimensions, it becomes evident that proverbs are not merely linguistic artifacts but are dynamic expressions of enduring cultural heritage, rich with implications for the understanding of identity and continuity within the tapestry of human civilization.

In Jordan, the preservation of cultural heritage, particularly through the archiving of idioms and proverbs, is confronted with significant obstacles stemming from a lack of specialized resources and repositories. Unlike many cultures that possess comprehensive collections dedicated to their linguistic intricacies, Jordan lacks institutions specifically designed for the cataloging of these essential expressions of wisdom and identity. This shortcoming not only impedes the systematic examination of Jordanian vernacular but also threatens the existence of unique cultural insights encapsulated in idioms and proverbs. Establishing dedicated archives and resources would prove vital in conserving this linguistic heritage for future generations, thereby promoting both academic research and cultural appreciation within the broader context of Jordan's rich heritage.

Proverbs do not merely articulate fundamental truths; they also offer a colorful picture of the realities of any nation. They often reflect cultural values, social norms, and historical contexts embedded in collective memory. For instance, the Japanese saying "*the nail that sticks out gets hammered down*" conveys a cultural emphasis on conformity and harmony, shedding light on societal dynamics that may differ from Western norms, where individualism is often celebrated. Such idioms illustrate how language encapsulates the ethos of a community, serving as a repository of cultural identity. By examining the proverbs of diverse cultures, we can acquire a richer understanding of the world's intricacies and the various ways humanity navigates existence.

Multi-word expressions (MWEs) such as idioms, proverbs, and idiomatic expressions serve as vital instruments in the conservation and comprehension of culture, as they encapsulate societal values, beliefs, and traditions unique to a community. These linguistic constructs often convey wisdom and moral lessons, reflecting the historical experiences and collective consciousness of a culture. By transmitting these phrases through generations, societies preserve their heritage while fostering a sense of identity and continuity. Furthermore, the study of such expressions enhances cross-cultural understanding, allowing individuals to appreciate diverse worldviews and the intricate nuances of language embedded within cultural contexts.

Firstly, a comprehensive collection of idiomatic and proverbial expressions must be compiled, accompanied by their translations and contextual usage examples. Each entry should include morphological and syntactic annotations, facilitating a nuanced understanding of the expressions' structures. This multidimensional framework will enhance the efficacy of linguistic analysis and support the development of robust automated translation systems tailored to the intricacies of JA.

The exploration of Arabic idioms and proverbs within the Jordanian context reveals both their cultural richness and the challenges they present to contemporary audiences. To preserve and appreciate this linguistic heritage, it is essential to promote educational initiatives and cultural exchanges that enhance understanding. By doing so, we can effectively connect the wisdom of the past with the present, ensuring that these valuable expressions remain relevant and impactful for future generations.

Furthermore, the act of engaging with proverbs encourages a critical examination of our own values and behaviors. In a world rife with ambiguity and complexity, the timeless wisdom embedded in these linguistic constructs can serve as moral compasses, guiding individuals toward introspection and self-awareness. Proverbial wisdom can inspire reflection on one's actions and choices, fostering a deeper understanding of the consequences they carry. This, in turn, contributes to the formation of more conscientious individuals and communities, nourishing ethical discourse and enhancing interpersonal relations.

Importantly, the potency of proverbs lies not only in their explicit meanings but also in their implicit wisdom. Many proverbs, when taken at face value, may lead to superficial interpretations. However, a deeper exploration often reveals layers of meaning that provide insight into human motivations, behaviors, and societal dynamics. For instance, the phrase "*curiosity killed the cat*" warns against the dangers of excessive inquisitiveness, yet upon further reflection, it also illuminates the delicate balance between inquiry and respect for boundaries—an ever-relevant consideration in our information-saturated age where boundaries are often blurred. Understanding these implicit meanings enhances our comprehension not just of the proverbs themselves, but of the complexities of human interactions.

Idiomatic and proverbial expressions in JA serve as vital reflections of the linguistic and cultural traditions inherent to the region. These expressions encapsulate local wisdom, social norms, and values, often conveying historical and cultural narratives that resonate deeply within the community. By analyzing these phrases, one gains insight into the collective identity, humor, and moral

frameworks that shape everyday life in Jordan. Furthermore, the use of such expressions fosters a sense of belonging and continuity, highlighting the intricate relationship between language and cultural heritage in Jordanian society.

The challenges encountered during the translation and transliteration of idiomatic and proverbial expressions from JA can be mitigated through several strategies. First, a thorough understanding of the cultural context in which these expressions are used is essential, as it enables translators to capture the intended meaning accurately. Utilizing equivalent expressions in the target language, where applicable, can enhance comprehension and resonance. Additionally, collaboration with native speakers and linguistic experts can provide invaluable insights, ensuring that subtleties and nuances are preserved. Finally, employing a flexible approach that prioritizes the communicative function over literal translation will facilitate clearer and more effective communication across languages.

Proverbs and idioms, therefore, are far more than mere expressions of wit or language games; they are vital components of our collective narrative. Their ability to adapt and resonate with contemporary life scenarios highlights their significance in guiding human behavior and thought, while also providing a connection to our cultural heritage. Each proverb encapsulates a fragment of historical experience and cultural wisdom that, when examined, reveals enduring insights applicable across time and space.

This paper raised some pertinent questions regarding MWEs and tried to engage with them. It is beyond the scope of a research article to answer them all elaborately. Therefore, it provides some tentative answers and leaves the rest for future research. Concerning the first question, MWEs encapsulate shared wisdom and values and serve as a link to the linguistic and cultural past. Concerning the second question, this paper finds out that the MWEs in Jordanian Arabic reflect country's historical experiences, social structure and daily life. They encode humor, collective memory and common wisdom. MWEs in JA also capture societal expectations and serve as linguistic artifacts. Concerning the question regarding the socio-pragmatic and pedagogical aspects of MWEs this study found out that MWEs can enhance communicative competence of the learners and add to their conversational fluency. As these expressions are beyond literal meanings, mastery over them can provide native-like discourse abilities. Regarding the fourth question that concerns translation and transliteration challenges related to MWEs of JA, this paper suggests localization-based adaptation, collaboration with native speakers and the use of lexical resources such as dictionaries, glossaries and databases. The final question concerned the structure of primary data sets for linguistic analysis and automated translation/transliteration. Regarding this question, this paper recommends the development of electronic lexicons and the preparation of metadata on regional variations. Building etymological and cultural notes and developing a standardization for spelling will also help the cause. The present-day technological advancements permit the development exhaustive databases wherein information pertaining to translation, transliteration, meaning and usage can be stored for learners and retrieved as and when required.

The culture of oral communication serves as a dynamic social space where the richness of human expression finds its most vibrant articulation; in this realm, pearls of meaning and gems of eloquence soar freely, enriching interactions and fostering understanding among individuals and communities. Language, at its core, transcends mere vocabulary and syntax; it is fundamentally a vehicle for articulating human needs, facilitating the transmission of messages across generations, and enabling a shared comprehension of the world. Within this intricate tapestry of oral communication, the diversity of expression manifests vividly through proverbs and idioms, which encapsulate the collective wisdom and lived experiences of various cultures. Among these, popular proverbs hold a preeminent position, as they distill the essence of myriad experiences into succinct phrases that resonate with universal truths. They poignantly reflect the vicissitudes of life, portraying the full spectrum of human emotions from the depths of sadness to the heights of joy, encompassing anger, satisfaction, disappointment, and triumph along the way. Such proverbs serve not only as linguistic artifacts but also as a sincere mirror to the conscience of the people, capturing the spontaneity and authenticity of their lived realities. Through the culture of oral communication, we gain access to an inexhaustible resource of wisdom that fosters connection, promotes empathy, and enriches our understanding of the human condition.

Conclusion

Idioms, proverbs, and idiomatic expressions play a critical role in understanding and conserving culture as they encapsulate shared values, beliefs, and experiences unique to a community. These linguistic elements serve as windows into cultural identity, reflecting historical contexts and societal norms. By studying and preserving these forms of expression, we not only foster appreciation for linguistic diversity but also ensure that the cultural narratives they embody continue to thrive across generations. Thus, they are not merely figurative language; they are vital instruments for cultural continuity and comprehension.

Idiomatic and proverbial expressions in JA serve as important cultural markers that reflect the linguistic heritage and social values of the region. They encapsulate shared experiences, historical narratives, and collective wisdom, offering insights into the customs and beliefs that shape Jordanian identity. By examining these expressions, one gains a deeper understanding of the nuances of

communication, the importance of family and community, and the resilience embedded in Jordanian society, thereby highlighting the intricate relationship between language and culture.

Idiomatic and proverbial expressions in JA serve as crucial tools for enhancing socio-pragmatic understanding and language pedagogy. These expressions encapsulate cultural values, social norms, and interpersonal dynamics, providing learners with insights into the societal context in which the language is used. Incorporating idiomatic language into instructional practices not only enriches learners' linguistic competence but also fosters a deeper appreciation of cultural nuances, facilitating effective communication in diverse social settings. Consequently, integrating these expressions into language education can significantly contribute to a more holistic and meaningful learning experience.

In addressing the challenges encountered during the translation and transliteration of idiomatic and proverbial expressions in JA, a multifaceted approach is essential. Collaborating with native speakers and cultural experts can enhance contextual understanding, while employing dynamic equivalence strategies allows for more meaningful translations that resonate with target audiences. Additionally, developing comprehensive glossaries of idiomatic expressions, alongside training translators in cultural nuances, can further mitigate these challenges. Ultimately, fostering awareness of the linguistic intricacies involved will lead to more accurate and culturally sensitive translations.

The structure of primary data sets for the linguistic analysis and automated translation or transliteration of idiomatic and proverbial expressions in JA should encompass a comprehensive linguistic framework. This framework should include various elements such as annotated corpora that capture contextual usage, metadata detailing cultural significance, and parallel texts for comparative analysis. Additionally, the inclusion of both qualitative and quantitative data will enhance the robustness of the dataset, ensuring that idiomatic expressions are accurately represented and effectively translated across languages while preserving their intrinsic meanings and cultural nuances.

These MWEs expressions encapsulate cultural values, social norms, and community experiences, thus providing learners with insights into the subtleties of interpersonal communication. In the context of language instruction, incorporating such idioms fosters not only linguistic competence but also cultural literacy, enabling students to navigate social interactions more effectively. Moreover, understanding these expressions aids in deciphering nuanced meanings and intentions, which are essential for successful communication in both formal and informal settings.

The timeless relevance of proverbs and idioms in human experience language, in its myriad forms, serves as a bridge between generations, cultures, and experiences. Among the various facets of language, idioms and proverbs hold a distinctive place. Often rooted in the wisdom of our ancestors, these verbal nuggets encapsulate age-old truths and observations about life, human behavior, and social relations. This paper explores the enduring relevance of proverbs and idioms, highlighting their ability to resonate through time, their cultural significance, and the implicit meanings they convey—arguments that underline their indispensable role in our present and future.

In conclusion, idioms and proverbs, even when originating generations ago, remain an inseparable part of our present and future. They help us navigate the complexities of our lives by reflecting fundamental truths that resonate through time. By embracing the lessons, they impart and recognizing their cultural significance, we can cultivate a deeper sense of connection with the past, understand our present more clearly, and approach the future with a greater awareness of the human experience. The exploration of proverbs is not merely an exploration of language, but an affirmation of our shared humanity—an invitation to appreciate the wisdom that binds us across cultures and generations.

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