



## ORIGIN OF PROVERBS AND SAYINGS AND THEIR PRIMARY SOURCES

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### ABSTRACT

As we know proverbs and sayings provide an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the life and culture of the people for whom the given language is the native one and convince us that different peoples may have the same views and moral values. The article is about the peculiarity of the origin of proverbs and sayings is that they originated from the traditions, customs and beliefs of the English people, and that they were created on the basis of various realities and facts of English history.

**Key words:** Proverbs and sayings, phraseology, neologisms, winged expressions, structure, value system, problems and experiences.

The peculiarity of the origin of proverbs and sayings is that they originated from the traditions, customs and beliefs of the English people, and that they were created on the basis of various realities and facts of English history. In general, proverbs and sayings in the English language, as well as in other languages, are the creation of a nation, a manifestation of its wisdom and linguistic sense.

By origin, they can be divided into major groups:

- natively English;
- borrowed from the Bible and other literary sources;
- borrowed from foreign languages;

#### *Originally English proverbs and sayings*

The creators of most of the Native English proverbs and sayings remain unknown.

The origin of original English proverbs and sayings is related to customs, traditions, realities, historical facts, etc.

Examples of such widespread proverbs and sayings created by the people are:

**bite off more than one can chew** «взять в рот больше, чем можешь проглотить», т. е. «взяться за непосильное дело»; «не рассчитывать своих сил»; «орешек не по зубам», «дело не по плечу»;

**in for a penny, in for a pound** «risk for a penny, risk for a pound» (comparing: «назвался груздем, полезай в кузов», «взялся за гуж, не говори, что не дюж»);

**beat the air (or the wind)** «to try in vain, to waste energy in vain»; «переливать из пустого в порожнее», «толочь воду в ступе» the expression comes from the medieval custom to wave weapons as a sign of victory when the opponent did not come to the court of honour to settle the dispute with weapons);

**good wine needs no bush** literally, "good wine does not need a label"; "good goods praise themselves" (the old custom was that taverns would hang ivy branches as a sign that wine was on sale);

**rob Peter to pay Paid** "to support one to the detriment of another," "to take from one to give to another," "to give some debts, and to climb into the other" (comparing: «тришкин кафтан») (the expression goes back to the old custom of the clergy to pass on various church utensils from rich churches to poor churches

Proverbs and sayings related to the English reality:

**carry coals to Newcastle** "take coal to Newcastle," i.e. "take something where it's enough." Newcastle - the center of the English coal industry); (comparing: «ехать в Тулу со своим самоваром»; come Yorkshire over somebody rarely "to cheat, to fool someone";

**play fast and loose** "to lead an unfair, double game", "to act irresponsibly", "to violate one's obligations", "to play with somebody's affections" (the expression is related to an ancient game played mainly at fairs in England. A belt or rope was wrapped tightly on a finger or blown, and the spectators could not catch a clever manipulation and invariably lost the bet); put somebody in the cart "to put someone in a difficult position" (the word cart called a cart in which criminals were taken to the place of execution or drove around the city with disgrace).

Proverbs and sayings related to beliefs:

**a black sheep** "lousy sheep", "shame in the family" (the old belief is that a black sheep is marked with the seal of the devil);

The rotation of **hide one's head in the sand** and **play the ostrich** "hide one's head and think that you are not seen" and an ostrich policy "ostrich politician", "the desire to escape from reality, to ignore it" reflect the medieval opinion about the behavior of a frightened ostrich.

The appearance of some phraseologists in a number of countries was associated with astrological delusions. False astrologers claimed that the location of celestial bodies affect the fate of man.

**be born under a lucky star** «родиться под счастливой звездой»;

**be born under an unlucky (or evil) star** «родиться под не-счастливой звездой»;

**believe in one's star** «верить в свою звезду, в свою судьбу»;

**be through with one's star** «испытывать неудачи» (после успеха), «утратить популярность»;

**bless (или thank) one's stars** (also **thank one's lucky stars**) «благодарить свою счастливую звезду»;

**curse one's stars** «проклинать свою судьбу»;

**one's star is in the ascendant** «его (ее и т. д.) звезда восходит», «он (она и т. д.) преуспевает, идет в гору»;

**the stars were against it** «сама судьба была против этого».

Proverbs and sayings taken from fairy tales and fables:

**Fortunatus's purse** "inexhaustible wallet" (Fortunatus is a fairytale character).

From medieval fables expressions of **the whole bag of tricks** "all arsenal of tricks" and **(in) borrowed plumes** "a crow in peacock feathers" are taken.

Proverbs and sayings related to legends:

**have kissed the Blarney stone** "to be a flatterer" (according to the legend, everyone who kissed a stone at Blarney Castle in Ireland received the gift of flattering speech);

**a peeping Tom** "too curious a man" (the legend of Lady Godiva, wife of the Count of Mercia, tells us that the Count imposed an unbearable tax on the people of Coventry. When Lady Godiva stood up for them, the Earl said he would cancel the tax if Lady Godiva dared to drive through the city naked at noon. So as not to embarrass her, all the residents had closed the shutters of their houses. The only one who started peeking in the snap was tailor Tom, who was immediately struck by blindness.).

Many English proverbs and sayings are of literary origin, from the Bible.

So in this article we learnt about the origin of proverbs and their peculiarities. And by the way we compared it with Russian proverbs too.

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