



Multi-Word Expressions in Jordanian Arabic: A Socio-Pragmatic Study of Idioms and Proverbs

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Abstract

The primary aim of this research endeavour is to conduct a thorough investigation, translation, and transliteration of multi-word expressions (MWEs) commonly found within the Arabic language and Jordan's cultural landscape, with a particular focus on idiomatic expressions and proverbs. In the context of Jordanian Arabic (JA), similar to various other linguistic frameworks, these MWEs occupy a pivotal position in the fabric of everyday discourse, proficiently encapsulating complex cultural meanings in a manner that is both succinct and impactful. The linguistic richness of Jordanian Arabic is highlighted by its diverse array of traditional idioms and proverbs, which frequently serve to distil profound cultural insights that reflect the values, beliefs, and historical narratives inherent to the Jordanian populace. The regular use of these expressions in casual conversation serves not only as a means of communication but also as a repository of cultural significance, embodying the essence of communal identity. This study aims to shed light on a critical yet often overlooked aspect of language use: the relatively infrequent application of certain idioms and proverbs can obscure their deeper meanings. Expressions that are not widely employed can often carry connotations that diverge considerably from their straightforward translations, revealing intricate layers of interpretation that are profoundly influenced by the surrounding cultural context. To elucidate this phenomenon, the research will methodically distinguish between the direct, interlingual meanings of these expressions and their connotative, culturally informed implications. Through this analytical lens, the study aims to deepen the readers' understanding of how culturally embedded concepts not only affect interpretations but also shape interpersonal relationships. This scholarly exploration emphasises the complex relationship between language and culture, illustrating that the richness inherent in the idiomatic and proverbial expressions of JA goes beyond mere vocabulary; it also offers insights into the collective wisdom and outlook of the Jordanian people. Ultimately, this research aspires to provide a comprehensive examination of MWEs of Jordanian Arabic, unravelling the significant implications these expressions hold in day-to-day communication and the articulation of cultural identity. Such an inquiry underscores the imperative to recognise idioms and proverbs not solely as structural and linguistic constructs, but as elements of socio-pragmatics and a multifaceted cultural heritage, seeking conservation and scholarly engagement.

1. INTRODUCTION

Multi-word expressions (MWEs), including idioms, proverbs, phrasal verbs, and traditional sayings, are often characterised by their succinct and memorable phrasing. They are part of the

mental lexicon and serve as linguistic artefacts and pivotal vehicles for cultural transmission, enabling societies to share insights and practical advice across generations with remarkable efficacy. These maxims encapsulate the collective wisdom of a community, reflecting its values, beliefs, and historical experiences in a manner that resonates deeply with individuals of all ages. As oral traditions evolve, these sayings undergo a transformative process, allowing them to adapt to the contemporary context while maintaining their core messages, thereby ensuring their relevance in a rapidly changing world. By encapsulating complex social truths and ethical considerations into digestible nuggets of wisdom, these traditional expressions foster intergenerational dialogue, bridging the gap between the past and the present. Furthermore, they act as mnemonic devices, empowering individuals to internalise and convey essential life lessons, which are often steeped in the nuances of local customs and societal norms. In this way, traditional sayings not only encapsulate cultural identity but also facilitate a deeper understanding of communal ties, reinforcing the fabric of society through shared narratives and collective memory. Thus, the enduring nature of these expressions underscores their significance as instruments of knowledge transfer, highlighting their role as vital components of human connection and cultural continuity in an increasingly globalised world (Mieder, 2004). Notably, research in Linguistics has not given adequate emphasis on phraseology (study of phrases), idiomology (study of idioms) and paremiology (study of proverbs), even though they can unravel interesting facts about human language.

The study presented herein advocates for a sense-by-sense translation approach, which is fundamentally more effective than a word-by-word method, particularly when dealing with the intricate and often subtle meanings embedded within idiomatic expressions. The latter approach, while straightforward, frequently overlooks the rich contextual layers and cultural significance that inform the intended meanings of phrases, thereby reducing them to mere literal interpretations. In contrast, a sense-for-sense translation prioritises the overarching meaning and cultural context, resulting in a more authentic and resonant representation of the original expression. This methodology acknowledges that multi-word expressions (MWEs) are not merely linguistic constructs but are deeply intertwined with the socio-cultural and pragmatic dimensions of language. Consequently, their translation must encapsulate these aspects to achieve true effectiveness. The study will specifically focus on traditional idioms and proverbs that are gradually losing relevance in contemporary Jordanian society. As language evolves, certain expressions may fall out of favour, creating a gap between younger generations and their cultural heritage. By meticulously documenting and analysing these expressions, this research aims to contribute to the promotion of Jordanian Arabic and the rich tapestry of its MWEs. The implications of this research extend across multiple fields, including language description, documentation, pedagogy, and technology. By offering a comprehensive analysis of Jordanian MWEs, the study will serve as an invaluable resource for educators, linguists, and cultural researchers, enhancing their understanding of Jordanian Arabic while simultaneously fostering a deeper appreciation for the cultural narratives encapsulated within its idioms and proverbs. In conclusion, this research represents a significant advancement in addressing the existing gaps in the study of multi-word expressions in Jordanian Arabic. By exploring, translating, and transliterating idioms and proverbs, it seeks to illuminate the cultural richness of the language and contribute meaningfully to its linguistic heritage. In an increasingly interconnected world, the importance of understanding and valuing diverse linguistic expressions is paramount, rendering this research both timely and relevant. The following questions are central to this research:

1. What significance do Jordanian Arabic idioms and proverbs hold for socio-pragmatic insights and language education?
2. How do idioms, proverbs, and idiomatic expressions relate to cultural contexts?
3. How do idiomatic and proverbial expressions of Jordanian Arabic contribute to cultural understanding?

4. How does culture shape idioms and proverbs?

1.1.Socio-pragmatics and cultural connections of MWEs

Socio-pragmatics, as an emergent and increasingly significant domain within the broader field of linguistics, endeavours to elucidate the intricate interplay between linguistic expressions and the social contexts in which they are employed, revealing the essential nature of language as a medium for social interaction. It is universally acknowledged that language does not exist in a vacuum; rather, it serves as a vehicle for conveying meaning that is inherently entwined with societal norms and cultural practices. Consequently, sociolinguistics, which investigates the variations in language stemming from the dynamic relationship between linguistic communication and its social environment, highlights a profound connection to the utilisation of multi-word expressions (MWEs) prevalent in everyday discourse. These MWEs, notable for their inherent complexity, often compose strings of words that may or may not precisely encapsulate the intended meanings of the expressions as a complete unit. The field of pragmatics, focusing on the interpretation of meaning within specific contexts—an embodiment of language-in-use—further strengthens the relationship between socio-pragmatics and the employment of MWEs, as both domains underscore the context-dependent nature of language. Thus, a socio-pragmatic analysis emerges as a hybrid methodology that meticulously assesses social factors alongside contextual subtleties surrounding linguistic interactions, ultimately providing a more nuanced understanding of utterances and expressions. This analytical approach proves significantly more reliable than traditional frameworks that overlook the contextual dimensions within which language operates. As an area of burgeoning interest, socio-pragmatics has garnered attention across various disciplines within the linguistic community, underscoring its relevance not only to language pedagogy and descriptive linguistics but also to lexicography and the advancement of language technologies. In this context, the present research endeavour is poised to explore the MWEs present in Jordanian Arabic through a socio-pragmatic lens, facilitating their identification, examination, and analysis, thereby highlighting the necessity of such an approach for enriching language teaching and learning, advancing language description, and fostering broader linguistic applications.

Socio-pragmatics, a subfield of pragmatics that examines the interplay between social factors and linguistic meaning, plays a crucial role in understanding the pervasive influence of idioms and proverbs within various communicative contexts. Idioms and proverbs serve not only as linguistic expressions but also as cultural artefacts that reflect the values, norms, and shared experiences of a community. Their usage can significantly enhance interpersonal communication, as they often encapsulate collective wisdom and offer insight into social relationships. For instance, the application of a specific idiom may signal familiarity or a shared cultural background between interlocutors, thus fostering a sense of belonging and mutual understanding. Moreover, the socio-pragmatic implications of employing such expressions extend beyond mere communication; they can shape social behaviours and reinforce group identities. In multilingual and multicultural societies, the dynamics of idiomatic and proverbial language become even more complex, as speakers navigate diverse cultural landscapes, often adapting or reinterpreting these expressions to resonate with varied audiences while simultaneously retaining their inherent meanings. This intricate relationship underscores the vital role that socio-pragmatics plays in not only shaping individual interactions but also in facilitating broader social cohesion through the effective deployment of idiomatic and proverbial language.

Culture plays a pivotal role in shaping idioms and proverbs, serving as a lens through which the values, beliefs, and historical experiences of a society are articulated and inherited. Idioms, which are phrases whose meanings are not directly derived from the individual words contained within them, often reflect the unique social practices, environmental contexts, and historical narratives of a particular culture. For instance, the use of agricultural metaphors in proverbs may be prevalent in cultures with a strong agrarian economy, while industrialised societies may favour idioms related to machinery and technology. Furthermore, proverbs encapsulate collective wisdom and moral lessons, often derived from cultural folklore, religious teachings, or significant historical events, thereby reinforcing societal norms and behaviours. As these linguistic expressions evolve and adapt over time, they not only mirror the dynamics of a culture but also serve as tools for transmitting cultural identity and continuity across generations. Consequently, understanding the interplay between culture and language is essential for grasping the richness of idiomatic expressions and proverbs, as it illuminates the intricate ways in which human experiences and cultural narratives are conveyed through language.

Culture profoundly influences language in a myriad of ways, shaping the lexicon, syntax, and semantics of communication. It serves as a lens through which individuals interpret their experiences and articulate their thoughts, embedding values, beliefs, and historical narratives into the very structure of the language they use. For instance, cultural practices and societal norms often give rise to specific vocabulary that reflects the unique aspects of a community's lifestyle, such as food, clothing, and traditional customs, which may not have direct translations in other languages. Additionally, the way certain idioms and expressions are formulated is deeply rooted in cultural contexts; for example, proverbs can encapsulate collective wisdom and moral lessons that hold particular significance within a society. Furthermore, language can act as a marker of identity and belonging, enabling speakers to distinguish themselves within their cultural group while simultaneously reaffirming their shared heritage and values through linguistic choices. The intersection of culture and language is also evident in the evolving nature of vernaculars, where exposure to different cultural elements, such as technology and globalisation, engenders the adoption of new terms and phrases, sometimes leading to the emergence of hybrid languages. In essence, the dynamic interplay between culture and language not only enriches communication but also serves as a vital conduit for the transmission of cultural knowledge and continuity across generations.

Culture plays a pivotal role in shaping the idioms and proverbs that permeate society, acting as both a mirror and a lens through which the values, beliefs, and historical experiences of a community are conveyed. Idioms, which are expressions whose meanings cannot be deduced from the literal interpretation of the words used, often emerge from specific cultural contexts, reflecting unique customs, traditions, or environmental factors distinctive to a particular group. Likewise, proverbs, as succinct statements that encapsulate general truths or practical principles derived from collective human experience, are deeply rooted in cultural narratives and moral frameworks. Furthermore, cultural shifts brought about by globalisation, modernisation, or social change can lead to the evolution or obsolescence of certain idioms and proverbs, prompting new expressions that better resonate with contemporary values and lifestyles. Consequently, the examination of idioms and proverbs provides invaluable insights into the cultural psyche, revealing how language not only reflects societal norms but also reinforces and perpetuates them across generations.

Investigating multiword expressions (MWEs) can render tremendous research benefits (Alarsan & Khan, 2025). Hassan and Kassabgy (2024) provide a structured presentation and thematic grouping of idioms based on their sociocultural and linguistic functions, including sarcasm, advice, and warnings. Focusing on the MWEs in Egyptian Arabic and their

pedagogical aspects, the work of Hassan and Kassabgy is a great contribution to research. MWEs matter a lot because of their role in recent advances in areas such as computer-aided lexicography, optical character recognition (OCR), morphological studies, syntactic constituent analysis, semantics, information retrieval, conversation analysis, and language education (Ramisch 2015). Research on the pedagogical challenges associated with MWEs is interesting and relevant. In doing so, Grégoire (2009) and Ramisch (2015) provide valuable insights. Early research initiatives on MWEs mostly focused on assembling them and classifying them as idioms and phrases. The research often focused on translation challenges but did not discuss issues related to transliteration or include annotation challenges associated with these expressions. Breaking from the trend, Castagna (2024) offers an annotated corpus of Jibbali/Šḥarēt, a South Arabian language. Similar works remain unaccomplished in Jordanian Arabic. Kövecses (2024) presents proverbs within the framework of extended conceptual metaphor theory (ECMT), thereby enhancing the significance of context and discourse situations in interpreting MWEs. In a far different approach, Beeckman (2024) engages in a discussion on variegated approaches to study translation techniques of the LXX translators because they brought a diversity of approaches and angles for a common theological theme. The focus of this paper is such MWEs that are not frequently used and often classified as colloquial MWEs. Hassan (2024) offers an interesting and illustrative collection of Egyptian Arabic expressions. However, this collection does not engage with any research questions associated with the structural or conceptual aspects of MWEs. Murray (2024) also presents a collection of MWEs that are organised thematically. These collections may be useful pedagogically, but a lot remains unanswered. Taking the research into the domain of pedagogical applications, Eizadirad and Wane (2023) discuss the significance of oral culture and present MWEs from the standpoint of universal structures transcending across generations and geographies. Though the research literature concerning MWEs is growing quantitatively vast and qualitatively diverse, a point that remains significant throughout is the role played by context. Therefore, this paper attempts to tilt the focus on the socio-pragmatic aspects and cultural connections of MWEs.

Socio-pragmatics, as an emergent domain within the broader field of linguistics, endeavours to elucidate the intricate interplay between linguistic expressions and the social contexts in which they are employed, revealing the essential nature of language as a medium for social interaction. Since language does not exist in a vacuum, it serves as a vehicle for conveying meaning that is inherently entwined with societal norms and cultural norms. Consequently, sociolinguistics, which investigates the variations in language stemming from the dynamic relationship between linguistic communication and its social environment, highlights a profound connection to the utilisation of multi-word expressions (MWEs) prevalent in everyday discourse. These MWEs, notable for their inherent complexity, often compose strings of words that may or may not precisely encapsulate the intended meanings of the expressions as a complete unit. The field of pragmatics, focusing on the interpretation of meaning within specific contexts—an embodiment of language-in-use—further strengthens the relationship between socio-pragmatics and the employment of MWEs, as both domains underscore the context-dependent nature of language. Thus, a socio-pragmatic analysis emerges as a hybrid methodology that meticulously assesses social factors alongside contextual subtleties surrounding linguistic interactions, ultimately providing a more elaborate understanding of utterances and expressions. This analytical approach proves significantly more reliable than traditional frameworks that overlook the contextual dimensions within which language operates. As an area of burgeoning interest, socio-pragmatics has garnered attention across various disciplines within the linguistic community, underscoring its relevance not only to language pedagogy and descriptive linguistics but also to lexicography and the advancement of language technologies. In this context, the present research endeavour is poised to explore the MWEs present in Jordanian Arabic through a socio-pragmatic lens, facilitating their

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1.2.Sayings and proverbs

Sayings, often encapsulating cultural wisdom and collective experiences, play a significant role in shaping language formatting by introducing idiomatic expressions that enrich communicative clarity and creativity. These expressions not only enhance the aesthetic quality of language but also influence the syntactic and lexical choices speakers make in everyday discourse. For instance, the integration of sayings can alter sentence structures, introducing metaphorical language and nuanced meanings that challenge conventional grammatical norms. Consequently, the use of sayings fosters a dynamic linguistic environment where language formatting evolves to reflect societal values and shared knowledge. As speakers incorporate idioms into their communication, they often adapt their language to align with the rhythm and flow of these expressions, resulting in variations in tone, style, and formality. Moreover, sayings have the power to convey complex ideas succinctly, serving as a vehicle for cultural identities and collective memory. Thus, the interplay between sayings and language formatting not only enriches the linguistic landscape but also facilitates deeper interpersonal connections, illustrating how language is not merely a tool of communication but also a repository of cultural significance and historical context. Through their pervasive presence, sayings undoubtedly shape the evolution of language, reflecting the intricate relationship between thought, culture, and expression. Proverbs serve as valuable cultural insights, reflecting shared wisdom and societal values. For instance, the English proverb "*A stitch in time saves nine*" emphasises the importance of addressing problems promptly to prevent further complications (Mieder, 1992).

Sayings, often encapsulated in proverbs, idioms, and colloquial expressions, serve as vital components of language that significantly enhance comprehension and cultural resonance. These linguistic constructs possess the ability to convey complex ideas succinctly, allowing speakers to express nuanced sentiments that might otherwise require elaborate explanations. The integration of sayings into everyday communication enriches language understanding by providing listeners with familiar references that evoke shared cultural knowledge and

collective experiences. This interconnection not only fosters a more profound comprehension of the spoken message but also aids in bridging gaps between diverse linguistic backgrounds. Consequently, sayings function as cultural touchstones that facilitate the conveyance of wisdom, moral lessons, and social norms, thereby promoting both interpersonal connection and broader societal cohesion. As language evolves, the incorporation and adaptation of sayings can reflect shifting cultural dynamics, demonstrating how language is both a living entity and a historical artefact, ultimately impacting how individuals interpret and engage with their linguistic environment. Hence, the influence of sayings extends beyond mere expression; they shape the frameworks through which individuals understand and navigate their realities, underscoring the intricate relationship between language and culture.

1.3.The need and significance of the study

The significance of multi-word expressions such as idioms and proverbs 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 characterised by rapid globalisation and cross-cultural communication, the incorporation of figurative language, denoted by the utilisation 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 linguistic 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. By fostering these connections, proverbs and idiomatic expressions become vehicles for expressing shared experiences and universal truths, thereby reinforcing the notion that, despite cultural differences, certain values and insights remain universally relevant, enriching our understanding of both languages and the diverse tapestry of human life.

In the current research endeavour, the investigators aim to explore seldom-used idioms and proverbs that persist in modern society, with the intent of clarifying the differences that arise between traditional and contemporary forms of wisdom expression. This academic pursuit will not only include the careful compilation of these linguistic artefacts but will also involve a rigorous comparative analysis that seeks to illuminate the dynamic evolution of language and cultural expression across historical timelines. After establishing these distinctions, the researchers will proceed with the transliteration and translation of these idioms and proverbs from Arabic into English, offering not just a basic linguistic translation but also an extensive investigation into their nuanced meanings and contextual applications. In undertaking this task, the study aims to bridge cultural divides and foster appreciation for the rich tapestry of linguistic heritage, ultimately contributing to the recognition and description of these significant expressions in a rapidly evolving linguistic environment. The outcomes of this research are poised to provide valuable insights into how language reflects societal values, norms, and historical transformations, thereby enriching the disciplines of comparative linguistics and cultural studies. Through this structured inquiry, the researchers hope not only to document and analyse these idiomatic expressions but also to elevate awareness regarding their relevance and potential applications within today's globalised context, ensuring that such cultural treasures are not dismissed as mere remnants of the past but celebrated as vibrant

elements of present-day discourse. Ultimately, this study aims to cultivate a deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between language and culture, emphasising how ancient wisdom can resonate within modern frameworks and contribute to ongoing discussions about identity, tradition, and innovation in an ever-more interconnected world.

2. CONCEPTUAL ARCHITECTURE AND METHODOLOGY

In employing a comprehensive descriptive framework, this study identifies a collection of idiomatic and proverbial expressions sourced from a corpus built through fieldwork to address the research inquiries previously articulated. The analysis adheres to a consistent methodology that emphasises socio-pragmatic dimensions over lexico-semantic considerations, reflecting a deliberate prioritisation of social application and contextual usage over mere classification and theoretical abstraction within the realm of Applied Linguistics. Moreover, this paper has pinpointed several under-explored yet compelling research questions, endeavouring to provide insightful responses to these inquiries. The insights garnered from this research are anticipated to contribute significantly to several fields, including language documentation, pedagogical methodologies, the conservation of cultural artefacts, socio-pragmatic analysis, and advancements in language technologies. Given the multifaceted objectives outlined for this work, the adoption of a conceptual framework that is grounded in empirical data and integrates diverse methodologies proved to be the most appropriate approach, allowing for a robust exploration of the subject matter.

This paper undertakes a comprehensive investigation into the traditional idioms and proverbs that constitute a crucial component of Jordanian Arabic, underscoring their cultural relevance and the linguistic complexities they embody. Through a meticulous analysis of these expressions, the chapter aspires to furnish a holistic understanding of how idioms and proverbs enhance the intricate fabric of Jordanian heritage. It delves into the distinctive linguistic traits that define these sayings, examining their contextual usage in everyday interactions and their pivotal role in safeguarding and conveying cultural values. By highlighting the significance of these expressions within the Jordanian social milieu, this study not only affirms their vital place in the cultural landscape but also contributes meaningfully to the wider discourse surrounding the sustenance of linguistic diversity among Arabic dialects. The methodologies and approaches identified throughout the research are presented as particularly effective in elucidating these themes. Drawing from Alarsan & Khan (2025), the illustration, substantiations and description of MWEs follow the scheme given below:

(Idiom/Proverb number)

- 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

3. MULTI-WORD EXPRESSIONS: IDIOMS AND PROVERBS

Multi-word expressions (MWEs) encompass a wide array of linguistic units that consist of two or more words functioning cohesively as a single semantic and grammatical entity, thereby significantly influencing both natural language processing (NLP) and broader linguistic theorisation. These expressions manifest in various forms, including but not limited to idiomatic phrases, collocations, and verb-noun combinations, each characterised by unique syntactic structures and semantic depth. Notably, MWEs often exhibit non-compositional semantics, wherein the collective meaning of the expression cannot be reliably inferred from

the meanings of its constituent words alone; for instance, the phrase "*kick the bucket*" conveys the idea of death, a meaning that diverges from the literal interpretations of the individual words involved. This non-compositional nature poses considerable challenges in the fields of NLP and machine learning, as traditional models may struggle to appropriately interpret or generate these expressions in context without an extensive, nuanced understanding of their usage. Consequently, the identification, analysis, and integration of MWEs remain critical pursuits within computational linguistics, facilitating more sophisticated language models and enhancing the overall efficacy of human-computer interaction by ensuring that machines can navigate and leverage the richness of human language more effectively (Biber et al., 1999; Haspelmath, 2002).

Multi-word expressions (MWEs), encompassing a diverse range of linguistic constructs such as idioms, collocations, and phrasal verbs, hold significant relevance across various languages, serving as crucial building blocks in both language acquisition and cognitive processing. Research has consistently emphasised the pivotal role that familiarity with these expressions plays in enhancing fluency and comprehension, particularly for both native speakers and language learners. As MWEs often encapsulate indirect meanings that transcend the sum of their individual components, their mastery contributes to a richer and more authentic use of language. Furthermore, studies indicate that recognising and employing MWEs facilitates smoother communication by allowing speakers to produce and comprehend language more naturally and efficiently, thus mitigating potential misunderstandings. In an educational context, integrating MWEs into language curricula can provide learners with invaluable tools for navigating conversational exchanges and understanding cultural references, ultimately fostering greater linguistic proficiency. Consequently, acknowledging the widespread prevalence of MWEs across languages reinforces their importance in both theoretical linguistics and practical language instruction, highlighting the need for educators and learners alike to prioritise these expressions in their linguistic endeavours (Lewis, 1993; Schmitt, 2000; Cacciari & Tabossi, 1988).

The study presented herein advocates for a sense-by-sense translation approach, which is fundamentally more effective than a word-by-word method, particularly when dealing with the intricate and often subtle meanings embedded within idiomatic expressions. The latter approach, while straightforward, frequently overlooks the rich contextual layers and cultural significance that inform the intended meanings of phrases, thereby reducing them to mere literal interpretations. In contrast, a sense-for-sense translation prioritises the overarching meaning and cultural context, resulting in a more authentic and resonant representation of the original expression. This methodology acknowledges that multi-word expressions (MWEs) are not merely linguistic constructs but are deeply intertwined with the socio-cultural and pragmatic dimensions of language. Consequently, their translation must encapsulate these aspects to achieve true effectiveness. The study will specifically focus on traditional idioms and proverbs that are gradually losing relevance in contemporary Jordanian society. As language evolves, certain expressions may fall out of favor, creating a gap between younger generations and their cultural heritage. By meticulously documenting and analysing these expressions, this research aims to contribute to the promotion of Jordanian Arabic and the rich tapestry of its MWEs. The implications of this research extend across multiple fields, including language description, documentation, pedagogy, and technology. By offering a comprehensive analysis of Jordanian MWEs, the study will serve as an invaluable resource for educators, linguists, and cultural researchers, enhancing their understanding of Jordanian Arabic while simultaneously fostering a deeper appreciation for the cultural narratives encapsulated within its idioms and proverbs. In conclusion, this research represents a significant advancement in addressing the existing gaps in the study of multi-word expressions in Jordanian Arabic. By exploring, translating, and transliterating idioms and proverbs, it seeks to illuminate the

cultural richness of the language and contribute meaningfully to the sustenance and promotion of its linguistic heritage. In an increasingly interconnected world, understanding and valuing diverse linguistic expressions are paramount, rendering this research both timely and relevant.

Jordanian Arabic, a dialect continuum of Levantine Arabic, has seen continued scholarly interest in recent years, with research focusing on its phonological, morphological, and syntactic features. Studies published since 2022 have explored various aspects, including the influence of Modern Standard Arabic and English on contemporary speech patterns, particularly among younger generations (Al-Wer, 2023). Furthermore, investigations delve into the sociolinguistic variations within Jordanian Arabic, considering factors like geographic location, social class, and gender (Hussein & Suleiman, 2024). This body of work contributes to a broader understanding of Arabic dialectology and the dynamic evolution of language within specific sociocultural contexts. Research also explores computational approaches to analysing Jordanian Arabic, including dialect identification and machine translation (Khresheh, 2022).

The complexity of idioms is reflected in their capacity to convey intricate concepts and emotions, imbued with historical and cultural significance that enhances both everyday communication and literary expression. These expressive phrases often encapsulate ideas that may be difficult to articulate through straightforward language, making them indispensable tools for enriching discourse. Moreover, the exploration of idioms unveils intricate patterns of language use that highlight variations arising from regional dialects and social contexts. Such diversity not only contributes to the richness of a language but also underscores the dynamic interplay between culture and communication, illustrating how idiomatic expressions serve as vital connectors between individual experience and collective identity (Baker, 2018).

Researchers have explored the multifaceted nature of idioms, examining their structural components, acquisition processes, and contextual usage across a diverse range of languages and cultural backgrounds. This exploration has highlighted not only the intricate patterns that shape idiomatic expressions but also their significant role in facilitating semantic understanding among speakers. As idioms often encapsulate culturally specific meanings and figurative language, they serve as vital markers of cultural identity, allowing individuals to convey complex ideas and emotions succinctly. The study of idioms further reveals how these expressions are acquired during language development, presenting unique challenges to learners as they navigate both literal and figurative interpretations. Consequently, the research underscores the importance of idiomatic expressions in enhancing communication, fostering cross-cultural connections, and providing insights into the cognitive and social functions of language itself. Through their rich interplay of structure and meaning, idioms stand out as crucial elements in the tapestry of human language, reflecting the strings of thought and cultural heritage that define different linguistic communities (Benczes, 2021; Cacciari & Tabossi, 2020).

The intricate interplay between language, culture, and cognition underscores the significance of idioms as a pivotal area of exploration within the domains of linguistics and cognitive science. Idioms, as language constructs that encapsulate culturally specific meanings, serve as vital indicators of the cognitive processes underpinning language use and interpretation. They reflect not only linguistic idiosyncrasies but also the cultural contexts from which they emerge, revealing the values, beliefs, and social norms inherent in a given society. The study of idioms thus offers profound insights into how individuals navigate their cultural landscapes through language, enabling a deeper understanding of the cognitive mechanisms involved in language acquisition, processing, and usage. Furthermore, idioms challenge traditional notions of literal interpretation, prompting researchers to examine the mental models that individuals build to comprehend and produce meaning in communication. As such, idioms are not merely lexical

entities but rather dynamic tools that encapsulate the concurrent influences of cultural experience and cognitive development, making their examination essential for advancing our comprehension of human language and thought (Saeidi, 2018; Slang, 2022).

Research emphasises that idioms not only enrich a language but also serve as crucial markers of cultural identity, reflecting the unique values, beliefs, and experiences of a community. These figurative expressions encapsulate the historical and social contexts within which they developed, often drawing on local customs, folklore, and shared knowledge that resonate deeply with speakers. For instance, idioms can convey complex ideas succinctly, revealing layers of meaning that may not be immediately apparent to non-native speakers. Furthermore, the use of idiomatic language can enhance communicative effectiveness, fostering a sense of belonging and shared understanding among individuals who share the same cultural background. As linguistic artefacts, idioms serve not only as vehicles for artistic expression and creativity but also as bridges linking generations, preserving the nuances of a culture's worldview. Consequently, the study of idioms offers valuable insights into the interplay between language and culture, highlighting how idiomatic expressions can reinforce cultural identity while also adapting to societal changes over time. Thus, idioms emerge as dynamic elements of language that are integral to both individual expression and collective identity, warranting significant attention in the fields of linguistics, anthropology, and cultural studies (Bussmann, 2020).

Within the realm of cognitive linguistics, idioms emerge not merely as fixed expressions devoid of flexibility but rather as rich, nuanced reflections of human experience and social interaction intricately woven into the fabric of language and culture. These idiomatic constructions serve as vessels that encapsulate the collective wisdom, emotions and shared knowledge of a community, capturing the essence of lived experiences that transcend the boundaries of individual perception. Their meanings are often embedded in the historical and cultural contexts from which they arise, illustrating how language evolves in tandem with social dynamics and communal narratives. As speakers navigate their environments, idioms provide a linguistic shorthand that conveys complex ideas, emotions, and social norms, fostering a sense of belonging and shared identity among members of a community. Furthermore, by analysing idioms within this cognitive framework, researchers gain valuable insights into how language reflects socio-cultural realities and cognitive processes, ultimately highlighting the profound interconnectedness of language, thought, and social life. Thus, idioms are not only linguistic curiosities but integral components of how individuals articulate their experiences and negotiate their identities within the tapestry of human relationships (Carter & McCarthy, 2006).

Idioms represent a fascinating aspect of language that transcends both literal interpretation and straightforward communication, serving as culturally rich conduits for conveying complex ideas and sentiments. Defined as figurative expressions, idioms encapsulate meanings that cannot be readily inferred from the individual words that comprise them; instead, they emerge from the socio-cultural context in which they are employed. According to Murphy and Hwang, these linguistic constructs are steeped in historical significance and cultural nuances, which often imbue them with layers of meaning that resonate deeply with native speakers. For instance, the idiomatic expression "kick the bucket," which colloquially refers to death, cannot be understood through the literal interpretations of "kick" or "bucket." Instead, such phrases reflect shared experiences and values within a specific community, requiring familiarity with the cultural backdrop for proper understanding. Consequently, idioms not only enrich language but also serve as a critical lens through which one can examine the values, norms, and social intricacies of different cultural groups, ultimately enhancing both communication and intercultural understanding (Murphy & Hwang, 2015).

The study of idioms represents an essential component of linguistic research, offering profound insights into the intricate functioning of language as a social tool that facilitates communication and cultural expression. Idioms, being phrases whose meanings transcend the literal interpretations of their constituent words, encapsulate the cultural nuances, historical contexts, and shared experiences of a language community. By examining how idioms are formed, used, and understood within different social settings, researchers can uncover not only the cognitive mechanisms involved in language processing but also the sociolinguistic dynamics that govern interaction between individuals. Furthermore, idiomatic expressions often reflect the values, beliefs, and worldviews of a society, thus serving as windows into the underlying cultural paradigms that shape human thought and behaviour. Through the analysis of idioms, linguists can also explore issues related to language evolution, the impact of globalisation on linguistic diversity, and the interplay between language and identity. Consequently, the exploration of idioms is not merely an examination of fixed expressions, but a vital inquiry into the very nature of human communication and the role of language in construing reality and fostering social cohesion (Saeed, 2016).

MWE-1 (Proverb)

- A الفليله ثلثين المراحل
- B ālfīlīh thlthīn l-mrājīl
- C Escaping two-thirds of the Masculinity.
- D People use it when they want to express/expect rationality. In other words, if you are in a conflicting situation that demands intelligent action instead of a physical confrontation, you should back out. Escaping instead of getting involved in the fight is considered courageous and brainy in this case. If you do not have enough physical might to face the other party, the rational action is to escape.

MWE-2 (Idiom)

- A يناغي الطير
- B īnāghī ṭ-ṭīr
- C Speaking to the birds.
- D People use this expression to describe a chatty person. In other words, it is used for a talkative person who speaks as if he were speaking to the flying birds in the sky.

MWE-3 (Proverb)

- A السباع نامت والضباع قامت
- B ālsbā' nāmt wāḏbā' qāmt
- C The loins slept and the hyena awake.
- D People use it to express underestimation. In this case, they metaphorically compare a brave person to a lion and a coward to a hyena. When people see a coward imitating a brave person, they say the lions (referring to brave persons) are asleep and the hyena (referring to the coward) is awake.

MWE-4 (Idiom)

- A مثل صابونه الميت منين ما قظبته يمزط
- B mthl ṣābūnt l-mīt mnīn mā qzbtīh īmzt
- C Like the soap of the dead person whatever place you catch will slip.
- D People use this expression when they want to express deception when they face an elusive person. They metaphorically compare will simile this person to a wet soap that was used to wash the dead people. You try to catch it, but it will slip.

MWE-5 (Idiom)

- A الي قبع قبع والي ربع ربع
- B ālī qb' qb' wālī rb' rb'

- C The person who escapes has already escaped and the person who set already set.
- D People use it when the time to do something is over. People use it for someone who is trying to make a difference when time is up. They will say the group that did it already did it, and the group that did not do it did not do it. It is over, and you cannot change it now.

4. UNDERSTANDING AND DESCRIBING IDIOMATIC AND PROVERBIAL EXPRESSIONS

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 artefact 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, inspire action, or dissuade certain behaviours, 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 (Proverb)

A - الفليله تلتين المراجل

B - ālfīlīh tlthīn l-mrājīl

This proverb is classified as an advice proverb. Its implied meaning is as follows: When a situation demands intelligence (not to fight), then one should pull out. Instead of confrontation, one should use the brain and escape, which is a kind of masculinity. If you do not have enough power to face the other party, a rational action is to escape. The informant who provided this proverb said that sometimes people misunderstand the meaning of this expression, especially when drawing from the literal meaning of its constituents which could be understood as escaping two-thirds of masculinity. However, the speaker intends to convey the opposite idea, which is called (the intended meaning) which the listener should understand clearly to avoid misunderstanding.

Analysis of MWE-2 (Idiom)

A - يناغي الطير

B - īnāghī ṭ-ṭīr

This idiom is categorised as a mockery idiom. The speakers use this expression for chatty people. In other words, if people encounter a person who speaks a lot as if he speaks to the flying birds in the sky. The informant who provided this idiom said that sometimes people misunderstand it as speaking to the birds. However, the speaker intends to convey the opposite idea, that the listener should understand clearly.

Analysis of MWE-3 (Proverb)

E- مثل صابونه الميت منين ما قطبته يمزط

F- mthl ṣābūnt l-mīt mnīn mā qḏbth īmzt

This idiom functions as a stratagem, employing figurative language to convey deception or the elusiveness of an individual, likening them to wet soap used in mortuary rituals. While a literal interpretation might focus on the slippery nature of the soap itself, the intended meaning is far more deep and strategic, requiring the listener to grasp the implied deception rather than the surface-level comparison.

Analysis of MWE-4 (Idiom)

A - مثل صابونه الميت منين ما قظبته يمزط

B - mthl šābūnt l-mīt mnīn mā qz̧bth īmz̧t

This idiom is categorised as a stratagem idiom. The speaker intends to express the feeling of deception. People use it when they face an elusive person. They compare him to a wet soap that was used to wash the dead people. You try to catch it, but it will slip. In order to demonstrate and convey a stratagem, the informant who provided this idiom said that sometimes people misunderstand the meaning of it due to the direct meaning of its parts, whereas the speaker intends to convey the opposite. The listener should understand it clearly to avoid miscommunication.

Analysis of MWE-5 (Idiom)

A - الي قيع قيع والي ربع ربع

B - ālī qb' qb' wālī rb' rb'

This idiom is categorised as an inevitability idiom. The speaker intends to express a time-out. People use it when they face a person who is trying to make a difference in a situation where the task is over. They say the group who did it already did it, and the group who did not do it did not do it. It is over already, and you cannot change it now. The informant who provided this idiom/proverb said that sometimes people would misunderstand it due to the direct or surface meaning of the words used in it. The intention, however, is to convey the opposite idea.

The representative sample of compilation presented above serves as an invaluable resource for understanding the intricate relationship between language and socio-pragmatic dynamics, specifically through the lens of idioms and proverbs that individuals frequently invoke in response to various situations. Each expression is carefully categorised, accompanied by a succinct interpretation that elucidates its deep meaning and contextual relevance. For instance, the proverb "*a stitch in time saves nine*" offers insight into the value of prompt action to prevent larger issues down the line, while idiomatic expressions such as "*barking up the wrong tree*" underscore the importance of directing efforts appropriately to avoid missteps. By analysing these linguistic constructs, we can discern how such expressions not only encapsulate collective wisdom but also serve as social cues that reflect shared cultural values and experiences. The systematic classification of these idioms and proverbs thus provides a practical reference point for individuals seeking to navigate the complexities of everyday communication, enhancing both clarity and effectiveness in interpersonal interactions. Ultimately, this exploration underscores the power of language as a tool for conveying multifaceted social meaning while fostering a deeper appreciation for the rich tapestry of idiomatic expressions that permeate our discourse.

5. EMPIRICAL INSIGHTS AND THEORETICAL ANALYSIS

Every nation is profoundly dedicated to safeguarding its unique heritage and cultural identity, fully aware of the critical significance of passing down this rich legacy from generation to generation. This intergenerational transmission acts as an essential conduit for the knowledge, literature, and wisdom bequeathed by ancestors, facilitating the sharing of their experiences, insights, and values through a myriad of forms, including oral traditions. Among these varied forms of cultural expression, popular proverbs emerge as quintessential reflections of

collective wisdom; they encapsulate the ethos and moral frameworks of societies, frequently imparting profound truths through succinct, memorable phrases. However, an important avenue of exploration involves distinguishing between the direct meanings of these proverbs, which may be grasped at face value, and their indirect meanings, which often unveil deeper cultural insights and societal norms. The researcher endeavours to illuminate this dichotomy, highlighting how a seemingly straightforward proverb can embody layered interpretations that reflect the intricacies of human experience and societal norms. Through a meticulous examination of these contrasting dimensions, it becomes increasingly evident that proverbs transcend the status of mere linguistic artefacts; they serve as dynamic expressions of enduring cultural heritage, richly endowed with implications that enhance our understanding of identity and continuity within the broader tapestry of human civilisation. This exploration not only enhances our appreciation of proverbs as cultural touchstones but also invites a more profound contemplation of how they shape and are shaped by the shifting landscapes of societal values and collective memory.

Proverbs and idioms, therefore, are far more than mere expressions of wit or language games; they are vital components of our collective narrative, serving as repositories of cultural wisdom that transcend generations. These linguistic constructs possess a remarkable ability to adapt and resonate with contemporary life scenarios, underscoring their significance in guiding human behaviour and thought. By encapsulating the collective experiences and moral lessons of societies, proverbs offer insights that are not only relevant to the context in which they were created but also applicable across diverse situations and cultures. Each proverb acts as a lens through which we can examine the values, beliefs, and historical contexts of the communities from which they originate, revealing enduring truths about the human condition. In this way, they forge connections between past and present, fostering a sense of continuity and shared understanding among individuals. As we navigate the complexities of modern life, the wisdom embedded in these sayings serves as a compass, helping us to make sense of our experiences and guiding our interactions with others. Thus, the study and application of proverbs and idioms become essential not only for language development but also for the advancement of cultural heritage and the promotion of social cohesion, as they remind us of the common threads that bind humanity together.

The culture of oral communication functions as a dynamic social space where the richness of human expression achieves 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 essence, transcends mere vocabulary and syntax; it serves fundamentally as 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 occupy a preeminent position, distilling 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—while encompassing anger, satisfaction, disappointment, and triumph along the way. Such proverbs act not only as linguistic artefacts 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 access an inexhaustible resource of wisdom that fosters connection, promotes empathy, and enriches our understanding of the human condition, thus reminding us of the inherent interconnectedness of our shared experiences and the profound impact that language can have on shaping social bonds and nurturing mutual respect among diverse groups. This dynamic

interplay, characterised by the fluid exchange of ideas and emotions, ultimately serves to illuminate the human experience in all its complexity, providing a foundational element for the continuity of cultural identity and community cohesion across time.

6. CONCLUSION

Multi-word expressions encapsulate traditional wisdom and cultural knowledge. They pass on from one generation to another during the intergenerational transmission of language. These expressions offer descriptive and pedagogical challenges and are deceptive from the standpoint of translation into other languages or transliteration into a new script. Since they are always contextual, their etymology and usage become interesting and relevant for intercultural pragmatics. Arabic, being a very old language, is rich in multi-word expressions, and so is its Jordanian variety. Jordanian Arabic idioms and proverbs hold significant value for socio-pragmatic insights and language education, as they encapsulate the cultural norms, values, and historical contexts of Jordanian society. These linguistic expressions often convey extended meanings that reflect the community's shared experiences and collective wisdom, thereby offering learners profound insights into social interactions, interpersonal relationships, and cultural identity. In the context of language education, incorporating idioms and proverbs into the curriculum enhances students' comprehension and appreciation of the language, facilitating not only linguistic proficiency but also cultural fluency. Understanding these expressions fosters a deeper connection to the Jordanian culture, enabling learners to navigate social situations more effectively and promoting cross-cultural communication skills essential in an increasingly interconnected world.

Idioms, proverbs, and idiomatic expressions serve as vital cultural artefacts that encapsulate the values, beliefs, and collective experiences of a society. Their meanings often extend beyond the literal, reflecting the unique historical and social contexts from which they arise. Understanding these linguistic elements requires an appreciation of the cultural artefacts that inform their usage, as they provide insight into the ways communities navigate shared realities and communicate complex ideas. Thus, they not only enrich language but also foster greater intercultural understanding and connection. Idiomatic and proverbial expressions in Jordanian Arabic serve as vital components of cultural understanding, encapsulating the values, beliefs, and social norms of Jordanian society. These expressions often reflect historical experiences and communal wisdom, providing insight into the mindset and identity of the people. By engaging with these linguistic elements, individuals can gain a deeper appreciation for Jordanian culture and enhance cross-cultural communication, fostering stronger connections and reducing misconceptions. Ultimately, the richness of idiomatic and proverbial language in Jordanian Arabic acts as a bridge to understanding the intricacies of its cultural landscape.

Culture significantly influences the formation and interpretation of idioms and proverbs, serving as a reflection of societal values, beliefs, and experiences. These linguistic expressions encapsulate the unique historical and social contexts of a community, providing insight into its collective wisdom and worldview. As cultures evolve, so too do their idiomatic phrases and proverbs, illustrating the dynamic interplay between language and cultural identity. Understanding this relationship enriches our appreciation of language and fosters cross-cultural communication.

Idioms and proverbs stand as a testament to the enduring nature of human wisdom and the remarkable capacity of language to distil intricate concepts into succinct and accessible forms. They embody a collective cultural heritage, often transcending generations and geographical boundaries, illustrating universal truths and shared experiences that resonate with individuals

from diverse backgrounds. These brief yet profound expressions encapsulate moral lessons, practical advice, and reflective insights, serving not only as mnemonic devices but also as catalysts for deeper contemplation about the human condition. The persistence of proverbs in everyday language underscores their role as a communicative bridge, facilitating the transmission of knowledge and values in a manner that is both engaging and impactful. Furthermore, the adaptability of proverbs allows them to evolve, reflecting societal changes while remaining rooted in timeless wisdom. Thus, proverbs are not merely linguistic artefacts; they represent the collective intellect and emotional landscape of humanity, demonstrating how language can be harnessed to clarify our understanding of life's complexities and to foster a sense of shared identity and purpose across cultures.

This paper presented the MWEs from the standpoint of socio-pragmatics. Using a representative sample, this paper attempted to highlight the fact that understanding and learning MWEs properly depends on cultural aspects, are their translation and transliteration involve a lot of intricacies. In conclusion, idioms and proverbs, despite their origins in generations long past, continue to serve as integral components of our contemporary lives and the future we are shaping. These linguistic constructs encapsulate fundamental truths that resonate across time, offering guidance and insight as we navigate the complexities of our existence. By embracing the lessons embedded within these expressions and acknowledging their cultural significance, we foster a deeper connection with our historical roots, gain clarity in understanding our present circumstances, and cultivate a heightened awareness of the human experience as we look ahead. The exploration of proverbs transcends mere linguistic inquiry; it is, in fact, a profound affirmation of our shared humanity. This journey invites us to recognise and appreciate the wisdom that unites us across diverse cultures and generations, reminding us that the insights of the past can illuminate the paths we tread today and in the future. Through this lens, we not only honour the voices of those who came before us but also enrich our perspectives, ultimately enhancing our capacity for empathy, understanding, and collective growth in an ever-evolving world.

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