

## Comparative Analysis of English and Albanian Body Idioms

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**Abstract:** *The purpose of this paper is to make a comparison between the various phraseological expressions that originate from the different names of body organs that are part of the basic vocabulary of English and Albanian languages, addressing such issues as whether or not there are parallel phraseological expressions between the two languages and how are different expressions translated. In order to do this we have consulted several sources. What motivated us to write this paper is the fact that a relatively high number of these words are used in phraseological expressions, so they are important in the respective cultures. Idiomatic language is human-centered, because human body serves as an important source of idioms. This probably derives from the fact that it is easier to understand an idiom if it features a part of human body because human body is an area which resonates with anyone, both physically and metaphorically. These idioms may display the philosophy of the peoples speaking both languages and serves a window into the cultures of these peoples.*

**Keywords:** *Phraseological Comparison, Parallel Phraseological Expressions, Phraseological Expressions, Worldview.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

First we would like to say something briefly about the meaning of word idiom. According to *Oxford English Dictionary* (the Compact edition), an idiom is “a form of expression, grammatical construction, phrase, etc., peculiar to a language; a peculiarity of phraseology approved by the usage of a language, and often having a signification other than its grammatical or logical one”. In a similar vein, Crystal (1996: 163) writes that “two central features identify an idiom. The meaning of the idiomatic expression cannot be deduced by examining the meanings of the constituent lexemes. And the expression is fixed, both grammatically and lexically”.

As we see the definitions mentioned are quite general and they describe an idiom in a rather concise way, and they are suitable for everyday use.

Other definitions, however shed further light on this issue. According to Sinclair (1991: 172) an idiom is “a group of two or more words which are chosen together in order to produce a specific meaning or effect in speech or writing.” He also adds that “the individual words which constitute idioms are not reliably meaningful in themselves, because the whole idiom is required to produce the meaning.”

According to Riehemann’s (2001: 2) an idiom is an expression made up out of two or more words, at least one of which does not have any of the meanings it can have outside of the expression. Her overall idea is that no precise definition is possible because ‘idiom’ is a fuzzy category.

Also Fernando and Flavell (1981: 47) try to give a definition. An idiomatic construction should have the following five properties:

- its meaning is not the compositional sum of its constituents;
- it is a unit that either has a homonymous literal counterpart or at least individual constituents that are literal, although the expression as a whole would not be interpreted literally;
- it is transformationally deficient in one way or another;

- it forms part of a set of expressions in a given language;
- it is institutionalized.

Moon (1998: 3–4) tries to give a detailed history of an idiom. According to her two main meanings of idiom distinguished in English. The first one, which is a particular manner of expressing something in language, music, art, etc., which characterizes a person or group. The second meaning of an idiom is a particular lexical collocation or phrasal lexeme, peculiar to a language. Thus in a more narrow sense an idiom is a particular kind of unit which is fixed and semantically opaque or metaphorical, or, traditionally, ‘not the sum of its parts’.

## 2. TYPOLOGY OF IDOM ANALYSIS

As has been mentioned in the introduction, the corpus of idioms for this thesis has been gathered from several sources. The majority of English idioms related to body organs were found in general dictionaries or idiom dictionaries. Reference books on idioms were also used and represent an important tool in creating this database. In order to search for the Albanian idiomatic equivalents we used primarily *English-Albanian Dictionary of Idioms* by Ilo Stefanllari, Hippocrene Books, Inc (2000) other books include *Dictionary of today's Albanian Language* by Academy of Sciences of Albania (2002) plus our own intuition as a native albanian speaker. Whereas the english dictionaries included *NTC's American Idioms Dictionary*, 3rd edition NTC Publishing Group, the USA. Spears, A. R. (2000); *Oxford Dictionary of Idioms, Second edition*, Oxford University Press, 1999, 2004; *Mcgraw-Hill's Essential American idioms dictionary Second edition*, 2007; *Thesaurus of Traditional English Metaphors Second Edition*, 2002 P. R. Wilkinson. However, not all English idioms of this corpus have their idiomatic Albanian counterparts. In such cases the non-idiomatic equivalents are provided and expressed by means of paraphrase. This paper contains a total of 687 English and albanian idioms that have been analysed and sorted into the categories that show the extent of their correspondence on the semantic, lexical, grammatical and formal levels. As we previously said not all idioms have their equivalents. Nevertheless, the corpus is quite large to afford a comparison to generalize the results for our chosen field of idioms.

After detailing the make-up of the corpus, we should explain the method chosen to carry out the analysis. The essential principle we utilized to examine the idioms is correspondence. We have tried to define correspondence semantically, i.e., the comparison of idioms centres on the meaning of the idiom as a whole and such meaning is composed of the meanings of its individual members. With most idioms in the corpus, the most important member of the idiom is a noun consequently the comparison concerns this member. The correspondence is then based on the fact whether this central component is identical in the languages chosen for comparison. Since our comparison is based on the semantic criterion those idioms which lack this key component can still be seen as corresponding providing the overall meaning of the idiom is identical. As an example, we have the English *fight tooth and nail* and the Albanian *luftoj dhemb per dhemb* (literally translated as *fight tooth for tooth*). These two idiomatic expressions have identical meaning, they are regarded as corresponding although the Albanian idiom lacks the word *nail*. Thus they are not considered totally correspondent but partially correspondent. We will try to explain such terms further below.

The selected English and albanian body idioms have been analysed and divided into the following four categories according to the level of their equivalence:

### 2.1. Absolute Correspondence

The compared idioms correspond on all three levels, i.e. on the semantic, lexical and formal level.

behind sb's back	prapa shpines se dikujt
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This category covers idioms that have the same meaning and follow the same syntactic structure of a verbal or non-verbal idiom. The English idiom *behind sb's back* with its albanian counterpart is an example. They use the same lexical means, the same body part and are also the same register. Keeping these things in mind we can say that these idioms are absolutely correspondent on all the three levels.

### 2.2. Close Correspondence

They are similar in meaning, use the same syntactic structure and correspond on the lexical level, nevertheless, they show small differences on the morphological level. For study purposes they are further subcategorized according to their type of deviation:

- use of a different preposition
- use of singular vs. plural form
- use of a preposition vs. lack of it
- change of word order

a) *use of a different preposition*

fall under sb's eye	bie ne sy te
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Idioms belonging to this subcategory display the same syntactic structure, such as:

V + Prep + N, or N + Prep+ N however, the preposition used in both languages is different. The English idiom uses “*under*“, whereas its albanian counterpart “*në*“, which means “*in*”.

b) *use of singular vs. plural form*

blow one's nose	shfryj hundet
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This subcategory features a morphological deviation regarding the difference between the singular and plural form of the noun. The English idiom employs the body part “*nose*“ which of course is singular ( we do use “*noses*“ but it is not just one body organ), while the albanian equivalent uses the same body the exception being that the word in albanian is in plural, “*hundet*“ which means “*noses*“

c) *use of preposition vs. lack of it*

pat sb on the back	I rrah krahet (shpatullat, supet) dikujt
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This subcategory concerns the fact whether or not the same idiom employed in both languages contains a preposition. While the English idiom *pat sb on the back* is formed by employing a preposition, the albanian equivalent *pat sb's back* is formed without a preposition.

d) *change of word order*

skin and bone(s)	kocke e lekure
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This subcategory shows the difference in the position of words in an idiom. Here we see how the two languages use the same two words but the albanian idiom displays a reverse order of the nouns.

### 2.3. Partial correspondence

This group is represented by idioms which correspond only on the semantic level. They are either lexically non-equivalent or show differences in the syntactic structure. The partial correspondence can be achieved in a number of ways:

- use of a different body lexeme
- use of meronyms vs. holonyms
- use of a different verb
- use of lexically different words
- use of a lexeme vs. a compound

a) *use of different body lexeme*

escape sb's lips	me shpeton nga goja
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Idioms of this subcategory are characterized by different body lexemes used in both idioms. The idiom above refers to the activity of saying something unintentionally and is expressed in English by the lexeme “*lips*“, whereas the albanian counterpart refers to “*mouth*“.

b) *use of meronyms vs. holonyms*

hand-to-hand fighting	lufte trup me trup
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Idioms that belong to this subcategory are not equivalent in terms of the semantic relation of the body lexemes. In the English idiom a meronym body part “*hand*“ is used, whereas the body part of the albanian idiom is formed by a holonym “*body*“.

c) use of different verb

feast one's eyes on	kullot syte
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This subcategory is characterized by idioms that use verbs with different denotation, although the overall meaning of the idioms is the same. Thus the English idiom employs the verb “*feast*“, while the albanian idiom is expressed by means of the verb “*graze*“.

d) use of lexically different words

risk one's neck	rrezikoj koken
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This subcategory contains idioms that are formed with different words. It is not limited only to the use of different body lexeme but the whole idiom is expressed by different lexical means. So the English idiom “*risk one's neck*” has its equivalent in albanian as “*risk one's head*”.

e) use of a body lexeme vs. a compound

presence of mind	Mendjeshkathtesi
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Idioms that are included in this subcategory differ in the number of lexemes. Whereas albanian language shows the tendency to use compounds, in this case “*agility of mind*“, the english idiom is formed by Noun +Prep+Noun “*presence of mind*“.

We would like to add that all the above mentioned features which help determine the degree of correspondence between idioms are not found separately in particular idioms. Instead they can found in combination. In our paper, however, idioms are organized based on the most distinctive feature that tells idioms apart, even though they may be categorised into other subcategories.

**2.4. The Whole Idiom is Expressed with Different Lexical Means**

This subcategory includes all idioms which are formed by completely different lexical means in the two languages; however there is no change in the semantics of the idioms. That suggests that both languages employ one idiom but this idiom is in each language formed by distinct lexical elements.

As an example can serve the idiom “*below/under one's breath*” is contrasted with the Albanian “*under voice \ in a low voice* ”.

below/under one's breath	Nen ze\ Me ze le ulet
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**2.5. Non Correspondence**

Non-correspondence is regarded as a wide category. It contains, on one hand, idioms which do not have any correspondent but it also comprises idioms which are expressed non-idiomatically. We will try to explain them below. They are concerned with possible ways of expressing idioms in other languages by using means which are not of idiomatic nature.

Here we further divide the category into subcategories which are applied for the analysis of the idioms present in the corpus of idioms collected in this paper.

a) *Periphrasis*

We use a periphrasis or a description to explain the meaning of an idiom if there is no idiomatic counterpart.

An example follows. The English idiom *at first hand* is given in Albanian by the periphrasis “*from primary sources*”.

at first hand	nga burime te drejtperdrejta
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b) *One-word expression*

Instead of using an idiom the language takes advantage of employing a one-word expression of non-idiomatic nature.

As an example serves the English idiom *down in the dumps\ mouth* to which corresponds to the adjective “*sad*”.

down in the dumps/mouth	i trishtuar
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c) Free combination of language elements

Here we see a combination of words which would express the reality expressed by the English idiom in the closest possible way.

In the example illustrating this subcategory, Albanians use an expression “to show ingratitude” which corresponds to the English idiom “bite the hand that feeds one”.

bite the hand that feeds one
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Tregohem mosmirenjohes
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English and Albanian Body Idioms

Absolute Correspondence

behind sb's back
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prapa shpines se dikujt
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**all ears/eyes** gjilhe, tere sy e veshe

**armed to the teeth** armatosur deri ne dhembe

**at heart** ne zemer, ne shpirt; ne thelb

**at sight** me te pare; ne shikimin e pare

**at somebody's hands** ne duart e

**bear/keep sb/sth in mind** kam parasysh

**beat one's brains** vras mendjen

**beat one's breast** rrah gjoksin, i bie gjoksin me grushte

**besoj vesheve (syve)** o *I could hardly believe my ears when I heard that Davis had married again.*

**bite one's lip** kafshoj buzën, ha buzën me dhembë

**bite one's tongue** kafshoj gjuhën

**blow one's brains out** hedh trutë në erë, vras veten (me plumb në koke)

**bother one's head about** vret (lodh) mendjen

**break one's heart** ia thyej zemrën dikujt, ia copetoi zemrën, ia bëj zemrën cope

**break one's neck** thyej qafën; veproj me ngut, me rrembim

**bridle one's tongue** i ve fre gjuhës (gojës)

**by hand** me dorë

**change hands** ndërron duar, ndryshon pronar, kalon nga dora në dorë

**change one's mind** nderroj mendje (mendim)

**chill sb's blood** i ngrij gjakun

**chuck sb under the chin** cek, lemoj gushen e (ne shenje perkedheljeje, dashurie etj.)

**clear one's/sb ' s head** kthjelloj mendjen

**clear one's throat** kruaj (pastroj) zerin (gurmazin)

**clench one's teeth/fists etc.** shtrengoj dhembet (grushtat) etj.

**clip sb's wings** i pres krahet; i lidh duart (krahet)

**close one's ear to** bej veshin e shurdher, nuk ia ve veshin

**close one's eyes to** mbyll syte para

**cock an/one's ear(s)** ngre veshet

**come to hand** vjen, bie ne dore

**come to sb's ear(s)** degjoj, me kap (me ze veshi)

**crouch one's back before sb** kerrus (ul, perkul) shpinen (kurrizin) para

**cudgel one's brains** vras mendjen

**curl one's lips** ngerdheshem, perdredh buzet

**fall into sb's hands** bie ne duart e

**fall on deaf ears** bie ne vesh te shurdher

**hang by a hair/thread** varet ne nje qime, varet ne fije (fill) te perit (te flokut)

**have a heart of stone** e ka zemren gur

**have sth at one's fingertips** e di (e njoh) ne maje te gishtave

**have sth on/at the tip of one's tongue** e kam ne maje te gjuhes

**lick one's chops/lips** lepin buzet, mprihet per te shtene ne dore dicka

**new/fresh blood** gjak i ri

**not/never bat an eyelid** nuk i ben syri terr, nuk i dridhet (nuk i luan) qerpiku (qepalla, bebja e syrit)

**on the tip of one's tongue** ne maje te gjuhes

**open one's eyes (to)** i hap (cel) syte dikujt

**open one's heart to sb** ia hap zemren dikujt

**open one's mouth** hap gojen

**put sth into sb's head** fus ne koke

**rack one's brain(s)** vras (lodh) mendjen

**raise one's hand against** ngre doren kunder

**raise one's voice against** ngre zerin kunder

**seal one's lips/mouth** mbyll (kyc) gojen

**sell one's soul (to the devil)** ia shes shpirtin shejtanit (djallit)

**set foot in/on** shkel, ve kemben ne

**soil one's hands** ndyj duart o He refused to soil his hands.

### The Whole Idiom is Expressed with Different Lexical Means

<b>below/under one's breath</b>	Nen ze\ Me ze le ulet
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**at the top of one's voice** ne kupe te qiellit, me sa ka ne koke, me sa fuqi qe ka

**fly in the face of sth** shperfill me qellim; kundersiztoj, veproj kunder; eshte ne kundersiztim me

**gain/get the upper hand (over sb)** 1. fitoj (kam) epersi; dal fitimtar; mund

**wet behind the ears** i ka buzet me qumesht, i papjekur, s'ka pervoje

### Close Correspondence

*use of a different preposition*

fall under sb's eye	bie ne sy te
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**arm in arm** krahe per krahe

**hand in hand** dore per dore

**stab in the back** i ngul thiken prapa kurrizit, godas prapa shpine

*use of singular vs. plural form*

blow one's nose	shfryj hundet
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**make sb's flesh creep/crawl** bej t'i ngjethet mishte

*use of preposition vs. lack of it*

pat sb on the back	I rrah krahet (shpatullat, supet) dikuajt
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**bang one's head against a brick wall** i bie murit me koke

**chuck sb under the chin** cek, lemoj gushen e (ne shenje perkedheljeje, dashurie etj.)

**turn one's back on sb** i kthej krahet dikuajt

*change of word order*

skin and bone(s)	koce e lekure
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**bind sb hand and foot** lidh kembe e duar

### Partial Correspondence

*use of different body lexeme*

escape sb's lips	me shpeton nga goja
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**face to face** balle per balle

**fight tooth and nail** luftoj dhemb per dhemb, maje me maje

**from top to toe/from tip to toe** nga koka te kembet, koke e kembe

**risk one's neck** rrezikoj koken veten, ve jeten ne rrezik

**save one's (own) neck/skin/hide** shpetoj koken, shpetoj lekuren

**show a leg** ngrihem nga krevati (nga gjumi)

**skin and bone(s)** koce e lekure

**wring one's neck** ia perdredh koken

*use of meronyms vs. holonyms*

hand-to-hand fighting	luftet trup me trup
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*use of different verb*

fast one's eyes on	kullot syte
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**cloud one's brain/judgement** turbulloj mendjen (gjykimin etj.)

**turn a blind eye to sth** bej nje sy qorr

**turn a deaf ear to** bej veshin e shurdher

use of lexically different words

risk one's neck	rrezikoj koken
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**apple of one's eye** drita e syve

**bone of contention, a molle sherri**

### Non Correspondence

*Periphrasis*

at first hand	nga burime te drejtperdrejta
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**at second hand** terthorazi, nga burime te terthorta

**at the top of one's voice** ne kupe te qiellit, me sa ka ne koke, me sa fuqi qe ka

**body blow, a** zhgënjim i rende, goditje e rende, humbje e rende

**break the back of** bej (kryej) pjesen me te madhe, me te veshtire

**bring to a head** acaroj ne kulm

**bring to heel** mposht, nenshtroj, bej zap

**burn one's fingers** digjem, e pesoj

**cap in hand** me nderim, plot respect (perulje, perunjesi)

**cool one's heels** pres gjate, le dike te prese gjate

**dip one's finger in** sth nderhyj, perzihem, fus hundet

**down at (the) heel (s)** veshur si mos me keq

**gain/get the upper hand (over sb)** 1. fitoj (kam) epersi; dal fitimtar; mund

**get cold feet** trembem, frikesohem, me dridhen leqet e kembeve

**get in/into sb's hair** ngacmoj vazhdimisht

**get one's own back** marr hak, hakmerrem

**get one's teeth into** merrem (angazhohem) seriozisht, punoj i perqendruar, jepem i teri pas

**get under sb's skin** ngacmoj, irritoj, I ngre nervat

**give sb a free hand** i jap liri te plote veprimi, i le dore te lire

**give sb a piece of one's mind** ia them cope (troc. hapur) mendimin

**give sb a rap on/over the knuckles** qortoj; kritikoj; ndeshkoj

**give sb the cold shoulder** sillem ftohte, i kthej krahet dikujt

**give sb the glad eye** veshtrij me dashamiresi (me sy te dashuruar)

**give tongue to** shpreh me ze te larte

**go cap in hand** kerkoj perunjesisht

**hand over fist** kollaj e pa hesap

**hang on sb's lips/words/ on sb's every word** degjoj me vemendje te madhe, perpij cdo fjale, i bej veshet pipez

**hat in hand** gjithë servilizem (perulesi, temena)

**have a chip on one's shoulder** eshte mbushur gjithë mllef

**have a/one's finger in the pie** kam gisht ne

**have a free hand** kam dore te lire, kam liri veprimi

**have a good head for sth** ia them per, ma pret per



**have a hand like a foot** i ka duart e thara

**have one's heart in one's mouth** I ngriu zemra, i shkoi gjaku ne fund te kembeve

**have one's heart in sth** i kushtohem (i jepem) me shpirt

**have the ball at one's feet** ka rast (mundesi) te mire

**hit the bull's eye** i ra pikes, qelloi ne shenje, i bie ne shenje (shenjes)

**hit the nail on the head** i bie ne shenje, i bie shenjes, i bie pikes, qelloj (godit) ne shenje

**hold/keep one's head above water** qendroj mbi uje;jetoj me zgrip (me te keq); i shpetoj falimentimit (borxheve etj.)

**hold one's head high** mbaj koken perpjete, mbahem me te madh, mbaj kryet lart, mbaj hunden perpjete.

**jump down sb's throat** kritikoj, i flas ashper dikujt, i hidhem persysh

**jump out of one's skin** hidhem perpjete (nga frika, habia etj), trembem, habitem pa mase

**keep a stiff upper lip** qendroj i forte, tregoj burreri, nuk e leshoj veten, tregohem (mbahem) burre

**keep a straight face** mbaj te qeshurit

**keep one's eye on the ball** perqendroj (ngulit) vcmendjen te esencialja; rri syhapur

**keep one's nose clean** s'perzihem ne telashe

**keep one's nose to the grindstone** punoj pa pushim, punoj me kembengulje, s'ngre koken nga puna

**knock off one's feet** befasohet, habitet shume, mbetet pa mend

**let no grass grow under one's feet/not let/allow the grass (to) grow under one's feet** veproj pa humbur kohe, veproj energjikisht

**let the grass grow under one's feet** rri duarlidhur (duarkryq)

**like water off a duck's back** pa efekt

**live from hand to mouth** rroj me te keq, me zgrip

**long in the tooth** i moshuar, i ka ikur mosha

**make a rod for one's own back** e kerkoj vele belane

**make (sheep's) eyes at sb** perendoj syte (per dike qe dua), e ha me sy. shikoj me dashuri

**make no bones about** nuk hezitoj, nuk me vjen zor; pranoj menjehere; them hapur (pa hezitim)

**make sb's blood boil** bej t'i hipe (t'I kerceje) gjaku ne koke

**neck and crop** teresisht, plotesisht, me gjithsej

**neck of the woods** vend, zone, rajon; rrethine

**neck or nothing** o fitore, o hic fare

**neither hide nor hair of sb/sth** gje prej gjeje; kurrgeje; asnje shenje (gjurme)

**old hand, an** njeri me pervoje

**on one's last legs** mezi mbahet (qendron) ne kembe

**on one's toes** gati per veprim; me kernbe; gjithnje gati

**pain in the neck, a** njeri i bezdisshem; gje e bezdisshme

**palm sb off (with sth)** ia hedh

**palm sb/sth off (on sb)** ia ngec, ia le ne dore

**pay lip service to** shpreh mbeshtetjen (miratimin) vetem me fjale

**pay through the nose** paguaj shtrenjte, paguaj si frengu pulen

**prey on sb's mind** e mundon, ia ha (bren) shpirtin  
**pull in one's horns** i uli veshiet, i uli pendet  
**pull somebody's leg** tallem (me shaka)  
**put one's finger on** ve gishtin mbi  
**put one's foot down** kembengul, ngul kembe  
**put one's foot in it** lajthit, bej nje gabim (gafe, budallallek, procke)  
**put one's hand(s) to (the plough)** I pervishem (futem) punes  
**put one's nose in** dukem, shfaqem  
**put one's shoulder to the wheel** i ve gjoksin punes  
**put sb's back up** nxeh, inatos; ofendoj  
**put sb's nose out of joint** e bej me turp; turbulloj, shqetesoj; ia punoj keqas dikujt  
**rap sb on/over the knuckles** qortoj  
**read sb's mind/thoughts** i lexoj dikujt mendimet  
**rub elbows/shoulders with** njihem, miqesohem, ze (lidh) miqesi me, shoqerohem; krijoj lidhje me  
**rule of thumb** regull i thjeshte empirik; metode (menyre) praktike (matjeje, vleresimi etj.)  
**scratch my back and I'll scratch yours** njera dore Ian tjetren, te dyja lajne fytyren (faqet)  
**see eye to eye (with) (about/on)** jam I nje mendjeje me, kam te njejtin mendim me  
**set one's face against sth** kundershtoj, jam kunder; kundervihem  
**set one's teeth on edge** i ngre (i prish) nervat  
**shot in the arm** nxitje; shtyse; ndihme; frymezim; stimulim  
**show a clean pair of heels** ua mbath (ua jap) kembeve; i bej kembet te lehta  
**show one's face/nose** dukem, dal, shfaqem  
**snap one's fingers at sb/sth/snap one's fingers in sb's face** I. trajtoj me perbuzje (percmim)  
**stick one's neck/chin out** ve veten ne rrezik, behem (tregohem) trim, nxjerr gjoksin, marr guximin  
**straight from the horse's mouth** nga burim i drejtperdrejte, nga burim I besueshem  
**straight from the shoulder** drejtperdrejt, hapur, sinqerisht, sy nder sy  
**straw that breaks the camel's back** pika qe mbush kupen  
**take sb's breath away** habis, mahnis, mrekulloj, befasoj, le pa goje  
**there's many a slip 'twixt (the) cup and (the) lip** me te thene e me te bere shkon ne mes nje lume, i tere  
**to a hair** I. tamam, per mrekulli, ne menyre le persosur  
**to one's heart's content** sa t'i doje qejfi, sa te doje  
**tread on sb's corns/toes** lendoj, fyej, shkel ne kallo dike  
**turn up one's toes** kthej kembet nga dielli, vdes  
**wear one's heart on one's sleeve** shfaq hapur ndjenjat (emocionet)  
**wet behind the ears** i ka buzet me qumesht, i papjekur, s'ka pervoje  
**work one's fingers to the bone** bie cope, robtohem sa s'ka ku te shkoje me

*One-word expression*

<b>down in the dumps/mouth</b>	i trishtuar
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**at first hand** drejtperdrejt, nga burime te drejtperdrejta

**at hand** l. afer, prane  
**at second hand** terthorazi, nga burime te terthorta  
**bad/poor hand at sth** dorengathet, s'i vjen ndoresh  
**big head** mendjemadh, mburravec  
**body and soul** teresisht, me gjithcka, me gjithë shpirt, me gjithë hovin e zemres, me te gjitha fuqite  
**bring sb to his knees** gjunjezoj, pergjunj, perul  
**bring to heel** mposht, nenshtroj, bej zap  
**bring to mind** kujtoj, sjell nder mend  
**burn one's fingers** digjem, e pesoj  
**by heart** permendsh  
**by mouth/by word of mouth** me goje, gojarisht  
**cast one's mind back** kujtoj, sjell ndermend  
**dead from the neck up** truthare, trudale, koketrashe  
**din in sb 's ears** gumezhin, bucet , oshetin ne veshet e  
**do sb in the eye** I. mashtroj, ia hedh sy per sy  
**draw blood** gjakos; Jendoj, nxeh dike  
**draw in one's horns** perbahem; terhiqem; tregohem i permbajtur; ul pendet  
**drive sb out of his mind/wits/senses** cmend, luaj mend sh, prish nga mendte  
**gasp for breath** l. gulcoj  
**get cold feet** trembem, frikesohem, me dridhen leqet e kembeve  
**get one's fingers burnt** digjem, e pesoj keq  
**get one's own back** marr hak, hakmerrem  
**give sb a rap on/over the knuckles** qortoj; kritikoj; ndeshkoj  
**hand over heart** me dore ne zemer, cilterisht, ndershmerisht  
**have an eye to** shikoj, kujdesem  
**head over heels/ears** I. teresisht, plotesisht, deri ne gryke  
**keep one's mind on sth** perqendrohem, kam mendjen  
**knock off one's feet** befasohet, habitet shume, mbetet pa mend  
**lay/put heads together** keshillohem, konsultohem, shkembej mendime  
**long in the tooth** i moshuar, i ka ikur mosha  
**neck of the woods** vend, zone, rajon; rrethine  
**one's own flesh and blood** gjak, farefisni, fis, farefis  
**on one's knees** i gjunjezuar, i pergjunjur; i perulur  
**pat sb on the back** pergezroj, uroj, I rrah krahet (shpatullat, supet) dikujt  
**presence of mind** mendjeshkathtesi, shkathtesi  
**pull a face/faces at sb** ngerdheshem, shtremberoj fityren e perdredh buzet  
**pull somebody's leg** tallem (me shaka)  
**put one's foot down** kembengul, ngul kembe  
**put one's foot in it** lajthit, bej nje gabim (gafe, budallallek, procke)

**put one's nose in** dukem, shfaqem

**put sb's back up** nxeh, inatos; ofendoj

**put sb's mind at ease/rest** qetesoj

**recall to mind** kujtoj, sjell nder mend

**rub elbows/shoulders** with njihem, miqesohem, ze (lidh) miqesi me, shoqerohem; krijoj lidhje me

**set one's mind to** perqendrohem, I kushtoj vemendje (kujdes) te plote, I kushtohem me zell, i ve veshin

**shake a leg** shpejtoj, luaj kembet

**shot in the arm** nxitje; shtyse; ndihme; frymezim; stimulim

**straight from the shoulder** drejtperdrejt, hapur, sinqerisht, sy nder sy

**take a hand (in)** nderhyn, angazhohet, ve dore

**take the heart out of sh** demoralizoj, ligeshtoj, ia thyej zemren

**throw down one's arms** dorezon (hedh) armet

**to a hair** I. tamam, per mrekuulli, ne menyre le persosur

**tread on sb's corns/toes** lendoj, fyej, shkel ne kallo dike

**turn one's back** iki, largohem, kthej krahet

**turn one's hand to sth** mirrem, provoj, ze me dore

**with open arms** krahehapur

*Free combination of language elements*

bite the hand that feeds one	Tregohem mosmirenjohes
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**bring to a head** acaroj ne kulm

**get cold feet** trembem, frikesohem, me dridhen leqet e kembeve

**get in/into sb's hair** ngacmoj vazhdimisht

**get it in the neck/where the chicken gets the chopper** e ha keq, e ha pas qafe

**get one's teeth into** merrem (angazhohem) seriozisht, punoj i perqendruar, jepem i teri pas

**hand in glove with** so bythe e breke me, si mishi me t h uan, ne bashkepunim te ngushte me, lidhur ngushte me

**hang heavy/heavily on one's hands** mezi kalon (shtyhet) koha, etj.

**have a hand like a foot** i ka duart e thara

**have a thick skin** jam i pandjeshem ndaj kritikes, e ka lekuren e trashe, I eshte bere faqja sholle

**have not a leg to stand on** eshte pa baza, s'qendron

**have one's head in the clouds** i fluturon mendja; sheh endrra me sy cele

**keep a civil tongue in one's head** flas me miresjellje (me respekt, njerezishem)

**keep a stiff upper lip** qendroj i forte, tregoj burreri, nuk e leshoj veten, tregohem (mbahem) burre

**keep a whole skin** dal pa lagur, shpetoj lekuren

**keep one's hand in** stervis (ushtroj) doren

**like water off a duck's back** pa efekt *o Advice and correction roll off him like water off a duck's back.*

**make no bones about** nuk hezitoj, nuk me vjen zor; pranoj menjehere; them hapur (pa hezitim)

**one looks as if butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth** duket si qengj, duket sikur nuk turbullon uje

**pay lip service to** shpreh mbeshtetjen (miratimin) vetem me fjale

**see eye to eye (with) (about/on)** jam I nje mendjeje me, kam te njejtin mendim me

**split hairs** ndan qimen katersh (dysh), kapel pas gjerave le vogla, hyn ne hollesira te panevojshme, merret me vogelima (cingerima)

**twiddle one's thumbs** tund (dredh) zinxhirin, rri kot, e kalon kohen kot, vrel miza

**twist one's arm** i perdredh krahun dikujt, detyroj (bind) dike te beje dicka

**twist sb round one's little finger** e sjell verdalle, e heq per hunde

*use of a body lexeme vs. a compound*

<b>presence of mind</b>	mendjeshkathesi
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**big head** mendjemadh, mburravec

**Citation:** Arben Gaba. "Comparative Analysis of English and Albanian Body Idioms" *International Journal of Humanities Social Sciences and Education (IJHSSE)*, vol 5, no. 3, 2018, pp. 184-196. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.20431/2349-0381.0503019>.

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