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 IDIOM 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 Stefanlari, 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 |

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:
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- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Idiom</th>
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<tr>
<td>fall under sb's eye</td>
<td>bie ne sy te</td>
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</table>

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

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<th>English Idiom</th>
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<tr>
<td>blow one’s nose</td>
<td>shfryj hundet</td>
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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 part the exception being that the word in Albanian is in plural, “hundet” which means “noses”.

c) use of preposition vs. lack of it

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<tr>
<td>pat sb on the back</td>
<td>I rrah krahet (shpatullat, supet) dikujt</td>
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</table>

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

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<td>skin and bone(s)</td>
<td>kocke e lekure</td>
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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

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<tr>
<td>escape sb's lips</td>
<td>me shpeton nga goja</td>
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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

<table>
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<th>English Idiom</th>
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<tr>
<td>hand-to-hand fighting</td>
<td>lufte trup me trup</td>
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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”. 
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c) use of different verb

| feast one's eyes on | kullot syte |

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 |

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 |

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 categorized 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 |

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 drejtpendrejtja |

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 |
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, Albanian use an expression “to show ingratitude” which corresponds to the English idiom “bite the hand that feeds one”.

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<thead>
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<th>English Phrase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bite the hand that feeds one</td>
<td>Tregohem mosmirenjohes</td>
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</table>

REFERENCES


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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>all ears/eyes gjiilhe, tere sy e veshe</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>armed to the teeth armatosur deri ne dhembe</td>
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<tr>
<td>at heart ne zemer, ne shpirt; ne thelb</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>at sight me te pare; ne shikimin e pare</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>at somebody's hands ne duart e</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bear/keep sb/sth in mind kam parasysh</td>
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<tr>
<td>beat one's brains vras mendjen</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>beat one's breast rrax gjoksin, i bie gjoksit me grusht e</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>besoj vesheve (syve) o I could hardly believe my ears when I heard that Davis had married again.</td>
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<tr>
<td>bite one's lip kafshoj buzen, ha buzen me dhembe</td>
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<tr>
<td>bite one's tongue kafshoj gjuhen</td>
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<tr>
<td>blow one's brains out hedh trute ne ere, vras veten (me plumb ne koke)</td>
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<tr>
<td>bother one's head about vret (lodh) mendjen</td>
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<tr>
<td>break one's heart ia thyej zemren dikujt, ia copetoj zemren, ia bej zemren cope</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>break one's neck thyej qafen; veproj me ngut, me rrembim</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>bridle one's tongue i ve fre gjuhes (gojes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>by hand me dore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>change hands nderron duar, ndryshon pronar, kalon nga dora ne dore</td>
<td></td>
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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 perkedheljeve, 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, permdredh buzhet
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 buzhet, 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.

<table>
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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; kundershtoj, veproj kunder; eshte ne kundershtim 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 |

arm in arm krah per krah
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 |

make sb's flesh creep/crawl bej t'i ngjethet mishte

use of preposition vs. lack of it

| pat sb on the back | I rrak krahet (shpatullat, supet) dikujt |

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 dikujt

change of word order

| skin and bone(s) | kocke e lekure |

bind sb hand and foot lidh kembe e duar

Partial Correspondence

use of different body lexeme

| escape sb's lips | me shpeton nga goja |

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) kocke e lekure
wring one's neck ia perdredh koken

use of meronyms vs. holonyms

| hand-to-hand fighting | lufte trup me trup |

use of different verb

| feast one's eyes on | kullot syte |

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
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<table>
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**apple of one's eye** drita e syve  
**bone of contention, a** molle sherri

**Non Correspondence**

**Periphrasis**

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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** zhgenjim i rende, goditje e rende, humbje e rende  
**break the back of** bej (kryej) pjesen me te madhe, me te veshtirë  
**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 Ieqet 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** veshtroj me dashamiresi (me sy te dashuruar)  
**give tongue** to shpreh me ze te larte  
**go cap in hand** kerkoj perunjesishët  
**hand over fist** kollaj e pa hesap  
**hang on sb's lips/words/ on sb's every word** degjoi me vemendje te madhe, perpij edo fjale, i bej veshet pipez  
**hat in hand** gjithe servilizem (perulesi, temena)  
**have a chip on one's shoulder** eshte mbushur gjithe mlllef  
**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
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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 ujecjetoj me zgrip (me te kej); i shpetohet 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) buerre
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 kerce) 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; kurrgje; 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 shhtenjte, paguaj si frengu pulen
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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 dikuft
rap sb on/over the knuckles qortoj
read sb's mind/thoughts i lexoj dikuft 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 njejti 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 burin I besueshem
straight from the shoulder drejtperdrejt, hapur, sinqerisht, synder 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 ktthej kembejt nga dielli, vdes
wear one's heart on one's sleeve shfaq hapur ndjenjat (emcionet)
wet behind the ears i ka buzet me qumesht, i papjekur, s'ka pervoj
work one's fingers to the bone bie cope, robtohem sa s'ka ku te shkoje me

One-word expression

down in the dumps/mouth i trishtuar

at first hand drejtperdrejt, nga burime te drejtperdrejta
Comparative Analysis of English and Albanian Body Idioms

at hand 1. afer, prane
at second hand terhorazi, nga burime te terthorta
bad/poor hand at sth dorengathet, s'i vjen ndoresh
big head mendjemadhi, mburavec
body and soul teresisht, me gjithcka, me gjithe shpirt, me gjithe hovin e zemres, me te gjitha fuqite
bring sb to his knees gjunjjezoj, 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 permbahem; 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, habitat 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 gunjjezuar, i pergjunjur; i perultur
pat sb on the back pergezoj, uroj, I rrah krahet (shpatullat, supet) dikujt
presence of mind mendjeshkathtesi, shkathtesi
pull a face/faces at sb ngerdheshem, shtremberoj fytyren 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)
Comparative Analysis of English and Albanian Body Idioms

- 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 drejtpderjet, 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
- 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 |

bring to a head acaroj ne kulm

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

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
Comparative Analysis of English and Albanian Body Idioms

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 krahuin 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

| presence of mind | mendjeskathesi |

big head mendjemad, mburravec


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