

# Contents

Preface .....	13
1. Idioms and the tools of systematics .....	15
1.1. Relevance of systematics .....	15
1.2. Taxonomic material .....	17
1.2.1. Abundance as a requirement .....	17
1.2.2. Availability .....	18
1.3. The taxon idioms .....	22
1.4. A choice of concepts .....	26
1.4.1. Population thinking .....	26
1.4.2. The species category .....	28
1.4.3. Evolutionary classification .....	29
1.5. Linguistic systematics .....	30
2. Description and diagnosis .....	33
2.1. Homogenizing the taxon .....	33
2.1.1. Types of entries .....	34
2.1.2. The trend towards all-inclusiveness .....	35
2.1.3. A systematic perspective .....	36
2.1.3.1. Proverbs .....	37
2.1.3.2. Aphorisms, formulas and invocations .....	37
2.1.3.3. Roundabout phrases .....	38
2.1.3.4. Otherness .....	39
2.1.4. False similarities .....	40
2.2. Description .....	42
2.2.1. Requirements .....	42
2.2.2. Choice of method .....	42
2.2.3. Morphology .....	43
2.2.3.1. Limits .....	44
2.2.3.2. Constructive elements .....	44
2.2.3.3. Register and productivity .....	46

2.2.3.4. Functional morphotypes .....	47
2.2.4. Syntax .....	56
2.2.4.1. One syntax .....	57
2.2.4.2. Stability of word order .....	58
2.2.5. Semantics .....	59
2.2.5.1. Discrete semantic fields .....	59
2.2.5.2. Tenor and vehicle .....	60
2.3. Diagnosis .....	64
2.3.1. Nearest relatives .....	64
2.3.2. Three taxa .....	65
2.3.3. Telling the taxa apart .....	67
2.3.3.1. Morphology .....	67
2.3.3.2. Syntax .....	68
2.3.3.3. Semantics .....	68
2.3.4. Definite gaps .....	69
3. Relationships: Idioms and words .....	73
3.1. Horizontal relations .....	73
3.2. Vertical relations .....	76
3.3. Genetic significance of meaning .....	81
3.3.1. Idioms as sound-images .....	81
3.3.2. Three facets of idioms .....	82
3.3.3. Sound-chain testing .....	84
3.4. Words and idioms compared .....	86
3.4.1. Similarities words – idioms .....	86
3.4.2. Dissimilarities words – idioms .....	87
3.4.2.1. Type of meaning .....	88
3.4.2.2. Number of acceptations .....	88
3.4.2.3. Definition of unit meaning .....	89
3.4.2.4. Arbitrariness of the sign .....	90
3.4.2.5. Spheres of concepts .....	92
3.5. Species Idioms .....	93
4. Relationships: Idioms and figurative language .....	99
4.1. Semantic spheres in language and speaking .....	99
4.2. Horizontal relations .....	102
4.2.1. Language ( <i>langue</i> ) .....	102

4.2.1.1. Established figurative units . . . . .	103
4.2.1.2. Incidental figurative units . . . . .	103
4.2.2. Speaking ( <i>parole</i> ) . . . . .	106
4.2.2.1. Evolving figurative units . . . . .	107
4.2.2.2. Figures of speech . . . . .	108
4.2.2.3. Figures of speech and evolving carriers compared . . . . .	109
4.3. Comparing idioms and figures of speech . . . . .	112
4.3.1. Bias in sample selection . . . . .	113
4.3.2. Similarities idioms – figures of speech . . . . .	115
4.3.2.1. Morphology . . . . .	116
4.3.2.2. Semantics . . . . .	117
4.3.2.3. Mode of generation . . . . .	117
4.3.2.4. Function . . . . .	119
4.3.3. Dissimilarities idioms – figures of speech . . . . .	121
4.3.3.1. Morphology . . . . .	121
4.3.3.2. Semantics . . . . .	124
4.3.3.3. Mode of generation . . . . .	126
4.3.3.4. Function . . . . .	128
4.4. Structural characteristics . . . . .	131
4.5. Non-systematic precedents . . . . .	134
4.6. Additional delimitations . . . . .	136
4.7. Inception of literary figures . . . . .	139
4.8. A microcosm of speech . . . . .	143
5. Relationships: Idioms and figurative patterns . . . . .	145
5.1. Diversity levels in idioms . . . . .	145
5.1.1. Evidential basis . . . . .	147
5.2. Description and diagnosis of patterns . . . . .	149
5.2.1. The issue of materiality . . . . .	152
5.2.2. Taxonomic status . . . . .	156
5.2.2.1. Intraspecific variants . . . . .	157
5.2.2.2. Species . . . . .	159
5.3. Dual homogeneity of idioms . . . . .	161
Appendix to Chapter 5: Figurative patterns in current English idioms . . . . .	163

6. Time dimensions .....	171
6.1. Documentation .....	171
6.2. Generating a hypothesis .....	174
6.2.1. Delimitations within human speech .....	175
6.2.2. Delimitations within a particular language .....	178
6.3. Dynamics of patterns and idioms .....	183
6.3.1. Conception .....	183
6.3.2. Validation .....	185
6.3.3. Comparative time depth .....	188
6.3.4. A hypothetical scenario .....	189
7. Idiom classification and nomenclature .....	193
7.1. Method selection .....	193
7.1.1. Upward vs. downward classification .....	194
7.1.2. Hierarchies vs. keys .....	195
7.2. Evolutionary hierarchies .....	196
7.2.1. Constitutive hierarchy .....	197
7.2.1.1. Emergentism .....	197
7.2.2. Aggregational hierarchy .....	199
7.3. Geographic variation .....	206
7.3.1. Morphology .....	206
7.3.2. Semantics .....	207
7.3.3. Functionality .....	209
7.4. A polytypic species .....	211
7.5. Nomenclature and rhetoric .....	217
8. Idioms, time, and systematics: An assessment .....	223
8.1. Causation of diversity .....	224
8.1.1. Extent .....	224
8.1.2. Functional role .....	225
8.1.3. Mode of origination .....	227
8.1.3.1. Topic .....	227
8.1.3.2. Pattern .....	230
8.1.3.3. Language .....	231
8.1.4. Language and pattern invention .....	233
8.2. Elements of idiom definition .....	235
8.2.1. Character complexes .....	235

8.2.1.1. Functional characters .....	235
8.2.1.2. Phyletic characters .....	238
8.2.2. Topic – pattern interlock .....	240
8.2.2.1. Similarities .....	240
8.2.2.2. Dissimilarities .....	241
8.2.2.3. Interdependence .....	244
8.3. Proposed definitions .....	245
8.3.1. Idioms .....	246
8.3.2. Patterns .....	247
8.3.3. Kinds of idioms .....	247
8.3.4. Non-idiom multiword figures .....	248
8.3.5. One-word figures .....	250
8.3.6. “All figures” .....	251
8.4. The time dimension revisited .....	251
8.5. Idioms as a natural system .....	255
Bibliography .....	257
General index .....	261
Index of figurative patterns cited .....	267