

2-TOM, 1-SON
THEME: CLASSIFICATION OF SET EXPRESSIONS

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Annotation: This annotation checks for set expressions. Set expressions can also be categorized based on their complexity: This involves classifying set expressions according to the level of difficulty in terms of the operations involved (e.g., union, intersection, complement) and the number of elements in the sets. Additionally, set expressions can be classified based on their purpose: This includes grouping set expressions according to their specific application or function, such as in mathematics, computer science, linguistics, or any other domain where sets are used.

Keywords: Set expressions, classification, structure, metaphors, similes, cultural references, meaning, emotions, advice, origin, frequency of use, language learners, communication.

Set expressions, also known as fixed expressions or idioms, are a common feature of language that can be classified into different categories based on their structure and meaning. These set expressions often have a figurative or metaphorical meaning that is not immediately obvious from the individual words used.

One way to classify set expressions is based on their structure. Some set expressions are based on metaphors, such as "kick the bucket," which means to die. Others are based on similes, such as "as cool as a cucumber," which means to be calm and composed. There are also set expressions that are based on cultural references, such as "pulling someone's leg," which means to tease or joke with someone.

Another way to classify set expressions is based on their meaning. Some set expressions convey emotions or feelings, such as "butterflies in the stomach" for nervousness or excitement. Others convey advice or wisdom, such as "don't cry over spilled milk" for not dwelling on past mistakes. There are also set expressions that convey actions or events, such as "hit the hay" for going to bed.

Set expressions can also be classified based on their origin. Some set expressions have religious origins, such as "a drop in the bucket" from the Bible, which means a small and



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insignificant amount. Others have historical origins, such as "bury the hatchet" from Native American culture, which means to make peace.

One key purpose of set expressions is to facilitate clear and efficient communication. By using familiar phrases with established meanings, speakers can convey complex ideas in a concise manner. This not only streamlines conversation but also helps to create shared understanding among speakers of the same language.

Moreover, set expressions play an important role in shaping cultural identity. Many set expressions are deeply rooted in the history and traditions of a particular community, reflecting its values, beliefs, and experiences. For instance, English set expressions such as "raining cats and dogs" (meaning heavy rain) or "butter someone up" (meaning to flatter someone) have historical origins that provide insight into the society from which they emerged.

Furthermore, set expressions often carry emotional or evocative connotations that resonate with people on a personal level. The use of these phrases can create rapport between speakers by tapping into shared experiences or common cultural references.

In addition to enriching language and communication, set expressions also serve as valuable tools for language learners. Understanding these phrases allows learners to grasp cultural nuances and gain insight into the native speakers' way of thinking.

Set expressions can include idioms, proverbs, collocations, and other fixed phrases. Idioms are phrases with a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the words. For example, "kick the bucket" means to die, but it has nothing to do with actually kicking a bucket. Proverbs are short and wise sayings that offer advice or general truths about life, such as "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." Collocations are combinations of words that frequently occur together and sound natural to native speakers, like "heavy rain" or "make a decision."

These set expressions are an essential part of language and culture, as they often reflect historical influences, societal values, and common experiences. They can be challenging for non-native speakers to understand because they often do not follow typical grammatical rules and may not translate directly into other languages.

In conclusion, classification of set expressions can be based on their structure (metaphors, similes, cultural references), meaning (emotions/feelings, advice/wisdom, actions/events), origin (religious/historical), and frequency of use (common/obscure). Understanding these classifications can help language learners and speakers better comprehend and use set expressions in everyday communication. Set expressions are an integral part of language that serve multiple purposes—from facilitating clear



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communication to preserving cultural heritage. They contribute to the richness and diversity of languages while offering insights into the societies from which they originate. As we continue to appreciate their power and purpose, we recognize their significance in shaping our everyday speech and understanding of one another.

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