

A Comparative Investigation on the Use of Idiomatic Expressions in Speaking Textbooks: A Case Study

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The purpose of this study is to investigate and compare idioms used in two different EFL coursebooks and their frequency of use. To this aim, the Student Books and Work books of Interchange 3 and American English File 4 were examined. The above-mentioned books were studied carefully and the applied idioms were identified. Then the frequencies of the idioms in different units of each book and different parts of each unit were computed. The findings of this study revealed that the American English File 4 coursebook had a number of 183 idioms. The Interchange 3 coursebook, with 69 idioms, took the next place in frequency. It was also found out that idioms were not evenly distributed among different units of each book. Furthermore, most of the idioms were concentrated in the Listening and Conversation Sections in the units in Interchange 3 and Listening and Vocabulary Parts of American English File 4. Phrasal verbs were among the most frequently used idioms and idioms related to Time, Sleep and some other topics were among the least frequently used ones. This study has some implications for EFL material developers, teachers, and students.

Keywords : Expressions in Speaking Textbooks, English language, American English File 4

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