



Recognition of the Meaning of English Idioms among College Students in Oman

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Abstract

Research suggests that EFL students' comprehension and production of idioms can act as an indicator of overall language proficiency. Authors such as Cieslicka (2000) report a link between a lack of English-language proficiency and the non-recognition of idioms, while an understanding of contextualized idioms has also been associated with improved language comprehension. This study asked 76 Omani university student participants to write the meanings of 40 contextualized English-language idioms in either Arabic or English. Findings indicate that participants struggled to understand the meanings of idioms and that context alone is not sufficient as a cue for idiom recognition and interpretation and can, in fact, interfere with understanding.

Keywords: idioms, Oman, EFL, context, ungrammaticality, pragmatic deficiency, semantic deficiency