

# Differences in Expressing Idioms and Sayings in English and Japanese

Kurashiki Amaki High School Yuji Tanaka

## Abstract

I studied about ways of expressing of Japanese idioms and sayings in English , and I grouped them into three kinds of expressions.

1.similar expressions and meanings

2.different expressions but similar meanings

3.used only as Japanese expressions

## 【1.similar expressions and meanings】

### •Ame Futte Ji Katamaru

・雨 降って 地 固まる

Literal translation: "Rain firms the ground."

→ "Rain firms the ground."

## 【1.similar expressions and meanings】

### •Chiri mo Tsumoreba Yama to Naru

・塵 も 積もれば 山 となる

Literal translation: "piled-up specks of dust become a mountain"

→ "Mountains are made from grains of sand."

## 【2.different expressions but similar meanings】

### •Yakeishi ni Mizu

・焼 け石 に 水

Literal translation: "water on a hot stone"

→ a drop in the bucket.

## 【2.different expressions but similar meanings】

### •Nakittsura ni Hachi

・泣 きっ面 に 蜂

Literal translation: "The bee stings when you're already crying"

→ When it rains, it pours.

## 【3.used only as Japanese expressions】

### •Ne mo Ha mo Nai

・根 も 葉 も ない

Literal translation: "without roots or leaves"

→ "groundless"

## 【4.used only as Japanese expressions】

### •Hana Yori Dango

花 より 団子

Literal translation: Sweets are preferred to flowers

→ The practical is preferred over the aesthetic.

## Conclusion

As I mentioned in the abstract, I found out that Japanese and English idioms and sayings can be grouped in 3 ways: similar expressions and meanings, different expressions but similar meanings, and used only as Japanese expressions.

Studying about these idioms and sayings is a good way to learn not only the two languages, but also about the cultures and countries where these 2 languages are used and spoken.

## Future Research

To study more about the differences in ways of expressing idioms and sayings in English and Japanese in the future

And, to study the similarities and differences in cultures of the countries where these idioms and sayings are used

## Reference

Book: [101 Japanese Idioms]

Author: Michael Maynard

Publisher: McGraw-Hill (1993/1/11)