

# Understanding Contemporary Idiom Usage in French and English

Independent Research Internship | Temese Szalai, Madarka | May-August 2015

## Final Report

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The foundation of this internship project was to perform quantitative corpus linguistic analysis relating to idiom usage in both French and English. Over three months, the project focused on two primary areas: (1) the frequency with which a sample of French and English idioms appear in their respective corpora and (2) how frequently categories of meaning within each language appear.

The goals for this internship included building demonstrable skills in linguistic analysis and corpus linguistics, developing sound and advanced research methods to collect first-person judgments about idioms and assess their salience in two languages, learning how to extract information from corpus-based datasets, and evaluate and analyze data constructions.

All of these goals were successfully met and surpassed; the following report will outline the methodology undertaken in this research project, an abridged sample of the data collected, and conclusions and relevant discussion that is to be extrapolated from the analyses. This report will be accompanied by infographical outputs to be displayed on personal websites and common corpus linguistics communities.

### *METHODOLOGY:*

#### **Preparation**

The basis of this research was comparative in nature, particularly in comparing contemporary usage of English vs. French idioms by analyzing representation in standard corpora. A corpus (pl. corpora) is a collection of spoken or written text in a language presumed to be descriptive of how a language is used in everyday life.

According to this definition, both the classical corpora (COCA and the French SketchEngine) and the social media profile biographies are representative of everyday language. The distinction between these communities of data is where the data originates: COCA and SketchEngine use text from fiction, spoken, magazine,

newspaper, and academic sources whereas the social media profiles are pulled strictly from online biographies.

Because in English alone there are over 25,000 idioms, the first step of this project was to ascertain a reliable sample of 150-200 idioms in both English and French. Titone & Connine 1994 was used for the English glossary, and Bonin 2013 for the French glossary. Both papers contained norms for psycholinguistic properties for these idioms including familiarity, compositionality, predictability, and literality. To match the 171 English norms presented by Titone & Connine, each idiom in Bonin's list of 301 French idioms was assigned a random number (from 1-171) and the first 171 idioms selected.

Though this sample should accurately represent the other idioms in each language, neither paper specifically indicated how they selected the idioms to norm. Bonin selected his glossary on the basis that most French undergraduate students would recognize the idioms, but there is no indication of how the English idioms were selected.

The potential bias that the idioms examined in this study presents is that the selected idioms are probably among the most familiar in each language—ergo why they were selected—thus excluding antiquated or unpopular idioms from analysis. However, though the potential for bias was acknowledged, it was disregarded since it wouldn't negatively affect the results. In fact, it would provide additional information regarding the psycholinguistic properties of each idiom that could be synthesized with the current results for future studies.

Next, the French idioms were translated to English using various resources, both online and text, such as WordReference, The Free Online Dictionary for Idioms, Larousse.com, and others (for a full list consult reference section). The meaning of English idioms was gleaned from the American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms Second Edition 2013 and McGraw-Hill's American Idioms Dictionary Fourth Edition 2007. From there, both English and French idioms were categorized based on their semantic meaning. This lengthy and subjective process was just one way to categorize the glossary of idioms and would have varied based on the categorical judgments that different individuals make. The criteria for each semantic category can be found in Table 1.

Contrary to what I hypothesized, the categories for English and French were not identical, though several did reoccur. In addition, the number of idioms per category was not identical either—some contained only one or two idioms whereas others surpassed ten. Some idioms could not be classified because there was no overlap with any other idiom, so these were labeled as 'other.' It should be noted that the

categorization of all French idioms was based purely on the translation and not affected at all by contextual or cultural understanding of how they are regularly used. Because of my own familiarity with English idioms, they faced personal biases in categorization.

Both English and French idioms were also categorized based on their versatility (specific or general) and role in the sentence (primary or auxiliary). To determine versatility, I considered whether the idiom could be used in multiple scenarios or situations—general e.g. “sit on the fence”—or restricted to a single domain—specific e.g. “kick the bucket.”

The role of an idiom depended on whether it carried the majority of the semantic information for the sentence—primary e.g. “break the ice”—or whether it served to modify other information—auxiliary e.g. “out of the blue.” A full glossary of both English and French idioms with their semantic, versatility, and role categorizations is provided in Table 2.

### **COCA & SketchEngine**

The Corpus of Contemporary American English (hereafter COCA) was used as a search tool for the English idioms; The Wacky Corpus through the Sketch Engine platform was used for French idioms (Baroni, Bernardini, Ferraresi, Zanchette, 2009). The COCA website was feature-rich and helpful in ascertaining very specific information regarding the usage of the idioms.

Most of the idiom searches contained lemmas of the idioms main verb e.g. [bite] the bullet. In addition, each time that an article or a possessive pronoun i.e. the, a, my, your, his, her, etc. appeared in the idiom, an asterisk was used in the search to indicate a wildcard e.g. steal \* thunder, for “steal someone’s thunder.” The information gathered from COCA included the number of hits containing the search phrase, the Per Million frequency, the frequency based on the type of text (i.e. academic, spoken, magazine, newspaper, or fiction), and the frequency based on the decade (i.e. 1990-1994, 1995-1999, 2000-2004, 2005-2009, and 2010-2012).

The French corpus didn’t provide the same level of detailed information as COCA, such as source of text or frequency per year. However, it did automatically lemmatize any verbs in the query. Unfortunately, the Per Million frequency value for each idiom was reported to one decimal place (opposed to two in COCA) which made ordering the idioms based on frequency much more ambiguous.

### **Social Media Profile Search**

The final mode of data collection derived from a random sample of one million biographies on social media profiles, provided by Madarka. The goal of this last stage was to determine which semantic categories of English idioms appear most to describe the self.

For each category, the idiom with the most concordances in COCA was used to represent the category as a whole so, for example, “in hot water” represented the Adversity category because out of the seven Adversity idioms, it appeared the most often in COCA.

This information was extracted from the one million files using the command line on Linux by first searching for an anchor word in the idiom—e.g. “bandwagon” for “jump on the bandwagon”—and then after viewing and abstracting the possible variations of the results, a specific Regex command was used to distill the desired results.

Next, using the temporal distributions in COCA, all the idioms were analyzed to see if their presence in the corpus had increased or decreased from 1990-2012. If the 2010-2012 frequency was higher than the 1990-1994 frequency, the idiom was labeled as increasing, despite any negative dips it may have had in the middle years. If this value was lower, the idiom was labeled as decreasing.

The eight idioms that had decreased the most (by more than 0.20) from 1990-2012 were also searched in the social media profiles to determine whether a decrease in corpus presence was indicative of the idiom going out of style and disappearing from social media.

## *RESULTS*

### **COCA & SketchEngine**

The frequencies of English and French idioms are reported in Tables 2a & 2b. Table 3 compares the semantic categorical frequency differences in English and French. For the categories that overlapped between the languages (Similarity & Difference, Emotion, Certainty, How something is done, Knowledge, Adversity, Death, Human Interaction, Inferiority, Superiority, Thinking Process, and Time) there were not many similarities in terms of the most or least occurring idioms. For example, Thinking Process is the most commonly occurring English category, but it ranks very low for French idioms. The sole exceptions were the Superiority and Human Interactions categories, which rank highly in both languages. There are almost no other parallels between semantic categories.

For both English and French, most idioms serve a primary role in the sentence and tend to be specific in versatility. English idioms are more evenly split, especially in terms of versatility, than French idioms insofar that English idioms are close to 50% split between specific and general usage while French idioms are split 70% specific and 30% general (Please refer to Table 4 for a report of the role and versatility distributions for English and French idioms.).

Finally, the total frequencies from each domain were calculated to determine what types of language typically contain idioms, and the following order represents the highest presence of idioms to the lowest: fiction, magazine, spoken, newspaper, academic. For exact percentages consult Table 5.

### **Social Media Profiles**

Of the 21 idioms searched in the social media profile biographies, 15 rendered at least one result. Of the 15 idioms (see Table 6), the average number of occurrences in profiles was 3.73 uses with the range stretching from 1 to 11. The idioms most prevalent in the profiles were “read between the lines” (knowledge), “go against the grain” (emotion), “a piece of cake” (effort), “out of the blue” (time), and “in hot water” (adversity).

It was noted that perhaps some usage of these idioms might include infixes, or the insertion of extra words (e.g. “lose my freaking cool”) or alternative spellings of words (e.g. “outta da blue”). All of these possibilities were taken into account and included in the Regex abstractions used in the command line.

Using the list of idioms decreasing in usage from 1990-2012 rendered from COCA, it was hypothesized that perhaps these idioms are being replaced with more contemporary idioms or sayings. For example, instead of using “bite the bullet” to refer to putting up with difficulty, it’s possible that creators of social media profiles prefer to use expressions such as “suck it up” or “deal with it” especially on an online platform.

Although a list of potential idiom replacements was created using Urban Dictionary, future research could focus on developing more representative alternatives to these idioms and replicate the social media profile searches equipped with these phrases.

## *CONCLUSIONS*

### **COCA & SketchEngine**

The data suggests that the level of salience between English and French idioms is not similar. Although twelve categories (approximately 3/5 of all categories) applied to both English and French idioms, the levels that those idioms appeared in the corpus were highly disparate. In analyzing the most common categories for French idioms—Result, Adversity, Superiority, Emotions, and Human Interactions—one may conclude that idioms are often used to make comparisons or highlight relationships between two objects, situations, or people.

In comparison, the most frequent English idiom categories—Thinking Process, Time, Obedience, Superiority, and Human Interactions—refer more to singular activities. Thinking, considering time, and relating to obedience are not sequential activities, requiring one thing to happen in order to spur the next. This differs from the French categories result, adversity, and emotions.

Furthermore, one may conclude that English idioms often refer to more abstract concepts such as thinking, time, obedience, deceit, and effort whereas French idioms are more concretely based. This conclusion is supported when considering the versatility of English and French idioms.

English idioms are 57% used in specific contexts as opposed to 69% for French, suggesting that English idioms tend to be more generalizable instead of describing one action. In addition, more English idioms play an auxiliary, or modifying, role than French idioms, an indication that more French idioms have the responsibility of carrying the semantic information for the sentence than English idioms.

The distribution of idiom usage over domains was unsurprising. Since idioms, in particular the more familiar idioms that were analyzed in the present study, represent more colloquial speech, it is understandable why they appear the most in fiction writing.

It is interesting to note that due to the specific nature of many of the idioms in question, their presence in newspaper text is almost equal to magazines and spoken language. A possible application of these findings is to determine whether idioms facilitate understanding and comprehension of difficult concepts, as other strategies like analogy do, and then aim to increase their usage in academic texts.

### **Social Media Profile**

The goal of conducting the social media profile search was to determine whether the corpus results, which are assumed to be representative of language as it is actually

used, continues to be accurate in light of the specialization of colloquial language and slang online. I hoped to determine whether idiom usage, whether it is increasing, decreasing, or remaining stagnant in English is at all reflected in the words that people with social media profiles choose to describe themselves, and if so, what type of idioms do they use to describe themselves?

As it turned out, the semantic categories for English idioms that were highly represented in the corpus and appeared in social media profiles more than once only included Superiority, Time, and Deceit. The high frequency of the first of these three categories is the easiest to rationalize, however it is important to note that the ranking of all semantic categories in the social media profile data is based from one representative idiom for that category. Therefore, if a future study categorized the idiom sample differently, then they may report different findings for which categories are most represented in social media profiles.

Most usage of idioms in social media profiles contained slight manipulations from standard formats found in most idiom dictionaries. For example, for some idioms, multiple profiles contained the same context verbatim, which suggests that the usage derives either from a quote or a song lyric e.g. “a woman is like a teabag—you never know how strong she is until she gets into hot water.” Furthermore, many idiomatic hits that appeared in profiles made the idiom into a proper noun such as “Word of Mouth Marketing” (these were not coded as profile usages).

In general, the data suggested that using idioms in social media profiles is not very common—at least for the idioms searched in the present study. Future studies should consider measuring the occurrence of all highly frequent English idioms in profiles rather than selecting one representative from each semantic category.

Similarly, future studies should replicate the methodologies in social media outputs, such as Tweets or Facebook posts, to understand how popular idioms in general are in online usage. An interesting point brought up by Temese would be to ask whether the trend of hashtags have begun to replace idioms or affect them in any way, either shortening them or making them more applicable to multiple scenarios.

## **General**

To conclude, idioms are a very commonly occurring component of contemporary and standard English and French. About half of the sample of English idioms has been increasing in usage from 1990-2012 and the other half decreasing—to be precise, 43% decreased, 47% increased, and 10% did not change. However, not all of the English

idioms that are popular in COCA are similarly represented in social media profiles where people write a short blurb about themselves.

Future studies should synthesize the information reported in the present study with the psycholinguistic properties provided by the Titone & Connine and Bonin norming papers from which the sample of idioms was derived. The findings of such a project could be powerful in indicating whether idioms that are objectively more common in a language, as deemed by the corpus frequency, tend to possess certain psycholinguistic properties.

For example, research could compare self-report measures of idiom familiarity with corpus results to determine whether certain idioms are as familiar as people may think they are. From there, education specialists and textbook writers could reconsider which idioms to include in curricula and second language learning textbooks.

To view the infographic representations of the results, visit [www.mehrgoltiv.com](http://www.mehrgoltiv.com). Any questions about this study or other inquiries can be directed to Mehrgol Tiv at [mtiv15@hotmail.com](mailto:mtiv15@hotmail.com).

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## TABLES

**Table 1. Inclusion Criteria for English & French Idioms**

**\*Note: Categories with colour indicate that they are shared between English & French**

<b>Adversity</b>	Low chances of success from lack of resources, personal shortcomings, or external challenges.
<b>Ameliorate</b>	Remedy a problem; make a situation better than it was before.
<b>Amount</b>	Quantifiable value; not pertaining to time.
<b>Behaviors</b>	Everyday activities, physical action deriving from personality traits.
<b>Blame</b>	Where blame and responsibility should fall, justified or unjustified
<b>Certainty</b>	Level of confidence in accomplishing a task from full certainty to full uncertainty.
<b>Death</b>	Termination of life.
<b>Deceit</b>	Withholding information; keeping something secretive; having a trick or unknown resource; doing something unexpected
<b>Emotions</b>	Attitudes, specific feelings, or mental states.
<b>Effort</b>	Relating to how much effort that one puts into a task
<b>Everyday</b>	Activities that either occur on a regular basis or specific moments in lifetime.
<b>Exclamations</b>	A command or a plea.
<b>Financial</b>	How one uses one's money; the presence or absence of wealth and success.
<b>Goodness</b>	How good/bad someone/something is.
<b>How something is done</b>	How successfully/unsuccessfully something is accomplished; any skill or lack of skill in achieving a goal.
<b>Human interactions</b>	Involving a back-and-forth interaction between two or more people; how one acts in a situation.
<b>Inferiority</b>	Lacking or relinquishing control or power; to be worse than another person or than at another time.
<b>Knowledge</b>	Any manipulation of information; how information is discussed, argued, and agreed on.
<b>Movement</b>	How one moves or how quickly one moves.
<b>Obedience</b>	A command; describing obedient behavior; related to the law and obeying the law.
<b>Physical Body</b>	Description of body parts, shape, or observable trait; pertaining to senses; bodily changes like illness.
<b>Result</b>	The aftermath or effect of an action or event.
<b>Similarity &amp; Difference</b>	Comparing appearances and traits to draw parallels or acknowledge differences between items.
<b>Secret</b>	Lack of information; retrieving information that was not meant to be discovered; a sense of discretion and covert action.
<b>Space &amp; Time</b>	Spatial relations between objects and how they fit in a space; time in the past, present, or future.
<b>Success</b>	Monetary gain; luck; personal success; how well something is accomplished.
<b>Superiority</b>	Higher status than someone else or previously held; having control; performing a successful action; above-average performance; possessing traits of lofty self-worth.
<b>Temperature</b>	Pertaining to the physical temperature of something.
<b>Thinking Process</b>	The mind or unconscious; understanding, pondering, forgetting, focusing, thinking; how concepts are mentally represented.
<b>Undesirable</b>	Embodying a state that most people consider undesirable; pertaining to health, temper, etc.
<b>Work</b>	Occupation, job, or source of income; work ethic, effort, and quantity of work.
<b>Worsen</b>	To make a situation worse; increase chaos; lose composure; physical destruction.

**Table 2a. English Idioms with Semantic, Versatility, Role Categorization**

Idiom	Meaning	CO CA fre q.	Category	Versatility	Role
Take the bull by the horns	Confront a problem head on	0.11	Adversity	Specific	Auxiliary
Face the music	Confront unpleasantness especially the consequences of one's errors	0.26	Adversity	Specific	Primary
In a pickle	In a mess / in trouble	0.09	Adversity	Specific	Primary
In hot water	To be in trouble	0.79	Adversity	Specific	Primary
Play with fire	Take part in a dangerous undertaking	0.43	Adversity	Specific	Primary
Fish out of water	A person away from his or her usual environment or activities	0.24	Adversity	General	Primary
Skate on thin ice	In a precarious or risky situation	0.06	Adversity	General	Primary
Bury the hatchet	Make peace or settle ones' differences	0.1	Ameliorate	Specific	Primary
Make a clean sweep	Remove or eliminate unwanted persons or things	0.05	Ameliorate	Specific	Primary
Save your skin	Rescue one from a difficult situation or harm	0.12	Ameliorate	Specific	Primary
Break the ice	Make a start/ Relax a tense or formal situation	0.49	Ameliorate	General	Primary
Grease the wheels	Make things run smoothly	0.09	Ameliorate	General	Primary
Clear the air	Eliminate confusion or dispel controversy or emotional tension	0.57	Ameliorate	General	Primary
Pay through the nose	Pay an excessive amount for something	0.09	Amount	Specific	Primary
Par for the course	An average or normal amount	0.34	Amount	General	Auxiliary
Bet your bottom dollar	Be very confident	0.08	Certainty	General	Auxiliary
Sit on the fence	Not to take sides in a dispute *	0.14	Certainty	General	Auxiliary
Take with a grain of salt	Skeptically, with reservations	0.06	Certainty	General	Auxiliary
Have cold feet	Retreat from an undertaking/ Lose ones' nerves	0.04	Certainty	General	Primary
Waste your breath	Speak in vain because no one agrees	0.1	Certainty	Gen	Prim

		5 y	eral	ary
Keep an ace up your sleeve	A hidden or secret advantage or resource	0.05	Deceit	Spec ific Prim ary
Pass the buck	Shift responsibility or blame elsewhere	0.25	Deceit	Spec ific Prim ary
Pay lip service	To give a verbal but insincere agreement or support	0.38	Deceit	Spec ific Prim ary
Play the market	Trade in securities in order to make money	0.1	Deceit	Spec ific Prim ary
Spin a yarn	Tell a long drawn-out and fanciful story	0.02	Deceit	Spec ific Prim ary
Take someone to the cleaners	To take a lot of someone's money/ To swindle someone *	0.05	Deceit	Spec ific Prim ary
Out of thin air	Completely disappeared	0.34	Deceit	Gen eral Auxili ary
Tip of the iceberg	Superficial evidence of a much larger problem	0.91	Deceit	Gen eral Auxili ary
Cover up one's tracks	Conceal one's whereabouts, activities, intentions, or the evidence of one's involvement	0.01	Deceit	Gen eral Prim ary
Lie through one's teeth	To lie boldly *	0.13	Deceit	Gen eral Prim ary
Pull someone's leg	Play a joke on or tease	0.31	Deceit	Gen eral Prim ary
Steal someone's thunder	Use or appropriate someone else's idea	0.14	Deceit	Gen eral Prim ary
Cash in your chips	Die	0.07	Die	Spec ific Prim ary
Kick the bucket	Die	0.09	Die	Spec ific Prim ary
Pull the plug	Discontinue or end/ Remove all life-supporting equipment	1.42	Die	Gen eral Prim ary
Burn the midnight oil	Stay up late working or studying	0.08	Effort	Spec ific Prim ary
Drive a hard bargain	Be severe in negotiating a transaction	0.09	Effort	Spec ific Prim ary
Hit the sauce	Drink alcoholic beverages, especially a lot	0.01	Effort	Spec ific Prim ary
Paint the town *(red)	Go on a spree	0.09	Effort	Spec ific Prim ary
A piece of cake	Something easily accomplished	0.94	Effort	Gen eral Auxili ary
Bite the bullet	Behave bravely or stoically when facing pain or a difficult situation	0.37	Effort	Gen eral Auxili ary
Bust a gut	Exert oneself to the utmost	0.05	Effort	Gen eral Prim ary
Give it a whirl	To try something **	0.12	Effort	Gen eral Prim ary

Learn the ropes	Be informed about the details of a situation or task	0.25	Effort	General	Primary
Play by ear	"play it by ear" means proceed gradually depending on circumstances/improvise	0.12	Effort	General	Auxiliary
Be on cloud nine	Blissfully happy	0.06	Emotion	Specific	Primary
Frighten out of one's wits	Terrify or make panic	0.01	Emotion	Specific	Primary
Give the creeps	To give off a sensation of horror or repugnance	0	Emotion	Specific	Primary
Give the willies	To give off a sensation of horror or repugnance	0	Emotion	Specific	Primary
Have egg on your face	Look foolish or be embarrassed	0.03	Emotion	Specific	Primary
In seventh heaven	In a state of bliss	0.03	Emotion	Specific	Primary
Can't believe my ears	Can't trust ones' own hearing or sight	0.04	Emotion	General	Primary
Go against the grain	Opposed to one's inclination or preference	0.32	Emotion	General	Primary
Run into the ground	Pursue a topic until it has been thoroughly discussed or exhausted	0.04	Emotion	General	Primary
By word of mouth	Orally or by one person telling another	0.42	How something is done	General	Auxiliary
Kick up your heels	Enjoy oneself	0.16	How something is done	General	Primary
Lose face	Be embarrassed or humiliated	0.28	How something is done	General	Primary
Learn by heart	From memory or mechanically	0.06	Human Interaction	General	Auxiliary
Crack a joke	Make a joke or say something humorous	0.14	Human Interactions	Specific	Primary
Foot the bill	Pay the bill	0.87	Human Interactions	Specific	Primary
Get the eye	To attract someone's attention	0.03	Human Interactions	Specific	Primary
Give the cold shoulder	To be deliberately cold or disregarding	0.02	Human Interactions	Specific	Primary

Handle with kid gloves	Treat with great care or very gently	0.01	Human Interactions	General	Auxiliary
Make no bones about	Act or speak frankly about something	0.38	Human Interactions	General	Auxiliary
Climb on the band wagon (* on the bandwagon)	Join a cause or movement	0.44	Human Interactions	General	Primary
Fall on deaf ears	Be ignored or disregarded	0.44	Human Interactions	General	Primary
Lend an ear	Pay attention or listen	0.04	Human Interactions	General	Primary
Make a pass	Flirt or make advances at	0.52	Human Interactions	Specific	Primary
Shoot the breeze	Talk idly, chat	0.21	Human Interactions ***	Specific	Primary
Behind the times	Not keeping up with current fashion, methods, or ideas	0.27	Inferiority	Specific	Auxiliary
Chew the fat	Chat in a friendly way	0.08	Inferiority	Specific	Primary
Make the scene	Put in an appearance, take part in an event	0.08	Inferiority	General	Auxiliary
Back to square one	Back to the beginning because the current attempt was unsuccessful	0.33	Inferiority	Specific	Auxiliary
Lead up a blind alley	A route that leads nowhere**	0.01	Inferiority	Specific	Auxiliary
Fall from grace	Experience reduced status or prestige or cease to be held in favor	0.54	Inferiority	Specific	Primary
Flash in the pan	An effort or person that promises great success but fails	0.16	Inferiority	Specific	Primary
Give the sack	Be discharged or fired	0	Inferiority	Specific	Primary
Take the back seat	Allow someone else to be in control**	0.01	Inferiority	General	Auxiliary
Bite the dust	Suffer defeat or death	0.24	Inferiority	General	Primary
Lose your grip	Fail to maintain control/ fail to maintain one's composure	0.72	Inferiority	General	Primary
Let the cat out of the bag	Give away a secret	0.06	Knowledge	Specific	Primary
Pour one's heart out	Express one's innermost thoughts and feelings to someone else	0.08	Knowledge	Specific	Primary
Under someone's thumb	Controlled or dominated by someone	0.27	Knowledge	Specific	Primary

Miss the boat	Fail to take advantage of an opportunity	0.02	Knowledge	General	Primary
Read between the lines	Perceive or detect a hidden meaning	0.45	Knowledge	General	Primary
Button your lips	Keep quiet	0	Obedience	Specific	Primary
Force someone's hand	Compel someone to act or speak prematurely or against his or her will	0.3	Obedience	Specific	Primary
Letter of the law	The precise wording rather than the intent**	0.4	Obedience	Specific	Primary
Spill the beans	Disclose a secret or reveal something prematurely	0.27	Obedience	Specific	Primary
Rise to the bait	Be tempted by or react to an enticement	0.12	Obedience	Specific	Primary
Put the screws on	Pressure someone	0.06	Obedience	General	Auxiliary
Rule of thumb	A rough and useful principle or method	1.78	Obedience	General	Auxiliary
Lay down the law	Assert something positively and often arrogantly/ state something dogmatically	0.3	Obedience	General	Primary
Hit the sack	Go to bed	0.13	Quotidian Activities	Specific	Primary
Pop the question	Propose marriage	0.3	Quotidian Activities	Specific	Primary
Shut your trap*face	Shut up/stop talking *	0.04	Quotidian Activities	Specific	Primary
Tie the knot	Get married	0.6	Quotidian Activities	Specific	Primary
Twist someone's arm	Coerce or persuade someone	0.26	Quotidian Activities	General	Auxiliary
Be the spitting image	A precise resemblance in appearance	0.08	Similarity or Difference	Specific	Primary
Dance to another tune	Change one's manner, behavior, or attitude	0	Similarity or Difference	Specific	Primary
Have an axe to grind	To have a problem to discuss or settle with someone *	0.1	Similarity or	Specific	Primary

			Difference		
Two peas in a pod	Very similar/ Close resemblance	0.06	Similarity or Difference	Specific	Primary
Horse of another color	Another matter entirely	0.01	Similarity or Difference	General	Primary
Praise to the skies	Commend lavishly or excessively	0.01	Success/Wealth	Specific	Auxiliary
Born with a silver spoon	Born wealthy or fortunate	0.06	Success/Wealth	Specific	Primary
Bring home the bacon	Earn a living to provide the necessities in life	0.19	Success/Wealth	Specific	Primary
Dressed to kill	Elaborately attired	0.14	Success/Wealth	Specific	Primary
Feather one's nest	Acquire wealth for oneself, especially by taking advantage one's position or using the property of others	0.05	Success/Wealth	Specific	Primary
Cost an arms and a leg	An exorbitant amount of money	0.07	Success/Wealth	General	Auxiliary
Take the cake	Be the most outstanding in some respect	0.24	Success/Wealth	General	Auxiliary
With flying colors	Win or succeed	0.28	Success/Wealth	General	Auxiliary
He hit the jackpot	Be highly successful especially unexpectedly	0.41	Success/Wealth	General	Primary
Steal the show	Be the center of attention	0.52	Superiority	Specific	Primary
Long arm of the law	The far-reaching power of the authorities	0.06	Superiority	Specific	Auxiliary
Be the cat's whiskers	To be better than everyone else **	0	Superiority	Specific	Primary
Beat to the punch	React more quickly than someone else	0.02	Superiority	Specific	Primary
Blow someone's mind	Surprise, shock, or amaze	0.5	Superiority	Specific	Primary
Crack the whip	Behave in a domineering or demanding way toward one's subordinates	0.15	Superiority	Specific	Primary

Rule with an iron fist (Iron fist)	To govern with rigorous control	0.43	Superiority	Specific	Primary
Come up roses	Turn out extremely well	0.08	Superiority	General	Auxiliary
Armed to the teeth	Overly well prepared or equipped	0.01	Superiority	General	Primary
Call the shots	Exercise authority or be in charge	1.23	Superiority	General	Primary
Cramp someone's style	Restrict or prevent someone from free action or expression	0.09	Superiority	General	Primary
Wear the pants	Exercise controlling authority in a household	0.11	Superiority	General	Primary
Keep a level head	Keep calm and show good judgment**	0.01	Thinking Process	Specific	Primary
Back of one's mind	The remote part of one's mind or memory	1.63	Thinking Process	General	Auxiliary
Beg the question	Take for granted or assume the truth of the very thing being questioned	0.87	Thinking Process	General	Auxiliary
Rack one's brains	Strain to remember or find a solution	0.16	Thinking Process	General	Auxiliary
Food for thought	An idea or issue to ponder	0.47	Thinking Process	General	Primary
Get the picture	Understand or infer the real importance	0.83	Thinking Process	General	Primary
Seal one's fate	Decide what will become of one	0.2	Thinking Process	General	Primary
Slip one's mind	Be overlooked or forgotten	0.2	Thinking Process	General	Primary
Hold your horses	Slow down or be patient	0.17	Time	Specific	Auxiliary
Carry a torch	Continue to feel the pain of unreciprocated love	0.07	Time	Specific	Primary
Cool his heels	Wait or be kept waiting	0.25	Time	Specific	Primary
Nip in the bud	Halt something at an early stage	0.08	Time	Specific	Primary
Nurse a grudge	Bear resentment for a long time	0.02	Time	Specific	Primary
Over the hill	Past one's prime	0.8	Time	Specific	Primary
Talk a mile a minute	Talk very fast **	0.0	Time	Specific	Prim



		8		ific	ary
Go the whole hog	Do something completely or thoroughly/Proceed as far as possible	0.02	Time	Gen eral	Auxili ary
In the nick of time	At the last moment	0.4	Time	Gen eral	Auxili ary
Out of the blue	Without warning, suddenly	1.92	Time	Gen eral	Auxili ary
Jump the gun	Start doing something too soon	0.32	Time	Gen eral	Prim ary
Ride the storm	Survive or outlast	0.02	Time	Gen eral	Prim ary
Be a wet blanket	A person who discourages excitement or enthusiasm	0.01	Undesir able	Spec ific	Prim ary
Below the belt	Not behave according to the rules or decency	0.26	Undesir able	Spec ific	Prim ary
Under the weather	Ailing/ill	0.15	Undesir able	Spec ific	Prim ary
Bite someone's head off	Scold or speak very angrily to someone	0.13	Undesir able	Gen eral	Prim ary
Frog in one's throat	Hoarseness or phlegm in the throat	0.03	Undesir able	Spec ific	Prim ary
Get your goat	To irritate and annoy someone **	0.16	Undesir able	Spec ific	Prim ary
Eat his words	Retract something one has said	0.15	Unknow n	Spec ific	Prim ary
Fit as a fiddle	In excellent form or health	0.06	Unknow n	Spec ific	Prim ary
Raise the roof	Be extremely noisy and boisterous	0.11	Unknow n	Spec ific	Prim ary
Swallow one's pride	Humble oneself	0.22	Unknow n	Spec ific	Prim ary
Speak your mind	Say what one really thinks	1.07	Unknow n	Gen eral	Prim ary
Blow to kingdom come	To destroy someone or something by means of an explosion *	0.02	Worsen	Spec ific	Prim ary
Blow your top	Fly in to a rage or lose one's composure	0.17	Worsen	Spec ific	Prim ary
Cook his goose	Ruin or upset someone's plans	0.01	Worsen	Spec ific	Prim ary
Give plenty of rope	To allow someone to do something knowing that they will fail/get in trouble**	0	Worsen	Spec ific	Prim ary
Go to pieces	Experience an emotional or mental breakdown	0.22	Worsen	Spec ific	Prim ary
Lose your cool	To lose composure	0.4	Worsen	Spec ific	Prim ary
Pack a punch	Be capable of a forceful blow	0.14	Worsen	Spec ific	Prim ary

Rake over the coals	Reprimand severely	0.0 4	Worsen	Spec ific	Prim ary
Scream blue murder*scream bloody murder	Angrily protest as loudly as possible	0.2 1	Worsen	Spec ific	Prim ary
Throw the book at	Punish or reprimand severely	0.2 2	Worsen	Spec ific	Prim ary
Throw to the wolves	Send to a terrible fate/ Sacrifice someone especially for oneself	0.2 2	Worsen	Spec ific	Prim ary
Upset the applecart	Spoil carefully laid plans	0.0 2	Worsen	Spec ific	Prim ary
Add fuel to the fire	Worsen an already bad situation	0.0 8	Worsen	Gen eral	Auxili ary
Lose one's touch	No longer be able to do or handle something skillfully	0.2 4	Worsen	Gen eral	Prim ary

**Table 2b. French Idioms with Translation and Semantic, Versatility, and Role Categorization**

Idiom	Meaning	Raw Count	Category	Versatility	Role
Avoir le cœur bien accroché	To not be squeamish	79	Adversity	Specific	Primary
Couper l'herbe sous les pieds de quelqu'un	To pull the rug from someone's feet (to suddenly stop helping them)	358	Adversity	Specific	Primary
Etre dans les choux	To be in a mess	59	Adversity	Specific	Primary
Etre le dindon de la farce	To be the victim (of the joke)	286	Adversity	Specific	Primary
Etre têtu comme une mule	To be as stubborn as a mule	26	Adversity	Specific	Primary
Il y a de l'eau dans le gaz	There is trouble brewing	154	Adversity	Specific	Primary
Rouler les mécaniques	To play the tough guy	48	Adversity	Specific	Primary
En faire voir des vertes et des pas mûres à quelqu'un	To have been through a lot	37	Adversity	General	Primary
Etre fort comme un Turc	To be very strong	12	Adversity	General	Primary
Ne pas manquer d'air	To have nerve / To be bold	190	Adversity	General	Primary
Ne pas se faire de bile	Not to worry	5	Adversity	General	Primary
Pêcher en eau trouble	To fish in troubled water / To involve oneself in a difficult situation	16	Adversity	General	Primary
Etre dans le pétrin	To be in a pickle	127	Adversity	Specific	Primary
Etre marron	To be duped / To be taken in	259	Adversity	Specific	Primary
Etre reçu comme un chien dans un jeu de quilles	Like a bull in a china shop	34	Adversity	Specific	Primary
Etre comme un éléphant dans un magasin de porcelaine	To be clumsy and disruptive	35	Adversity	General	Primary
Etre tiré par les cheveux	To be implausible or unlikely	304	Adversity	General	Primary
Dormir sur ses deux oreilles	To sleep soundly / To sleep without worries	76	Behaviors	Specific	Auxiliary
Manger comme quatre	To eat like a horse / To eat a lot	36	Behaviors	Specific	Auxiliary
Tenir la jambe à quelqu'un	To talk someone's ear off	1	Behaviors	Specific	Auxiliary

Avoir la langue bien pendue	To be a chatterbox	103	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
Bouffer du lion	**To have a lot of energy/ To be full of energy	14	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
Dormir à poings fermés	To be sound asleep	62	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
Etre bavard comme une pie	To be a chatterbox	9	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
Faire du vilain	To make trouble	8	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
Faire l'andouille	To goof off / To fool around	71	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
Faire la chèvre	**To be unorganized / To act disorderly	7	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
La mettre en veilleuse	To quiet down	151	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
Manger comme un cochon	To eat messily	6	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
Ne pas savoir tenir sa langue	Not be able to hold one's tongue	13	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
Ne pas y aller de main morte	To act violently or brutally	83	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
Perdre les pédales	To lose your grip/To lose your reason	167	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
Perdre son sang-froid	To lose your temper/Become angry	190	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
Prendre une biture	To get completely drunk	6	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
S'en mettre plein la lampe	To stuff your face	3	Behaviors	Specific	Primary
Chercher le bouc émissaire	To look for a scapegoat	4	Blame	Specific	Primary
Etre une tête de Turc	To be a scapegoat	313	Blame	Specific	Primary
Faire porter le chapeau à quelqu'un	To put the blame on someone	50	Blame	Specific	Primary
Avoir bon dos	To be a convenient scapegoat/to take the blame	450	Blame	Specific	Primary
Se faire tirer l'oreille	To need a lot of persuading	66	Certainty	General	Primary
C'est dans la poche	It's in the bag (it's already done)	98	Certainty	Specific	Auxiliary
Faire avaler une couleuvre	To be gullible	8	Certainty	Specific	Primary
Ne pas savoir si c'est du lard ou du cochon	Not be able to tell if something is true or false	2	Certainty	Specific	Primary
Prendre quelqu'un la main dans le sac	To catch someone red-handed	328	Certainty	Specific	Primary

Avoir le cul entre deux chaises	To be caught in the middle	116	Certainty	General	Auxiliary
Partir les pieds devant	To die / To be carried out feet first	18	Die	Specific	Primary
Avoir des sueurs froides	To be very frightened	326	Emotions	Specific	Primary
Avoir les foies	To be scared to death	18	Emotions	Specific	Primary
Etre hors de soi	To be really angry	14	Emotions	Specific	Primary
Etre rouge comme une tomate	To be as red as a beetroot/ To be embarrassed	57	Emotions	Specific	Primary
Voir la vie en rose	To look on the bright side of life	117	Emotions	Specific	Primary
Etre vert de rage	To be furious	89	Emotions	Specific	Primary
Allez au diable !	Go to Hell!	17	Exclamations	Specific	Primary
Motus et bouche cousue	Mum's the word	82	Exclamations	Specific	Primary
Avoir de la peine à joindre les deux bouts	To have difficulties to make ends meet	2	Financial	Specific	Auxiliary
Brûler la chandelle par les deux bouts	To waste/squander (Use without worry)	29	Financial	Specific	Primary
Etre comme un coq en pâte	To be in clover / To enjoy a life of money and comfort	25	Financial	Specific	Primary
Etre fauché comme les blés	To be dead broke	23	Financial	Specific	Primary
S'en mettre plein les poches	To gain more money	283	Financial	Specific	Primary
Avoir du cœur	To be nice and understanding	58	Goodness	Specific	Primary
Avoir le cœur sur la main	To be generous/ Have a big heart	247	Goodness	Specific	Primary
Couper la poire en deux	To split the difference / To meet halfway	76	Goodness	Specific	Primary
Etre blanc comme neige	To be as pure as snow	208	Goodness	Specific	Primary
Etre bonne poire	To be too good-natured / To be always ready to help	150	Goodness	Specific	Primary
Etre doux comme un agneau	To be gentle as a lamb	74	Goodness	Specific	Primary
Etre un mauvais coucheur	To be an unpleasant and disagreeable person	65	Goodness	Specific	Primary
Etre vache	To be a mean person	155	Goodness	Specific	Primary
Avoir le pied marin	To be a good sailor	88	How somethin	Specific	Primary

			g is done		
Etre un parfait cordon-bleu	To cook really well	2	How something is done	Specific	Primary
Ne pas mettre les deux pieds dans le même soulier	Being energetic and able to take initiative without wasting time	63	How something is done	Specific	Primary
Parler le français comme une vache espagnole	To speak French very badly	11	How something is done	Specific	Primary
Avoir des doigts de fée	To be dexterous	72	How something is done	General	Auxiliary
Avoir plusieurs cordes à son arc	To have more than one way of doing something	72	How something is done	General	Auxiliary
Etre rapide comme l'éclair	To be as fast as lightening / To be very fast	70	How something is done	General	Auxiliary
Il faut appeler un chat un chat	To call it like it is/To be frank and honest	305	How something is done	General	Auxiliary
Faire une belle jambe à quelqu'un	To not be useful to anyone	7	How something is done	General	Primary
Ne pas avoir la langue dans sa poche	To never be at a loss for words/Speak easily	242	How something is done	Specific	Primary
Mettre des gants pour dire quelque chose à quelqu'un	To be careful / To tread carefully	7	How something is done	General	Auxiliary
Ne pas y aller avec le dos de la cuillère	To do things the right way	149	How something is done	General	Auxiliary
Remuer ciel et terre	To use all the resources necessary to do something	160	How something is done	General	Auxiliary
Boire en Suisse	To drink alone	1	Human Interactions	Specific	Primary
Etre de mèche avec quelqu'un	To be in cahoots with someone	75	Human Interactions	Specific	Primary
Filer à l'anglaise	To take French leave / To leave without saying goodbye	93	Human Interactions	Specific	Primary
Mettre le nez dans les affaires de quelqu'un	To poke your nose in someone else's business	52	Human Interactions	Specific	Primary

Pendre la crémaillère	To hold a house warming party	1	Human Interactions	Specific	Primary
Renvoyer deux personnes dos à dos	To refuse to get involved in an argument	352	Human Interactions	Specific	Primary
S'entendre comme chien et chat	To fight like cat and dog	63	Human Interactions	Specific	Primary
Mettre la main à la pâte	To join in	538	Human Interactions	General	Primary
Ne pas pouvoir sentir quelqu'un	Not to like someone	0	Human Interactions	General	Primary
Trouver chaussure à son pied	To find the right person	136	Human Interactions	General	Primary
Donner carte blanche à quelqu'un	To give somebody free reign	292	Inferiority	General	Primary
Etre mauvais joueur	To be a sore loser	324	Inferiority	Specific	Primary
N'être plus que l'ombre de soi-même	To be a shadow of your former self	198	Inferiority	Specific	Primary
Etre dans ses petits souliers	To feel very small	24	Inferiority	General	Auxiliary
Etre la cinquième roue du carrosse	To be useless / To be the third wheel	22	Inferiority	General	Auxiliary
Mettre de l'eau dans son vin	To back off / To back down	65	Inferiority	General	Primary
Ne pas arriver à la cheville de quelqu'un	To be inferior to someone	59	Inferiority	General	Primary
Savoir sur le bout des doigts	To know something like the back of your hand	4	Knowledge/Truth	Specific	Primary
Avoir le fin mot de l'histoire	To get to the bottom of something	370	Knowledge/Truth	General	Primary
Avoir maille à partir avec quelqu'un	To disagree with someone	150	Knowledge/Truth	General	Primary
Découvrir le pot aux roses	To discover the truth	112	Knowledge/Truth	Specific	Primary
Dire à quelqu'un ses quatre vérités	To tell somebody a few home truths (unpleasant facts about oneself)	329	Knowledge/Truth	Specific	Primary
Etre une cervelle d'oiseau	To be a birdbrain	16	Knowledge/Truth	Specific	Primary
Lancer le bouchon un peu trop loin	To exaggerate	62	Knowledge/Truth	General	Auxiliary
Prendre ses jambes à son cou	To flee	108	Movement	Specific	Primary

Sauter comme un cabri	To frolic	46	Movement	Specific	Primary
Tourner les talons	To turn around and walk away	385	Movement	General	Primary
Partir en quatrième vitesse	To leave at top speed	79	Movement	Specific	Primary
Piquer un fard	To blush	14	Physical Body	Specific	Primary
Avoir des fourmis dans une jambe	To have pins and needles in your legs	0	Physical Body	Specific	Primary
Avoir les oreilles en feuilles de chou	To have big, floppy ears/ To have Dumbo ears	1	Physical Body	Specific	Primary
Avoir un cheveu sur la langue	To have a lisp	55	Physical Body	Specific	Primary
Avoir un petit creux	To be a little hungry	491	Physical Body	Specific	Primary
Avoir une taille de guêpe	To have an hourglass figure	124	Physical Body	Specific	Primary
Ne pas être dans son assiette	To be under the weather	12	Physical Body	Specific	Primary
Passer sur le billard	To have an operation	49	Physical Body	Specific	Primary
Tomber dans les pommes	To faint	337	Physical Body	Specific	Primary
Tourner de l'œil	To faint	8	Physical Body	Specific	Primary
Etre à bout de souffle	To be out of breath	1568	Result/Product	Specific	Primary
Etre derrière les barreaux	To be in jail / To be locked up behind bars	603	Result/Product	Specific	Primary
Ne pas avoir les yeux en face des trous	To be hungover	149	Result/Product	Specific	Primary
Recevoir une châtaigne	To receive a punch	3	Result/Product	Specific	Primary
Revenir de loin	To have made an unexpected comeback	496	Result/Product	Specific	Primary
Accuser le coup	To be affected	97	Result/Product	General	Primary
Marquer le coup	To acknowledge the importance of an event	549	Result/Product	General	Primary
Faire quelque chose pour des prunes	To do something for nothing	168	Result/Product	General	Auxiliary
Ne pas avoir gardé les cochons ensemble	Not to be of the same background	14	Similarity or Difference	General	Auxiliary
Tirer les vers du nez à quelqu'un	To worm information out of someone	6	Something	Specific	Primary



			secretive or hidden		
Regarder du coin de l'œil	To look out of the corner of your eye/Covertly observe	93	Something secretive or hidden	Specific	Auxiliary
Attention, les murs ont des oreilles	The walls have ears	52	Something secretive or hidden	Specific	Primary
Il y a anguille sous roche	There is something fishy going on/Lack of clarity, something hidden.	154	Something secretive or hidden	General	Primary
Aller comme un gant	Fit like a glove	496	Space and Time	Specific	Auxiliary
Avoir les coudées franches	To have elbow room	221	Space and Time	Specific	Primary
Ne pas voir plus loin que le bout de son nez	To lack foresight	87	Space and Time	General	Primary
Repousser aux calendes grecques	To put something off indefinitely	312	Space and Time	General	Primary
Se faire marcher sur les pieds	To maltreat someone or dominate them	40	Superiority	Specific	Primary
Avoir la grosse tête	To be big-headed	652	Superiority	Specific	Primary
Avoir une dent contre quelqu'un	To hold a grudge against someone	244	Superiority	Specific	Primary
Coiffer sur le poteau	To pass somebody up/To beat someone somewhere	37	Superiority	Specific	Primary
Etre un fils à papa	To be a daddy's boy/spoiled	204	Superiority	Specific	Primary
Faire la pluie et le beau temps	To call all the shots	373	Superiority	Specific	Primary
Il vaut mieux s'adresser au Bon Dieu qu'à ses saints	Speak to the boss not the subordinate	20	Superiority	Specific	Primary
Marcher sur les plates-bandes de quelqu'un	To step on someone's toes	10	Superiority	Specific	Primary
Avoir la haute main sur quelque chose	To have absolute control over something	243	Superiority	General	Primary
Tirer les marrons du feu	To reap the benefits	163	Superiority	General	Primary
Faire un froid de canard	To be freezing cold	148	Temperature	Specific	Primary
Etre complètement noir	**To completely blank on something	18	Thinking Process	Specific	Primary
Etre une vraie tête de linotte	To be a scatterbrain	85	Thinking Process	Specific	Primary

Etre dans la lune	To be distracted	79	Thinking Process	General	Primary
Faire du foin	To make a big fuss	49	Thinking Process	General	Primary
Sauter du coq à l'âne	To jump from one subject to another	51	Thinking Process	General	Primary
Avoir un blanc	To blank on something	70	Thinking Process	Specific	Auxiliary
Avoir quelque chose derrière la tête	To have something on your mind	8	Thinking Process	General	Primary
Avoir une mémoire d'éléphant	To never forget anything	25	Thinking Process	General	Primary
Etre à côté de ses pompes	To be unfocused	61	Thinking Process	General	Primary
En faire tout en fromage	To make a big fuss out of something/ To make a mountain out of a molehill	79	Unknown	General	Primary
Etre moche comme un pou	To be as ugly as sin	5	Unknown	Specific	Primary
Tomber les quatre fers en l'air	To fall flat on your back/The reverse	17	Unknown	Specific	Primary
Il y a deux poids deux mesures	To have double standards	41	Unknown	General	Primary
Sauter aux yeux	To be very obvious	12	Unknown	General	Primary
Se mettre le doigt dans l'œil	To be entirely mistaken	22	Unknown	General	Primary
Se tenir à carreau	To stick to the rules	12	Unknown	General	Primary
Etre un maquereau	To be a pimp	1	Work	Specific	Primary
Exécuter un travail de fourmi	To do a pain-staking job	27	Work	Specific	Primary
Ne pas se fouler la rate	To be lazy	2	Work	Specific	Primary
Avoir du pain sur la planche	To have a lot on your plate	79	Work	General	Auxiliary
C'est du tout cuit	It's all done	34	Work	General	Primary
Etre sale comme un cochon	To be dirty from doing a certain task	7	Work	General	Primary
Il n'y a que le premier pas qui coûte	The first step is the hardest	10	Work	General	Primary

**Table 3. Semantic Category Distributions**

English Category	Count	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Ameliorate	6	3.658536585	0.15	0.3947368421
Similarity or Difference	5	3.048780488	0.25	0.6578947368
Amount	2	1.219512195	0.43	1.131578947
Certainty	5	3.048780488	0.47	1.236842105
Emotion	9	5.487804878	0.53	1.394736842
Undesirable	6	3.658536585	0.74	1.947368421
How something is done	3	1.829268293	0.86	2.263157895
Knowledge	5	3.048780488	0.88	2.315789474
Quotidian Activities	5	3.048780488	1.33	3.5
Success/Wealth	9	5.487804878	1.45	3.815789474
Die	3	1.829268293	1.58	4.157894737
Adversity	7	4.268292683	1.98	5.210526316
Worsen	14	8.536585366	1.99	5.236842105
Effort	10	6.097560976	2.12	5.578947368
Inferiority	11	6.707317073	2.44	6.421052632
Deceit	12	7.317073171	2.69	7.078947368
Human Interactions	12	7.317073171	3.16	8.315789474
Superiority	12	7.317073171	3.2	8.421052632
Obedience	8	4.87804878	3.23	8.5
Time	12	7.317073171	4.15	10.92105263
Thinking Process	8	4.87804878	4.37	11.5
	164	100	38	100

French Category	Count	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Similarity or Difference	1	0.6172839506	14	0.06175562417
Die	1	0.6172839506	18	0.07940008822
Exclamations	2	1.234567901	99	0.4367004852
Termperature	1	0.6172839506	148	0.6528451698
Secretive or Hidden	4	2.469135802	305	1.345390384
Financial	5	3.086419753	362	1.596823996
Thinking Process	9	5.555555556	446	1.967357742
Certainty	6	3.703703704	618	2.726069696
Movement	4	2.469135802	618	2.726069696
Blame	4	2.469135802	817	3.603881782
Inferiority	7	4.320987654	984	4.340538156
Behaviors	18	11.111111111	1006	4.437582708
Goodness	8	4.938271605	1033	4.556682841
Knowledge/Truth	7	4.320987654	1043	4.600794001
Physical body	10	6.172839506	1091	4.812527569
Space and Time	4	2.469135802	1116	4.92280547
Work	7	4.320987654	1124	4.958094398
How something is done	13	8.024691358	1248	5.505072783
Human interactions	10	6.172839506	1311	5.782973092
Emotions	6	3.703703704	1621	7.150419056
Superiority	10	6.172839506	1986	8.760476401
Adversity	17	10.49382716	2029	8.950154389
Result/Product	8	4.938271605	3633	16.02558447
	162	100	22670	100

**Table 4. Versatility & Role Distributions**

<b>ENGLISH</b>			<b>FRENCH</b>		
Versatility	Count	Frequency	Versatility	Count	Total
General	72	15.67	General	53	6126
Specific	97	25.21	Specific	116	18615

<b>ENGLISH</b>			<b>FRENCH</b>		
Role	Count	Frequency	Role	Count	Total
Primary	133	32.23	Primary	147	22482
Auxiliary	35	13.07	Auxiliary	22	2910

**Table 5. Domain Distributions for English Idioms in COCA**

Fiction	53%
Magazine	48%
Spoken	48%
Newspaper	42%
Academic	16%

**Table 6. Social Media Profile English Idiom Occurrences**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Hits</b>
Adversity	4
Ameliorate	0
Amount	0
Certainty	3
Deceit	2
Die	2
Effort	7
Emotion	10
How something is done	1
Human Interaction	0
Inferiority	1
Knowledge	11
Obedience	0
Quotidian	2
Similarity & Difference	1
Success	2
Superiority	5
Thinking Process	0
Time	4
Undesirable	0
Worsen	1
Average	3.733333333

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