

# Phraseology in the TV Series 'The Office' and Its Translation into Croatian

---

Gašparović, Marijan

Undergraduate thesis / Završni rad

2017

*Degree Grantor / Ustanova koja je dodijelila akademski / stručni stupanj:* **Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences / Sveučilište Josipa Jurja Strossmayera u Osijeku, Filozofski fakultet**

*Permanent link / Trajna poveznica:* <https://urn.nsk.hr/urn:nbn:hr:142:587462>

*Rights / Prava:* [In copyright](#) / [Zaštićeno autorskim pravom.](#)

*Download date / Datum preuzimanja:* **2024-12-23**



*Repository / Repozitorij:*

[FFOS-repository - Repository of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Osijek](#)



Sveučilište J. J. Strossmayera u Osijeku

Filozofski fakultet Osijek

Studij: Dvopredmetni sveučilišni preddiplomski studij engleskoga jezika i  
književnosti

Marijan Gašparović

**Frazeologija u TV-seriji 'The Office' i hrvatski prijevod**

Završni rad

Mentor doc. dr. sc. Goran Schmidt

Osijek, 2017.

Sveučilište J. J. Strossmayera u Osijeku

Filozofski fakultet Osijek

Odsjek za engleski jezik i književnost

Studij: Dvopredmetni sveučilišni preddiplomski studij engleskoga jezika i  
književnosti

Marijan Gašparović

**Frazeologija u TV-seriji 'The Office' i hrvatski prijevod**

Završni rad

Znanstveno područje: humanističke znanosti

Znanstveno polje: filologija

Znanstvena grana: anglistika

Mentor doc. dr. sc. Goran Schmidt

Osijek, 2017.

J. J. Strossmayer University of Osijek

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Study Programme: Double Major BA Study Programme in English Language and  
Literature

Marijan Gašparović

**Phraseology in the TV series “The Office” and Its Translation into  
Croatian**

Bachelor’s thesis

Supervisor doc. dr. sc. Goran Schmidt

Osijek, 2017.

J. J. University of Osijek  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Department of English  
Study Programme: Double Major BA Study Programme in English Language and  
Literature

Marijan Gašparović  
**Phraseology in the TV series “The Office” and Its Translation into  
Croatian**  
Bachelor’s thesis

Scientific area: humanities

Scientific field: philology

Scientific branch: English studies

Supervisor doc. dr. sc. Goran Schmidt

Osijek, 2017.

## **Abstract**

There is a saying in the Croatian language that says: “Vrijediš onoliko koliko jezika govoriš.” This saying would roughly be translated into English as “The more languages you speak, the more you are worth.” Using this expression, it could be safe to say that languages enrich us as people. But what enriches the language itself? One of the English teachers at the Faculty of Humanity and Social Sciences in Osijek said that the thing that gives more value to using a language and shows how well we use it are phrases. In that line of thought, this BA thesis deals with phraseology, as it is unarguably one of the most important parts of any language in the world. The foundation or the corpus of this BA thesis is TV series *The Office*. The reason why exactly this show is used is because it represents a good use of both everyday language and somewhat formal language, because it uses various phrases often, in various contexts and all of that in a witty and funny way. The way this BA thesis is constructed is that it has a number of phrases listed chronologically (as they appear in the series). The phrases are defined, explained and exemplified (both as used in the series and a made-up example). The same is with a Croatian translation or paraphrase, if there is any. All of the phrases have a timestamp and the number of the episode in which they are used.

## **Keywords:**

phrase, phraseology, translation, Croatian, The Office

## Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
1. 1. About <i>The Office</i> as the corpus.....	1
1. 2. The aim.....	1
2. The theory behind conventional types of phraseological units.....	1
2. 1. Phraseological nomination.....	1
2. 2. Stereotyped comparisons.....	1
2. 3. (Irreversible) binomials.....	2
2. 4. Routine formulae.....	2
2. 5. Winged words.....	2
2. 6. Proverbs.....	2
3. Analysis.....	2
4. Conclusion.....	17

Abbreviations used:

FD - The Free Dictionary by Farlex

OD - Oxford Dictionaries

CD - Cambridge Dictionary



## 1. Introduction

Phrasicon is “the inventory of idioms or phrases” and it consists of phraseological units (Fiedler 2007: 15). There is an abundance of building blocks or phraseological units in any of the world languages to use in order to enrich our vocabulary, but this BA thesis focuses mainly on the English language and the Croatian language. If a person is exposed to a language, especially to the everyday variation of a language, they can hear myriad of phrases, idioms, sayings and so on. We can encounter this especially when it comes to media such as television or television series, to be more precise. This is the reason why this BA thesis uses *The Office* series as its corpus.

### 1.1 About *The Office* as the corpus

This TV show is an Emmy-winning comedy series which is actually an adaptation of the British TV show of the same name. The setting of the series, which is an office of a paper company, is a good source of phraseological units because both formally and informally used phrases can be found there. This work contains fifty of such phrases. all of them defined and exemplified.

### 1.2 The aim

The aim of the paper is to offer a list of 50 various idioms used in the everyday English language and analyze them by giving their definitions and examples. Most importantly, these phrases come with Croatian counterparts, if a counterpart even exists in the Croatian language.

### 1.3 Thesis structure

This paper is divided into four headings. The first one serves as an introduction as it deals with the corpus and states the aim of the paper. The second one deals with the theory of conventional types of phraseological units where each of them is explained and exemplified individually. The most detailed part of this paper is the third heading because it deals with fifty phrases from the series in a way that they are explained and exemplified not only in English, but also in Croatian,

where such thing is possible. The last heading of course gives a conclusion on everything written in the paper.

## 2. The theory behind conventional types of phraseological units

This part deals with the theoretical part of classification of phraseological units as seen by Sabine Fiedler in her work *English phraseology, a coursebook* (Fiedler 2007). Some of these types can be found as the phrases below and for this reason they are explained and exemplified under this heading.

### 2.1 Phraseological nomination

This type of classifications is rather simple because it relies on the fact that phraseological nominations denote objects, processes, people and so on. They can be nouns (e. g. a done deal, a curtain lecture), adjectives (e. g. bored to death, mad as a hatter), verbs (e. g. to spill the beans, to keep the lid on something) or adverbs (e. g. before you can say Jack Robinson, once in a blue moon).

### 2.2 Stereotyped comparisons

These types of comparisons are structurally fixed and conditioned, therefore also called “frozen similes”. There are two types of frozen similes. The first type goes by the structure of (as) + adjective + as + noun phrase (e. g. (as) strong as a horse, as old as the hills), but the second type is based on (verb) + like + noun phrase structure (e. g. (behave) like a bull in a china shop, breed like rabbits).

### 2.3 (Irreversible) binomials

Basically, irreversible binomials are conjoined pairs of words and usually have a fixed order because if the order is changed, the phraseological unit loses its unique meaning. Some of them

are *now and then*, *cat and kitten*, *come and go* and *friend or foe*, but its constituents can also be identical words (e. g. *by and by*, *side by side*).

## 2.4 Routine formulae

Routine formulae are ready-made expressions used for specific situations. To exemplify, to greet somebody on their birthday, we would use *many happy returns (of the day)* or *What do you know!* when expressing surprise.

## 2.5 Winged words

Various expressions such as quotations, catchphrases, slogans and so on are considered to be winged words. What is interesting about them is that its origin can be traced back to a historical source or to an author (e. g. *feet of clay* - the Book of Daniel, *a fly in the ointment* - the King James Bible).

## 2.6 Proverbs

Proverbs are well-known sentences which express general truth, a moral principle or a piece of advice. Some of the most famous ones are *let sleeping dogs lie*, *birds of a feather flock together*, *strike while the iron is hot* and *all roads lead to Rome*. The following chapter analyzes in detail the fifty selected phrases from the TV series *The Office*.

# 3. Analysis

## (1) done deal

“Alright! Done deal. Thank you very much, sir.”

(season 1, episode 1, 1:05)

This phrase is used when two sides reach an agreement and it is finalized (e.g. There is no need for further negotiations because it is a done deal.). The etymology of this phrase “is based on the literal meaning of the word *done*” (FD). The Croatian equivalent is “gotova stvar” (e. g. Uskoro možemo očekivati neke promjene budući da je sporazum gotova stvar.). The Croatian expression

has the same meaning as the English one, although this does not have to be the case when it comes to translating and trying to find equivalents of phraseological units of one language in other languages.

(2) as far as the eye can see

“So, this is my kingdom. As far as the eye can see.”

(season 1, episode 1, 1:40)

This phrase is quite interesting because we instantly get what the meaning of the phrase is since it depicts the meaning it represents really well. The meaning is based on sense of sight. If something is as far as the eye can see, it means that it takes up the whole area that the eye can see (e. g. If you go to the top of the hill, you will see rivers and mountains as far as the eye can see.). In Croatian, there is a phrase with almost the same concept that includes some kind of a view and the fact that something takes up a certain part of some area; “dokle ti pogled seže”. This one also relies on the sense of sight (e. g. Jučer je na autocesti bilo ljudi dokle ti pogled seže.).

(3) wassup (What is up?)

“ - Wassup? - Wassup? I still love it after seven years.”

(season 1, episode 1. 3:30)

The phrase “What is up?” is a type of an informal greeting. To define it more precisely, the more formal equivalent would be “How do you do?”. *Wassup* or *wazzup* is just an even more informal way of saying *what is up* (e. g. Hey, man, I haven’t seen you in a long time. Wassup?). In Croatian, the informal phrase used when greeting someone is “Šta ima?” or even similar to shortened English version, “Š’a ima?” (e. g. Pa gdje si, čovječe, šta ima kod tebe?)

(4) present company excluded

“ Me no wanna hear that, Jan, because downsizing is a bitch. It is a real bitch and I wouldn’t wish it on Josh’s men. I certainly wouldn’t wish it on my men. Or women. Present company excluded.

(season 1, episode 1, 6:00)

This phrase can be used both formally and informally, but is most known for its humorous use (e. g. I think that drummers are not that smart. Present company excluded, of course.).

Considering the context given above, it is used in a workspace and in a formal situation, but with

an informal language. According to English phraseological dictionary by Sonja Berce, the Croatian translation would be *nazočni se izuzimaju* or *ne odnosi se na nazočne* (e. g. *carpeŽene ovdje nisu dobrodošle! Naravno, ne odnosi se na nazočne.*).

(5) Does the carpet match the drapes?

“ - Look, I’ve been needing to ask you one question. Does the carpet match the drapes? - Oh, my God...”

(season 1, episode 1, 6:30)

Except that this phrase relies on the fact that some people try to match carpets and drapes in their houses in a way that they look similar either in patterns or colors, it is also very interesting because it is extremely informal, graphic, but can also be considered humorous. It is a way of asking if someone’s pubic hair color is the same as the color of the hair on their head (e. g. *Yeah, I saw with whom you went home last night. Come on, tell me, does the carpet match the drapes?*). The Croatian paraphrase would simply be asking someone directly if their pubic hair color is the same as the color of the hair on their head.

(6) to keep a lid on something

“So, do you think we can keep a lid on this for now? I don’t wanna worry people unnecessarily.”

(season 1, episode 1, 6:50)

If you do not want, for example, some food to get exposed to air, you keep a lid on it. This exact same idea is used in this phrase, except that it is obviously used figuratively. If we keep a lid on something, we do not share it with others and we keep it a secret (e .g. *Try to keep a lid on it and act as if you do not know anything, okay?*). Although it is not the best example, there is one in Croatian too, *čuvati tajnu* (e. g. *Nadam se da možeš čuvati tajnu jer ovo nitko ne smije saznati.*).

(7) to let someone go

“I don’t think it would be the worst thing if they let me go, because then I might... I just... I don’t think it’s many a girl’s dream to be a receptionist. I like to do illustrations.”

(season 1, episode 1, 8:00)

This phrase has its place, for example, in a workspace. The reason why it is convenient is because it is a euphemism. It basically means to fire someone, but it does not have such harsh connotations (e. g. “ - It’s half past eight, you’re late! - Oh, I haven’t told you? They let me go

last week.”). Croatian does not have a euphemistic expression, but it does have a really nice figurative one, *dobiti nogu* (e. g. Neću onamo više kročiti nogom nakon što sam dobio nogu na onakav način!).

(8) to bring something up

“Downsizing? I have no problem with that. I’ve been recommending downsizing since I first got here. I even brought it up in my interview.”

(season 1, episode 1, 9:20)

Phrasal verbs make up a great part of English grammar. The expression mentioned above is an example of a phrasal verb. It is a phrase with an idiomatic function that consists of two parts; a verb and an adverb or a preposition. It basically means to mention something (e. g. We have to talk about your behavior, even though I hate to bring this topic up.). Its idiomatic structure is the exact reason why an equivalent of similar structure cannot be found in other languages, so the Croatian translation would simply be *spomenuti nešto* (e. g. Budući da si spomenuo što se dogodilo jučer, sad možemo pričati o tome.).

(9) ASAP

“Attention, all Dunder-Mifflin employees, please, we have a meeting in the conference room ASAP.”

(season 1, episode 1, 10:35)

*ASAP* is an interesting term because it functions as an abbreviation. According to OD, an abbreviation is “a shortened form of a verb or a phrase”. What makes it even more interesting is its pronunciation. There are two ways of pronouncing it. The first is to pronounce each letter individually (e. g. /eɪsɛɪ'pi:/) and the other is to pronounce it as a single word (e. g. /'eɪsɛp/) and it means immediately (e. g. My dad phoned me and told me that I have to be there ASAP!). The equivalent that Berce offers in her dictionary is *što prije* (e. g. Ove dokumente treba dostaviti onamo što je prije moguće!).

(10) beyond words.

“People I respect, heroes of mine, would be Bob hope, um... Abraham Lincoln... definitely... Bono... um, and probably God would be the fourth one. And I just think all those people really helped the world in so many ways that it’s, um... it’s really beyond words.”

(season 1. episode 1, 11:05)

If something is beyond words, it means that there are no words to describe it or that you are speechless. It is a nice expression because it wittily describes something as hierarchically beyond words, so words do not suffice when it comes to describing something (e. g. When it comes to describing music, we see that it is not that easy because music really is beyond words.). In Croatian, there is a somewhat simpler expression, *nemati riječi za opisati nešto* (e. g. Toliko mi značiš da nemam riječi za opisati ti koliko.).

(11) out of someone's hands

“ - Yeah, but, Michael, what if they downsize here? - Not gonna happen. - It could be out of your hands, Michael. It won't be out of my hands, Stanley, okay? I promise you that.”

(season 1, episode 1, 12:05)

If something is out of someone's hands, one cannot control it (e. g. I am sorry, I cannot do anything about it since it is out of my hands.). The Croatian expression would be the literal translation of English expression *not to be under control*; *ne biti pod kontrolom* (e. g. Nažalost, požar još uvijek nije pod kontrolom, te se vatrogasci i dalje bore s vatrenom stihijom.).

(12) to get the axe

“I was in the meeting with Jan and she did say that it could be this branch that gets the axe.”

(season 1, episode 1, 12:35)

English is somehow rich with the phrases that express the action of firing someone. This phrase is just one example. As seen above in example (7), the translation would be *dobiti nogu* (e. g. Neću onamo više kročiti nogom nakon što sam dobio nogu na onakav način!).

(13) to beat someone to the punch

“I never actually talked to corporate about it. They kind of beat me to the punch. Little bastards.”

(season 1, episode 2, 0:50)

This is an informal way of saying that someone did something before someone else (e. g. I really wanted to buy that shirt, but Alice beat me to the punch by buying it and I do not like wearing the same clothes as she does.). According to FD, it originates from boxing: “good fighters are quick to react by *punching (hitting)* the other fighter before they are hit. A Croatian expression does not have to do anything with fighting or sports in general, but is rather similar to the

English one: *tko prvi djevojci, njegova djevojka* (e. g. Htio sam biti prvi u gradu koji će imati takav auto, ali tko prvi djevojci, njegova djevojka.).

(14) tit for tat

“ - Thanks, Dwight. - Retaliation. Tit for tit. - That is not the expression. - Well, it should be.”  
(season 1, episode 2, 1:55)

This expression is allegedly a variation of an obsolete expression from the sixteenth century, *tip for tap*. Simply said, is used, as Dwight said in the quote above, when someone retaliates (e.g. Yesterday I asked you for a glass of milk and you didn't bring it and now you ask me to get you a sandwich and I won't, tit for tat.). (*Vratiti milo za drago* is a Croatian idiom used in the exact same context as its English counterpart (e. g. Vratio sam mu milo za drago nakon što mi je smjestio da završim u zatvoru tako što sam ga cinkao.).

(15) ok

“ - Michael, I would love to have your permission to run this session. Can I have your permission? - Yes. - Thank you very much. And it would also help me if you were seated. - Okay.”  
(season 1, episode 2, 5:05)

According to OD, it is an informal expression used to express agreement or acceptance (e. g. Okay, okay, I'll do it after all.). Regarding its etymology, there are numerous theories and it would be too broad of a topic to talk about in such a small section of this work. When it comes to Croatian, or virtually any language for that matter, *okay* is also used and in the same way, but with slight changes due to differences in pronunciations in various languages (e. g. Oke, obavit ću to sutra i smatraj to rješenim.).

(16) the ball is in your court

“You'll notice I didn't have anyone be an Arab. I thought that would be too explosive. No pun intended. But I just thought: too soon for Arabs. Maybe next year, um... You know, the ball is in their court.”  
(season 1, episode 2, 17:30)

If you are on the move to do something next, if it is your turn, it means that the ball is in your court (e. g. I presented them with all my expectations and now the ball is in their court.). It



obviously has some origins in sport, similar to Croatian expression. Croatians would use *ti si na potezu* expression (e. g. Oni su svoje napravili, sad smo mi na potezu.), which literally translates as *it is your turn*.

(17) suicide mission

“ - So, you just need to pick a provider and then choose the cheapest plan. - Well, that is a kind of a tough assignment, um... It's not gonna be a popular decision around the old office. I... Well, it's a suicide mission, you know?”

(season 1, episode 3, 2:25)

If some kind of a feat is said to be a suicide mission, the person doing the feat is bound to get killed doing it. In other words, it is used for unpleasant actions in which the person doing that can get hurt (e. g. It certainly won't be me who is going to tell him that his car got scratched; it's a suicide mission!). The Croatian paraphrase would simply be *učiniti nešto zbog čega možeš stradati* (e. g. Nemoj ići među njih, tako možeš samo stradati!).

(18) strike two

“If Dwight fails, then that is strike two and good for me for giving him a second chance. And if he succeeds, no one will be prouder than I am. I've groomed him, I made him what he is today.”

(season 1, episode 3, 4:30)

The mistake after which no other mistakes will be tolerated is called *strike two* (e. g. Remember, this is your strike two because you simply can't be late for work so many times!). This expression also has sports origin because it comes from baseball where there are three strikes for the batter to get. The Croatian version also comes from sports, but from football (e. g. Budući da si me prije već prevario, kod mene imaš *žuti karton* pa pazi što radiš ubuduće.).

(19) How's tricks?

” - Dunfer-Mifflin. This is Pam. - Pam, Michael Scott, how's tricks? - Where are you? - Oh, I am in my office, I am swamped.”

(season 1, episode 3, 5:35)

As with the expression *what's up*, the expression *how's tricks* is also used informally to ask about someone's affairs (e. g. Hey, I haven't seen you in a long time. How's tricks?). The Croatian equivalent would again obviously be *šta ima*.

(20) rain check

“ - Michael, can I talk to you? - I would love to, but I am really busy. Rain check?”

(season 1, episode 3, 7:50)

A rain check is a type of a ticket given for later use in case some kind of an event is postponed due to the rain. However, when used figuratively, according to OD, it is an expression used to refuse an offer politely, with the implication that one may take it up at a later date (e. g. I'm sorry, I can't meet up for the drink after all. How about we take a rain check?). Berce offers a paraphrase, *odgoditi što za drugi put* (e. g. Možda da odgodimo sastanak za drugi put?).

(21) drum roll

“Alright. I have some news for you. There is a big surprise. And here it is, here we go. And the big surprise is... Drum roll!”

(season 1, episode 3, 20:05)

This expression is used when someone is about to say something important, just before saying it. It actually replaces an actual drum roll, which is used to build anticipation before the big news (e. g. ...and the winner is... Drum roll, please!). A Croatian paraphrase for this expression would be “*A sad...*” (e. g. A sad... Samo za vas, Eric Clapton i njegov bend!).

(22) backed into a corner

“When I am backed into a corner, that is when I come alive.”

(season 1, episode 3, 20:25)

This is one more idiom that comes from boxing. When a boxer is backed into a corner, it means that he has less space, his maneuvers are restricted and he is basically more vulnerable. This exact vulnerability is what this idiom is based on e. g. (Yesterday at work three of my colleagues backed me into a corner by accusing me of stealing the money that is missing.). Croatian offers an idiom that is the literal translation of its English counterpart (e. g. Mrzim kad me uspiju *stjerati u kut* samo zato što su brojčano nadmoćniji.).

(23) to go head to head with someone

“Robin Williams. Oh, man, would I love to go head to head with him. That would be exciting.”

(season 1, episode 3, 20:50)

As the previous phrase, this one also finds its roots in fighting. It relies on the fact that fighter just before the fight or even during the fight go head to head with each other. It basically means compete with someone (e. g. If he really thinks he is better than me, tell him to go head to head with me and then we'll see about that!). The translation would be *ići na megdan*. Megdan is a word for a battlefield (e. g. *Idemo na megdan pa ćemo vidjeti tko je jači!*).

(24) wet blanket

“No, captain, no signs of life down here, just a wet blanket named Pam.”

(season 1, episode 4, 3:20)

Sometimes, wet blankets can be used for extinguishing fire. It is this idea that people had in mind when they first started using this expression figuratively. Since fun is seen as something vivacious, like a fire, so is a person who spoils the fun seen as a wet blanket which extinguishes fire (e. g. Please, don't invite Alice because she is such a wet blanket and spoils our fun every time she goes out with us.). For someone who is a wet blanket, Croatians would say that she or he is *osoba koja kvari zabavu* (e. g. *Svi su za, nemoj biti taj koji će kvariti zabavu, idemo van!*).

(25) wipe something away

“Well, listen, I'm going to have to talk to her a lot, alright? And there might be chatting and giggling and you gotta just pretend to ignore it, wipe it away.”

(season 1, episode 4, 6:30)

Even though its construction is very figurative, the phrase *to wipe something away* has a simple meaning - to ignore something (e. g. No matter what Alice does, do not get tricked again, just wipe it away and everything will be fine.). Its figurative aspect is achieved by seeing what is ignored as something that can simply be wiped away as if it is dust. The Croatian equivalent would be the translation of *forget about it - zaboravi to* (e. g. *Nemoj se živcirati, samo zaboravi to.*).

(26) to work one's magic

“He's in a box. He's downstairs. In a box. On the floor near the shell. I'm serious. Go down there and work your magic.”

(season 1, episode 4, 14:20)

To work your magic means the same as to do your thing. To be more precise, it means to do what you know the best. It can be used in virtually any context where a feat of excellence is required (e. g. I know that I put you on the bench, but now I need you to get out there, work your magic and get us that trophy!). There is a similar expression in Croatian - *učini ono što najbolje znaš* (e. g. Unatoč svemu, sad te trebamo pa učini ono što najbolje znaš!).

(27) You can dish it out, but you can't take it.

“Oh, well, I'm glad that some time is a busy time because whenever I'm down here, it doesn't seem too busy to me. Oh, oh, you can dish it out, but you can't take it.”

(season 1, episode 5, 5:00)

If an insulted person insults someone back and that person easily gets offended, then this phrase is true for that person (e. g. I don't like joking with him because he can dish it out, but he can't take it). There is a phrase in Croatian which means roughly the same (e. g. *Ako ne znaš primiti šalu na svoj račun, nemoj se ni šaliti.*).

(28) to be in one's face

“He's runnin'. He's runnin' but he can't hide because you know what? One o'clock you better bring your A-game because me and my posse-guys are gonna be in your face. Right in your face!”

(season 1, episode 5, 9:05)

According FD, the phrase *to be in your face* means to be aggressively unavoidable or to aggressively interact with someone (e. g. Yesterday Jim got so angry that he was in my face threatening to beat me if he saw me with his girlfriend ever again.). It relies on some kind of argument in which the two sides are in a close physical proximity. The Croatian equivalent is *unositi se u facu* (e. g. Zamisli, jučer sam šetao gradom i neki lik mi se bez razloga unio u facu i prijetio.).

(29) That won't fly!

“I hate to do it this way, but, you know, that's just... We're having a friendly game. It's a shame! This is a damn shame! We're like a family here and that won't fly.”

(season 1, episode 5, 18:35)

If someone does something that *won't fly*, it means that the done action will not be tolerated (e. g. If you take some of my money without me knowing about it ever again, that won't fly with me!). The nature of this phrase is informal and can be used in a variety of contexts such as sports or when someone does something morally wrong and it will not be tolerated. Croatian has an expression *to neće ići kod mene* (e. g. Prekini se tako ponašati jer to neće ići kod mene!).

(30) cock in the henhouse

“ - Alright, girls, break it up. You're being infiltrated. Cock in the henhouse! - Cocks in the henhouse! - Don't say cocks.”

(season 1, episode 6, 1:50)

The context in which this expression is used here is very good because of two reasons. The first one is that we get the meaning of it clearly: Michael comes in a female company saying this phrase to indicate that he does not belong here, so the meaning of the phrase would simply be intruder (e. g. Girls, beware because there is a cock in the henhouse, Michael came in.). The other reason why this context is really good is because Dwight uses the noun in the phrase in plural and it shows how parts of this phrase cannot and should not change their form because the phrase loses its idiomatic meaning, as is the case with a large number of phraseological units. The Croatian version would simply be *uljez* (e. g. Budite na oprezu, imamo uljeza!).

(31) catfight

“ - What is your name, my fair lass? - Katy. - Oh, Katy. Look at you! You're like the new and improved Pam. Pam 6.0. Look, oh, hey, no catfights, you two. I'm against violence in the workplace.”

(season 1, episode 6, 2:10)

This phrase is pretty straightforward because here women are seen as cats, and therefore when women fight, it is said to be a catfight (e. g. Look out, there might be a catfight tomorrow evening because Jim asked his new secretary to come with him and his wife for a dinner.). The Croatian language does not have phrase that means a fight between women.

(32) to make oneself at home

“This is my conference room, so, please, make yourself at home. Whatever you need, I'm right on the other side of this wall.”

(season one, episode 6, 3:05)

When we want someone to feel comfortable while they are staying someplace that is not their own home, we can use this phrase. It basically means that we want someone to feel like they are at their own home (e. g. Please, do not hesitate to ask if you need anything and make yourself at home.). Croatian has an expression with very similar meaning, *osjećati se kao kod kuće* (e. g. Ovo je tvoja soba, radi što hoćeš i osjećaj se kao kod kuće.).

(33) to be your own man

“No, here’s the thing, you know, I do my best to be my own man and go by the beat of a different drummer and nobody gets me.”

(season 1, episode 6, 3:55)

To be your own man means to be an independent individual and not to be under someone else’s influence and control (e. g. I will get a job and from then on I will be my own man because I will not my parents to support me financially.). *Biti svoj čovjek* is a Croatian phrase with the same exact meaning (e. g. Čim otplatim kredit, bit ću svoj čovjek i živjet ću mirno.).

(34) to go by the beat of a different drummer

(season 1, episode 6, 4:00)

This phrase is found just above in the excerpt of the TV series. FD states that it means to behave in a different way or to believe in different things from the people around you (e. g. You can see that he goes by the beat of a different drummer because he clearly does not dress as other people dress.).

(35) to put up a wall

“And nobody gets me. And they’re always putting up walls and I’m always tearing them down, just breaking down barriers, that’s what I do all day.”

(season 1, episode 6, 4:05)

*Putting up a wall* phrase that nicely depicts its meaning, The meaning is that if someone puts up a wall, it means that that person does not want anyone else to get close to them (e. g. I hate that he is constantly putting walls up, I just want to help him.). In Croatian, the equivalent also has to do something with having some kind of barrier between you and other people (e. g. Stalno se ograđuje od drugih i ne druži se ni sa kime, a to nije dobro za nju.).

(36) cup of Joe

“There you go, nice steaming hot cup of Joe.”

(season 1, episode 6, 5:10)

This just an expression for a cup of coffee (e. g. - What do you want to drink? - I will have a cup of Joe, thank you.). What is really interesting about this phrase is that, according to FD, its true origin is unknown. There are two theories. The first one is that “Joe” as a synonym for coffee is theorized to be a shortening of “jamoke”, a combination of Java and Mocha, two major suppliers of coffee beans. The second one is that coffee is the drink of the ordinary man, i. e. the “average Joe”.

(37) to get one’s foot in the door

“Why don’t I introduce you around? You know, you can get your foot in the door, meet potential clientele.”

(season 1, episode 6, 5:15)

According to OD, it means to have or gain a first introduction to a profession or organization (e. g. This is Jim and he will help you get your foot in the door and you will know what to do in no time.). By using our imagination, we can easily see a new worker coming to a new workplace and getting his or hers foot in the door.

(38) to be all over someone

“ - Man, I would be all over that if I wasn’t dating Pam. - We’re not dating, we’re engaged.”

(season 1, episode 6, 7:35)

CD for this phrase offers this definition: to be touching someone in a sexual way everywhere on their body (e. g. It may sound wrong, but even though she has a boyfriend, I’ll try to be all over here on that party tomorrow night.).

(39) go-to guy

“Pam and I are good buddies. I’m sort of Pam’s go-to guy for her problems.”

(season 1, episode 2, 8:05)

A go-to guy is an expression for a person whom you can consult and he offers to you solutions for your problems (e. g. With as many problems as you have, I don’t know who would be your go-to guy.). The Croatian equivalent would be *čovjek s rješenjem* (e. g. Obrati se njemu, za tebe je on čovjek s rješenjem.).

(40) It's all gold.

“ - Plus you have so much more to talk to this girl about. You're both salesmen, I mean, that's something right there. - True. Plus I can talk to her about the origins of my last name. It's all gold.”

(season 1, episode 6, 8:45)

This expression is used to express that you think that everything your interlocutor said is good and true (e. g. - We both had a long day of hard work so I think we should grab a beer and watch that game. - It's all gold.). Its meaning relies on the fact that gold is seen as valuable and good. The Croatian equivalent would be *slagati se u potpunosti* (e. g. - Mislim da bismo na kraju ipak trebali otići na njihovu zabavu. - Slažem se u potpunosti.).

(41) fallback

“ - Alright, here's the thing, okay? Just keep talking to her. If you hit a stall, you have a perfect fallback. - What's that? - You buy a purse.”

(season 1, episode 6, 9:00)

According to CD, a fallback is a plan or a position that can be used if other plans do not succeed or other things are not available (e. g. What is your fallback in case you miss the bus?). More simply put, fallback means plan B. Plan B would also be the Croatian equivalent (e. g. Uvijek moraš imati plan B za slučaj da nešto pođe po zlu.).

(42) big one

“ - I know you are going to love this. I picked it up today, a thousand big ones. - Is that from Starbucks? - Yes, this is a Starbucks digital barista.”

(season 1, episode 6, 11:10)

This expression is actually used in a wrong way here. *Big one* equals a thousand dollars. A correct use would be: My new car cost me seven big ones. In Croatian, there is also a phrase used for the sum of thousand kunas (e. g. Sinoć smo svaki od nas zaradili po čak soma kuna.).

(43) to give a ride to someone

“Sounds good. Five o'clock sharp I will give you and your purses a ride home.”

(season 1, episode 6, 12:30)



To give a ride to someone means to transfer someone by a vehicle (e. g. Are you sure you don't want me to give you a ride?). Croatian also has an idiomatic expression for transferring someone by a vehicle (e. g. Ti mi javi kad da *te pokupim* i bit ću ondje.).

(44) cut it out

“ - Are you still mad at me? - Roy. - Come on... - Cut it out.”

(season 1, episode 6, 15:20)

In order to express wish for someone to stop doing something, the phrase *cut it out* is used (e. g. I hate that you come drunk every night and you need to cut it out, otherwise you will be all on your own.). The Croatian equivalent is offered by Sonja Berce; *prestani* (e. g. Mrzim kad mljackaš, prestani!).

(45) cool

“ - What are you guys going to do? - Oh, man, I don't know. Dinner, drinks, movie, matching tattoos... - That's great. That's cool.”

(season 1, episode 6, 19:00)

According to OD, *cool* is a phrase used as an exclamation in order to express that you think that something is excellent (e. g. - We're going to Fiji next week for a vacation. - Oh, cool!). Croatian also uses the expression *cool*, but in a way that it is written more or less to rules of the Croatian grammar and it is considered to be very informal (e. g. - Sutra idem kući. - Kul, i ja. Onda ćemo zajedno.).

(46) to play it close to one's chest

“I think in order to be a ladies' man, it's imperative that people don't know you're a ladies' man, so I kind of play that close to the chest.”

(season 1, episode 6, 19:15)

The world of playing cards also gives some idiomatic expression and this is one of them. It means that one does not allow others to know something (e. g. Alice is a very mysterious person because she plays everything close to her chest.). The original expression is *to play cards close to one's chest*. The Croatian expression would be *držati nešto za sebe* (e. g. Ne treba sve što znaš govoriti svima, drži nešto za sebe.).

(47) off the hook

“I probably should have told you. I don’t need a ride now ‘cause Jim can take me home after. So, you’re off the hook.”

(season 1, episode 6, 20:10)

If someone is no longer responsible for something, that means that they are off the hook (e. g. You gave back all the money you owed me and now you’re off the hook). Somewhat similar Croatian expression would be *biti Slobodan* (e. g. *Budući da si obavio sve što sam te tražio za danas, sad si slobodan.*).

(48) drink and drive

“Alright, have fun. Don’t drink and drive!”

(season 1, episode 6, 20:15)

*Drink and drive* has a quite literal meaning because it stands for the action of drinking and driving, but it is its structure that makes it an idiomatic expression (e. g. God forbid that you at some point in your life drink and drive.). Its structure makes it an irreversible binomial. This, according to OD means that it is a noun phrase consisting of two nouns joined by a conjunction in which the conventional order is fixed. The expression used in Croatian is *piti dok voziš* (e. g. *Nemoj da ti ikad padne na pamet piti dok voziš!*).

(49) to freak out

“Alright, now, I’m gonna warn you: don’t freak out.”

(season 1, episode 6, 20:35)

FD says that to freak out means to be or to cause to be in a heightened emotional state, such as that of fear, anger or excitement (e. g. I have some big news for you and you are going to freak out when you hear it.). Croatian language offers the term *poluditi* (e. g. *Molim te, nemoj poluditi, ali ogrebala sam ti auto.*).

(50) one night stand

“Do I have a special someone? Uh, well, yeah, of course. A bunch of them. My employees. If I had to choose between a one-night stand with some stupid cow I’d pick up at a bar and these people, I’d pick them every time. Because with them, it is an every-day stand. And I still know their names in the morning.”

(season 1, episode 6, 20:55)

The definition for one-night stand that can be found in FD says that it is a sexual encounter that is limited to only one occasion (e. g. I simply do not understand why would anyone like to do a thing such as a one-night stand because most of the time you do not even get to know the person.). Similar phrase can be found in Croatian, *avantura za jednu noć* (e. g. Ne želim ni pomisliti na biti s njim jer njega zanima samo avantura za jednu noć.).

#### 4. Conclusion

The goal of the analysis was not only to define and exemplify the phrases only regarding the English language, but also to, if possible, define and exemplify their equivalents in the Croatian language. Taking everything into account, we can see that a large deal of English phrases in this paper can find its equivalent or paraphrase in the Croatian language. The reason why some phraseological units do not have a paraphrase is because it would sound rather clumsy and would not have much use. Both English and Croatian have some idiomatic expressions that are so unique in their meanings and uses that the equivalents can be found only by paraphrasing, not by providing more or less idiomatic expressions and this fact only proves that both English and Croatian are so rich in phraseological units that this paper simply does not do them justice.

## References

Berce, Sonja (2008). *Angleški Frazološki Slovar*, Zagreb: Mozaik knjiga.

Cambridge University Press. (2017). *Cambridge Dictionary*. Available at:

<<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>> (visited on 25 Aug 2017)

Farlex, Inc. (2003-2017). *The Free English Dictionary by Farlex*. Available at:

<<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/>> (visited on 25 Aug 2017)

Fiedler, Sabine (2007). *English Phraseology, A Coursebook*. Tübingen: Gunter Narr Verlag  
Tübingen.

Oxford University Press. (2017). *Oxford Dictionaries*. Available at:

<<https://www.oxforddictionaries.com/>> (visited on 25 Aug 2017)

The Office, TV series