English idioms from American television series Gotham and their equivalents in German and Croatian

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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:142:982435

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Download date / Datum preuzimanja: **2024-03-28**

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Znanstveno područje: humanističke znanosti

Znanstveno polje: filologija

Znanstvena grana: anglistika

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Osijek, 2017.

Abstract

This research is based on the analysis of idioms from American television series Gotham in three languages: English as the source language and German and Croatian as two target languages. The corpus of this research consists of 15 randomly extracted idioms from the series.

The research is divided in three major parts. The first part contains a theoretical background on what is phraseology and phraseological units, as idiom is one of the types of phraseological units, and how are they defined. There is also a small section on translating phraseological units. The second part of the research presents the corpus of the research and the pattern in which the analysis of the idioms is presented. The third part is the in-depth analysis of the idioms in three languages. To each analyzed idiom there is also a part with some additional information on the discussed idiom.

This research also contains four appendices that are found at the end of the research. The first appendix contains the alphabetical list of the dictionaries and expressions used in this research and their abbreviations. In the second appendix is the complete list of the analyzed idioms to find in their source language – English along with their dictionary translation in the two target languages – Croatian and German. The third appendix contains the analyzed idioms with their subtitle translation in the two target languages – Croatian and German. The last appendix has a common subject which is the diagram of the frequency of equivalence in three languages. Since the research is comparing two target languages to one source language there are two diagrams presented. In the first diagram is the equivalence of Croatian idioms in comparison to the English ones while in the second the German to English equivalence.

Keywords: phraseology, phraseological unit, idiom, TV series Gotham, English, German, Croatian

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1 Introduction

This research includes the analysis of idioms from the American television series Gotham in the source language – English and their translation in the target languages – Croatian and German. It includes a collection of 15 randomly selected idioms from the first two seasons of the series.

Considering the fact that this research deals with idioms that are one of the types of phraseological unit, the first part will cover the basic information vital for the understanding of what phraseology and phraseological units are. It will also provide information on what makes a unit a phraseological unit and a part that deals with the problem of translating phraseological units.

In the second part the corpus is described. The corpus consists of 15 selected idioms from the TV series Gotham and their dictionary and subtitle equivalents in the two target languages. Pattern of translation is also found in this section.

What follows is the third, central part of the research, and that is the in-depth analysis of the 15 selected idioms. Through this analysis, we will be able to see how the English idioms are "transferred" in the two target languages and where the differences and similarities lie.

2 Theoretical background

2.1 Phraseology and phraseological units

There are two different views on the term of phraseology, according to Sabine Fiedler (2007: 15); the first is the field of study (phraseology research) and the second is the set of linguistic units - phraseological units, that are investigated in that field. The phraseological unit (PU) is the subject of phraseology and this research as well. Phraseological units form "the phrasicon, i.e. the block of inventory of idioms and phrases" (Fiedler 2007: 15). The term phraseological unit has been widely used and is of such significance to a language that it has equivalents in many languages like unite phraséologique in French, phraseologische Einheit in German, frazeološka jedinica in Croatian. Idiom was the term used in this sense but the problem lies in its wide usage as "this term has rarely been applied to idiomatic units only, but also serves as a hyperonym to cover many kinds of conventional multi-word units" (Fiedler 2007: 15). Even Gläser differentiates between the phraseological unit as "a lexicalized word-group which has syntactic

and semantic stability and optionally an intensifying function in the text" (1984: 124) and the idiom as "the prototype of the phraseological unit" (1984: 124). What is important is this strict distinction of the two expressions as one is only a type of the other, and the distinction in the derivation of meaning between those two as seen from the definition "a lexicalized, reproducible word group in common use, which has syntactic and semantic stability, and may carry connotations, but whose meaning cannot be derived from the meanings of its constituents" (Gläser 1998: 125). Sabine Fiedler also distincts the two expressions where phraseological unit is defined as "a lexicalized polylexemic linguistic unit which is characterized, in principle, by semantic and syntactic stability, and to a great extent by idiomaticity" (2007: 28) and the idiom as "a peculiarity of phraseology approved by the usage of a language, and often having a significance other than its grammatical or logical one" (2007: 16).

2.2 Defining a phraseological unit

What characteristic does a unit have to possess to be called a phraseological unit will be further described in short sections divided according to the main characteristics of a phraseological unit. Those are polylexemic structure, stability, lexicalization and idiomaticity.

2.2.1 Polylexemic structure

Having a polylexemic structure means to consist of at least two independent words, which is one of the main characteristics of a phraseological unit (PU). The problem with this characteristic is that it is arguable as Sabine Fiedler points out "it seems to be questionable whether it is correct to choose size, i.e. the orthographic structure, as a basis for separating PUs from non-phraseological items" (2007: 18). Language itself is the problem in this case as the following examples from Sabine Fiedler's coursebook English Phraseology will show. The first example shows that "a phraseological word group can be transformed into a compound – e.g. to catch sb.'s eye-> eye-catcher" (Fiedler 2007: 18). The second provides contradiction on the polylexemic structure on the example of crocodile tears which "is a PU in English, but Krokodilstränen in German is a compound and, therefore, not part of the phrasicon" (Fiedler 2007: 18). This is the second important difference on which to pay attention when dealing with PUs.

2.2.2 Stability

The main characteristic of a PU is the stability of its semantic and syntactic structure. Us are very stable units that almost never change their meanings. Their stability can be proved by applying substitution tests. Different parts of the PU cannot be substituted easily by any other although there are some exceptions and that is why we are talking about relative stability of the PUs. The variations are, as Sabine Fiedler (2007: 20):

1) structural variants

   a) variation of the function words (prepositions, determiners, etc.) or the variation in spelling:

   e.g. *by/in* leaps and bounds, *(as)* dry as a bone

   b) the usage of constituents inside the phrase in singular or plural:

   e.g. sow the *dragon's/dragons'* teeth

2) the variation of lexical constituents (autosemantic elements such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.):

e.g. to sweep something under the *rug/carpet*, to *throw/cast* pearls before swine

-variation of both grammatical and lexical elements:

e.g. to *put/have/lay a/one's* finger *to/on* one's lips

3) phraseological synonyms – different PUS with an identical (or at least a similar) meaning:

e.g. verb *to die* from the passage in Monthy Python's sketch *The dead parrot*:

> "This parrot is no more. It has ceased to be. It's expired and gone to meet its maker. This is a late parrot. It's a stiff. Bereft of life, it rests in peace. If you hadn't nailed it to the perch, it would be pushing up the daisies. It's rung down the curtain and joined the choir invisible. This is an ex-parrot."

Phraseological synonyms are based on different metaphorical images and are regarded as *near* or *quasi* synonyms.

2.2.3 Lexicalization

Lexicalization as a PU characteristic is closely linked to the stability of the PU. It is a term that is "used to describe the fact that a PU is retained in the collective memory of a language

community" (Fiedler 2007: 21). PUs have as a fixed units established themselves as a part of the language. They represent a fixed sequence of words and that is why we need only a part of it as a cue to understand what is meant by it. An example from Fiedler's coursebook *English Phraseology:* e.g. *Grapevine* (*Wetherspoon News* Winter 2004) seems to be an ideal title for the column in a magazine announcing the latest gossip about celebrities – e.g. *to hear sth. on the grapevine.* The process of lexicalization of a PU is similar to that of the simple word lexeme. Same as new word, new PUs are finding their way into the language and can originate in all fields of social life (Fiedler 2007: 21). There is a much larger number that than consisted in the dictionaries of PUs because "on the one hand, there are numerous innovative units that have not yet found their way into a dictionary due to their novelty" (Fiedler 2007: 21).

2.2.4 Idiomaticity

"Idiomaticity is the term used to describe the common phenomenon that the meaning of an expression is difficult or even impossible to derive from the meanings of the constituents it is composed of. This phenomenon causes many problems for language learners, who usually know the meanings of all the words in a phrase (e.g. *pull* and *leg*) but are unable to deduce the meaning "to tease sb." of the expression *to pul sb.'s leg"* (Fiedler 2007 :22). PUs have different degrees of idiomaticity, which means that idiomaticity can be graded. They can vary from fully opaque e.g. *"kick the bucket"* to fully transparent ones e.g. *"to stab someone in the back".*

2.3 Translating phraseological units

Phraseological units are very ungrateful when it comes to their translation and possible equivalents in other languages. They do enrich the language but make it also very difficult to explain to a non-native speaker what a certain phraseological unit means. Translation is, by itself, a difficult process as it is "the cognitive and linguistic process the translator performs in decoding a text which is the result of a communication act in the source language, and in encoding it as a speech product in the target language by preserving the content and achieving the stylistic quality of the source language text" (Gläser 1984: 123). When it comes to a language to language translation that is where the problem arises. In that whole process, according to Gläser, it is important to be aware of the fact that "in the translation process the linguistic unit of the source language does not always coincide with that of the target language" (1984: 123). What makes the translating job less complicated is following a set of categories used for translation theory set up by the Soviet linguist L.Barchudarow (Gläser 1984: 125). Those

categories refer to the equivalence, where he distinguishes between complete, partial and zero equivalence. The equivalence according to Gläser can be:

1) complete equivalence - "a congruence of identity of the denotational (in this case transferred) meaning, and also of the connotational, expressive (or emotive) and stylistic meanings…"

   e.g. apple of discord – Zankapfel -jabuka razdora

2) partial equivalence – "where idioms strikingly differ in their referential base of a metaphor or metonymy, their connotational and stylistic meaning"

   e.g. Jack of all trades – Hans Dampf in allen Gassen – Katica za sve

3) zero equivalence – "comparatively rare, but in no way does it question the translatability of the sentence. Even if there is no approximate expression in the target language, in the last resort a paraphrase of the denotational meaning of the idiom of the source language is possible, although its pragmatic meaning may not be represented adequately in the target language."

   e.g. to be called to the bar – als Barrister oder Advokat plädierender Anwalt zugelassen warden – položiti pravosudni ispit

3 Research design

This research studies 15 selected idioms from the TV series Gotham in their source language English and their dictionary and subtitle equivalents in two target languages – Croatian and German.

3.1 Corpus description

3.1.1 Corpus

The corpus of this research consists of 15 idioms and 12 dictionaries and 30 subtitles used in their analysis. The complete list of dictionaries is found in References and their alphabetical list with abbreviations is provided in the table in Appendix 1. The subtitles have been downloaded from the site www.opensubtitles.org according to the most downloaded ones. The translators are different and unknown. The aim of the research is the analysis of each idiom in its source language and in two target languages.

3.1.2 Translation pattern

The analysis of the idiom is based on the pattern provided by Sabine Fiedler (2007 :120):

1) identification of the PU in the source language

2) analysis of the phraseological meaning (SL paraphrase)

3) translation of the phraseological meaning (TL paraphrase)

4) substitution by a PU in the target language

Since this research is multilingual slight alteration to the pattern has been made in order to be able to include all the aspects that have been analyzed:

1) identification of the idiom in the source language (example from the TV series Gotham)
2) analysis of the phraseological meaning in the source language (dictionary definition)
3) translation of the idiom in target language 1 (dictionary equivalent + type of equivalence)
4) translation of the idiom in target language 2 (dictionary equivalent + type of equivalence)
5) translation of the idiom in target language 1 (subtitle equivalent + type of equivalence)
6) translation of the idiom in target language 2 (subtitle equivalent + type of equivalence)

Some of the idioms contain additional information about similar idioms in the source language or some information on how are the idioms translated in their target languages and their meanings, or if they have synonyms or are similar to some others.

4 Corpus analysis

1 bang your head against a wall/bang your head against a brick wall

1) But they have you directing traffic, Jim. Why keep *beating your head against a wall*? (Gotham S02E01)
2) to waste one's time trying to accomplish something that is completely hopeless (AID 166)
3) *lupati glavom o zid* – complete equivalence (EHFR 99)*; udariti glavom u zid* – complete equivalence (HEFR 69)
4) *mit dem Kopf durch die Wand wollen* – complete equivalence (1000 IRD 106)
5) Ali stavili su te na usmjeravanje prometa, Jim. Zašto *udarati glavom o zid?* – complete equivalence (Gotham S02E01)
6) Aber die haben dich den Verkehr regeln lassen, Jim. Wieso weiterhin *gegen eine Wand rennen?* – complete equivalence (Gotham S02E01)

In the original English idiom the verb used is bang, which can be replaced by other verbs like beat that is the first most used verb in the place of bang. According to the *Collins Cobuild Dictionary of Idioms* "Bang your head against a brick wall" is used mainly in British English. As for the German idiom there are several other options with minor differences like "mit dem Schädel durch die Wand wollen" or "mit dem Kopf gegen die Wand rennen" (1000 IRD 106). There is one other possibility according to *Matešić's Hrvatsko-njemački frazeološki rječnik* which is "sich den Schädel einrennen". What is interesting about the German idiom is that it exists from the 15th century also in French, Italian, Dutch and Spanish language and is represented on the oil-on-oak panel painting by Pieter Bruegel the Elder "Netherlandish Proverbs".

2 rub it in

1) Trust me, I know who's boss now. Lord have mercy. No need to *rub it in*. (Gotham S02E05)
2) to keep reminding one of one's failures (AID 90)
3) *dodavati sol na ranu* – partial equivalence (EHFR 172); *staviti (metnuti) sol na živu ranu* – partial equivalence (FRHSJ 626)

4) *Öl ins Feuer gießen, in der Wunde herumbohren (herumwühlen), alte Wunden (wieder) aufreißen* – partial equivalence (FRHSJ 534)
5) Vjeruj mi, ja znam tko je šef. Gospodine smiluj se. Nema potrebe da ga *utrljate u ranu.* - partial equivalence (Gotham S02E05)
6) Vertrauen Sie mir, ich weiß wer jetzt der Boss ist. Herr, hab Erbarmen. Kein weiteres *Salz in die Wunde streuen.* – partial equivalence (Gotham S02E05)

The German idiom "Öl ins Feuer gießen" is found in an old Latin saying by Horace, a leading Roman lyric poet during the time of Roman's first emperor Augustus. The saying "Oleum addere camino" is found in Horace's work Satires in Book 2, Satira 3, V.321. In Croatian language a possible translation of the German idiom would be "dolijevati ulje na vatru" which appears to not be an option in this case due to different level of understanding according to *Matešić's Hrvatsko-njemački frazeološki rječnik.*

3 look the other way

1) But he was supposed to guard the armoury, and he didn't. And maybe, just maybe, he *looked the other way*. (Gotham S01E10)
2) deliberately ignore something unpleasant, immoral, or illegal that is happening when they should be trying to deal with it or stop it from happening (CCDoI 414)
3) *zatvoriti oči pred čim, praviti se slijep* – partial equivalence (EHFR 219)
4) *die Augen vor etwas verschließen* – partial equivalence (HNJFR 361), *von etwas nichts wissen wollen* – zero equivalence (HNJFR 361)
5) I možda, samo možda, *pogledao je u drugom pravcu.* – partial equivalence (Gotham S01E10)
6) Und vielleicht, aber nur vielleicht, hat er *in die andere Richtung geschaut.* - partial equivalence (Gotham S01E10)

When you are using the idiom *look the other way* you suggest that this is a bad thing to do. These following two idioms are comparable to the idiom *to look the other way*: *bury your head in the sand* and *turn a blind eye to something.*

4 have the goods on someone

1) Half the cops in the GCPD have a Cobblepot, and Loeb *has the goods on all of them.* (Gotham S01E18)
2) *to know things about someone which could harm them if these things were made public* (CCDoI 166)

3) *znati neke stvari o kome* – zero equivalence (EHFR 86)
4) *no corresponding idiom*
5) Pola policije ima *tajnu*, a Loeb *zna koja je.* – zero equivalence (Gotham S01E18)
6) Die Hälfte der Cops des GCPD hat einen Cobblepot, und Loeb *hat die Beweise von ihnen allen.* – zero equivalence (Gotham S01E18)

Have the goods on someone in meaning to know things about someone which could harm that person if those things were made public and *get the goods on someone* in meaning that you obtain information of that kind are used in American English.

5 back to square one

1) She didn't see the killer. Look, this is unfortunate, but it doesn't mean we're *back to square one*. (Gotham S01E14)
2) *to fail completely in what you were trying to do, so that now you have to start again* (CCDoI 365)
3) *biti opet na početku* – partial equivalence (EHFR 189)
4) *noch in den Anfängen stehen, noch in den Kinderschuhen stecken* – zero equivalence (HNjFR 407)
5) Nije vidjela ubojicu. Ovo je malo nesretno, ali ne znači da se *vraćamo na početak.* – partial equivalence (Gotham S01E14)
6) Sieh mal, das kommt unerwartet, aber das bedeutet nicht, dass wir *wieder am Anfang stehen.* – partial equivalence (Gotham S01E14)

In case of this idiom, there are three variations possible: *back to square one, back at square one* and *from square one.* They all carry approximately the same meaning. According to *Bendow's Englesko-hrvatski frazeološki rječnik* there are two similar idioms: *be back at square one* and *go back to square one* which are comparable to the following: *start from scratch* and *go back to the drawing board.*

6 go over someone's head

1) Do something about this or I'm *going over your head.* (Gotham S01E14)
2) *appeal to a higher authority in attempt to get what you want* (CCDoI 194)
3) *ići ravno u glavu* – partial equivalence (EHFR 99)
4) *no correspoding idiom*
5) Učini nešto ili *ću potegnuti na višu razinu.* – partial equivalence (Gotham S01E14)

6) Tun Sie etwas dagegen oder ich werde *über Ihren Kopf hinweg handeln.* – complete equivalence (Gotham S01E14)

There is an interesting second meaning of *go over someone's head* in meaning *nadilaziti čije mogućnosti shvaćanja, biti mu potpuno nerazumljiv.* In English the paraphrase is *to not understand something because it is too difficult for you.* Sentence example from *Bendow's Englesko-hrvatski frazeološki rječnik* e.g. "Frankly, Saul Bellow goes over my head, but that's exactly why I like him. I don't really like writers such as Hemingway that are too easy to understand."

7 rattle someone's cage

1) Whoever was involved in the Wayne killings, will get *their cage rattled* like the dickens, won't they? (Gotham S01E09)
2) *do or say something that upsets or annoys someone* (CCDoI 56)
3) *izbaciti koga iz takta, dići komu tlak* – partial equivalence (EHFR 31)
4) *jemanden aus dem Takt (Rhythmus) bringen, jemanden aus dem Konzept bringen* – partial equivalence (HNjFR 587)
5) A tkogod da je uključen*, isplivat će poput ribe na površini.* – zero equivalence (Gotham S01E09)
6) Wer auch immer in die Wayne Morde verwickelt war, *jeder wird seine gerechte Strafe erhalten*, oder? – zero equivalence (Gotham S01E09)

Some of the idioms that can be compared to *rattle someone's cage* are: *get someone's back up, get someone's goat, put the cat among the pigeons* and *ruffle feathers.*

8 wrap someone around your little finger

1) See this *finger*? I've got *little Bruce wrapped tight around it.* (Gotham S02E07)
2) *able to make someone do anything you want them to* (CCDoI 142)
3) *obrtati, okretati, omotati, vrtjeti oko malog prsta* – complete equivalence (HNjFR 461)
4) *jemanden um den (kleinen) Finger wickeln können* – complete equivalence (1000 IRD 36)
5) Vidiš ovaj *prst*? Malog Bruce-a *vrtim oko njega.* – complete equivalence (Gotham S02E07)
6) Siehst du diesen *Finger*? Ich habe *den kleinen Bruce stramm herumgewickelt.* – complete equivalence (Gotham S02E07)

A possible change in the structure occurs in the verb area, where other verbs like *twist* or others can come in place of *wrap.* This saying means that someone is so compliant and soft that he or she can be wrapped like a thread or string around a finger. The 'finger' in this saying implies control over a person.

9 do time

1) Not what I expected. Word was you were a troublemaker. I just want to *do my time*. (Gotham S02E16)
2) *to be in prison as a punishment for a crime* (LDoEI 340)
3) *čučati iza rešetaka, sjediti onkraj brave* – partial equivalence (EHFR 204); *biti, sjediti, nalaziti se iza rešetaka* – partial equivalence (HNjFR 488)
4) *hinter Gittern (schwedischen Gardinen) sitzen, im Knast (Kittchen) sitzen* – partial equivalence (HNjFR 488)
5) Nisam očekivao. Pričalo se da donosiš nevolje. *Samo želim odslužiti svoju kaznu.* – partial equivalence (Gotham S02E16)
6) Nicht das, was ich erwartet hatte. Es hieß, Sie wären ein Querulant. Ich will einfach nur *meine Zeit absitzen.* – partial equivalence (Gotham S02E16)

Another possibility to say the same thing in English is the phrase *end up behind bars.*

10 lose one's temper

1) But you got to keep your nose clean. Last thing you can do is do more time 'cause you *lost your temper*, all right? (Gotham S02E16)
2) to become angry (LDoEI 332)
3) *no corresponding idiom*
4) *die Beherrschung verlieren* – partial equivalence (DUD 91)
5) Ali moraš ostati čist. Posljednje što ti treba je da dobiješ još godina jer *ti je pukao film.* – partial equivalence (Gotham S02E16)
6) Aber du musst dich ruhig verhalten. Das Letzte, was du gebrauchen kannst, ist eine verlängerte Haft, weil du *die Kontrolle verloren hast.* – partial equivalence (Gotham S02E16)

11 the rank and file

1) This is the first I've seen you down here with *the rank and file*. You must be desperate. (Gotham S01E12)
2) the ordinary people in an organization, who do not have power and authority (LID 280)
3) *mali ljudi* – partial equivalence (EHFR 167)
4) *ein Mensch wie du und ich* – zero equivalence (DUD 518)
5) Vidio sam te ovamo *s čin i datoteka.* Morate biti očajni. – zero equivalence (Gotham S01E12)
6) Dies ist das erste Mal, dass ich Sie hier unten *mit dem Fußvolk sehe.* – zero equivalence (Gotham S01E12)

It is interesting to note that the idiom *the rank and file* originated as a military term, according to *The Phrase Finder*; "The rows and columns of soldiers, drawn up for drill and not including officers, were called 'ranks' and 'files'. This usage dates back to the 16th century and an early example of it in print is found in *Robert Barret's The theorike [sic] and practike of moderne warres*, 1598: To learne to keepe his ranke and file orderly. The expression is now often shortened just to 'the ranks'. Chess is often described as analogous to warfare and has inherited military parlance in that the rows and columns of pieces are called ranks and files."

The idiom *rank and file* is translated very poorly in Croatian, it seems not to have been understood as an idiom by the translator, as this is a direct translation of words from English to Croatian. The grammar of the translation is also poor, so it looks like Croatian might not be the translator's first language.

12 until the cows come home; till the cows come home

1) Look, I'm just saying, I'll chuck mopes out of windows *until the cows come home*, but at some point, we got to go see Penguin. (Gotham S02E03)

2) endlessly; for an immeasurable period – reffering to the slow way cows return when it is time for them to be milked (LDoEI 67)

3) *od jutra do mraka* - zero equivalence (EHFR 45)

4) *von früh bis spat* – zero equivalence (HNJFR 197)

5) Znam da gnjavim *ko baba za penziju*. ali u nekom trenutku, moramo posjetiti Pingvina. – partial equivalence (Gotham S02E03)

6) Ich schmeiße gerne *bis in alle Ewigkeit* Ganoven aus Fenstern, aber irgendwann müssen wir zu Penguin gehen. – partial equivalence (Gotham S02E03)

The idiom *until the cows come home* is according to *Bendow's Englesko-hrvatski frazeološki rječnik* comparable to the idiom *until you are blue in the face*, in Croatian idiom: dok ne pukneš, dok ne svisneš, do besvijesti. English paraphrase, according to *Longman's Longman Idioms Dictionary* is: used in order to say that although someone spends a lot of time and effort doing something, they will not achieve anything.

13 get away with it

1) They're not going to *get away with it*, not as easy as they think. (Gotham S01E02)
2) to escape discovery in connection with (something wrong or illegal), to escape blame or punishment for (CDoEI 134)
3) *izvući se kao da ništa nije bilo* – partial equivalence (EHFR 84)*; proći lišo* – partial equivalence (EHFR 84)*; i nikom ništa* – partial equivalence (EHFR 84)
4) *als ob nichts geschehen wäre; das ist völlig (ganz) egal; das macht nichts* – partial equivalence (HNJFR 324)
5) *Neće se izvući iz toga*, bar ne tako lako kako misle. – partial equivalence (Gotham S01E02)
6) *Sie kommen damit nicht durch*, nicht so einfach wie sie denken. – partial equivalence (Gotham S01E02)

When you *get away with it* it means that you manage to escape it but if you *let someone get away with it* it means that you let someone off with something they have done (something wrong or illegal) without punishment. In Croatian it shares some similarity with the idiom *dozvoliti da tko prođe lišo*, similar to *proći lišo.* Another adequate Croatian idiom is *i pojeo vuk magare. To let someone get away with it* is comparable to idioms *come up smelling of roses* and *get off the hook.*

14 bide your time

1) I need more money, more men, more territory, I know. I'll play this thing loyal and *bide my time.* (Gotham S01E02)
2) to wait, especially for a suitable chance (LDoEI 340)
3) *sjediti i čekati* – partial equivalence (EHFR 204)*; čekati pravi trenutak* – zero equivalence (EHFR 204)
4) *no corresponding idiom*

5) Pravit ću se odana i *čekat ću svoje vrijeme.* – zero equivalence (Gotham S01E02)
6) Ich werde dieses Ding ganz loyal spielen und *abwarten.* – zero equivalence (Gotham S01E02)

This idiom is compared to the idiom *sit tight* which translates to Croatian the same way bide your time does as *sjediti i čekati; čekati pravi trenutak* which means *odgađati djelovanje do bolje prilike* as found in *Bendow's Englesko-hrvatski frazeološki rječnik.*

15 not be cut out for something

1) I'm beginning to wonder, Silver, if you're *cut out for* the task ahead of us. (Gotham S02E11)
2) to not have the qualities you need for a job or activity (LID 77)
3) *ne biti rođen za što* – partial equivalence (EHFR 47)
4) *no corresponding idiom*
5) Ja sam na početku čuditi, Silver, *ako ste izrezati za zadatak* ispred nas. – zero equivalence (Gotham S02E11)
6) Ich fange an mich zu fragen, Silver, ob du *für die Aufgabe*, die vor uns liegt, *geschaffen bist.* – zero equivalence (Gotham S02E11)

When you say *I'm not cut out for it* it translates as *ne leži mi to, nisam ja za to* as in this example sentence from *Bendow's Englesko-hrvatski frazeološki rječnik*: I'm a city girl, not cut out for life in the countryside.

The subtitle translation into Croatian for this idiom is a direct one. It can only be presumed that it is a direct translation for the translator's unawareness that it is an idiom.

5 Conclusion

This research is based on 15 analyzed idioms from the TV series Gotham. The source language is English, while the two target languages are Croatian and German. According to the research it is possible to conclude several important facts about three completely different languages.

First of all, it is crucial to notice that the most frequent equivalence is partial. There are 10 cases in which one English idiom can be partially translated into Croatian, and 6 idioms that have their partial equivalent in German. When talking about complete equivalence, there are only 2 English idioms that can be found in Croatian and 2 in German languages. It does not surprise considering the fact that translation itself greatly depends on the translator, who is unknown in this case, and also the context he needs to understand. What surprises, however, is that one idiom in English (*lose one's temper)* does not have its Croatian equivalent. The situation is similar with German language. Namely, idioms (*have the goods on someone, go over someone's head, bide your time, not be cut out for something*) have no similarity with their German translations.

To sum up, there are many similarities between the idioms in the three languages with some tiny differences, of course. Croatian shares a lot more similarities with German than English when it comes to the vocabulary used in the analyzed idioms. Some vocabulary differences can be contributed to different cultures and history of those countries, and some are just variations to the meaning in view of vocabulary preference. Each language is unique and it is interesting to see that there are more overlapping cases than one can imagine at first sight.

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Appendices

Appendix 1: The alphabetical list of the dictionaries and expressions used and their abbreviations

Dictionary	**Abbreviation**
1000 idiomatische Redensarten Deutsch	1000 IRD
Cassell's Dictionary of English Idioms	CDoEI
Collins Cobuild Dictionary of Idioms	CCDoI
Duden, Redewendungen und sprichwörtliche Redensarten	DUD
Englesko-hrvatski frazeološki rječnik	EHFR
Frazeološki rječnik hrvatskog ili srpskog jezika	FRHSJ
Hrvatsko-engleski frazeološki rječnik	HEFR
Hrvatski jezični portal	HJP

Hrvatsko-njemački frazeološki rječnik	HNjFR
Longman Dictionary of English Idioms	LDoEI
Longman Idioms Dictionary	LID
NTC's American Idioms Dictionary	AID
Expression	**Abbreviation**
Phraseological unit	PU

Appendix 2: The complete list of idioms used in the research and their dictionary equivalents in Croatian and German

PU in English	**Croatian equivalent**	**German equivalent**
bang your head against a wall/bang your head against a brick wall	lupati glavom o zid, udariti glavom u zid	mit dem Kopf durch die Wand wollen
rub it in	dodavati sol na ranu staviti (metnuti) sol na živu ranu	Öl ins Feuer gießen, in der Wunde herumbohren (herumwühlen), alte Wunden (wieder) aufreißen
look the other way	zatvoriti oči pred čim, praviti se slijep	die Augen vor etwas verschließen, von etwas nichts wissen wollen
have the goods on someone	znati neke stvari o kome	no corresponding phraseological unit
back to square one	biti opet na početku	noch in den Anfängen stehen, noch in den Kinderschuhen stecken
go over someone's head	ići ravno u glavu	no corresponding phraseological unit
rattle someone's cage	izbaciti koga iz takta, dići komu tlak	jemanden aus dem Takt (Rhythmus) bringen, jemanden aus dem Konzept bringen
wrap someone around your little finger	obrtati, okretati, omotati, vrtjeti oko malog prsta	jemanden um den (kleinen) Finger wickeln können
do time	čučati iza rešetaka, sjediti onkraj brave	hinter Gittern (schwedischen Gardinen) sitzen, im Knast (Kittchen) sitzen
lose one's temper	no corresponding phraseological unit	die Beherrschung verlieren
the rank and file	mali ljudi	ein Mensch wie du und ich
until the cows come home;	od jutra do mraka	von früh bis spat

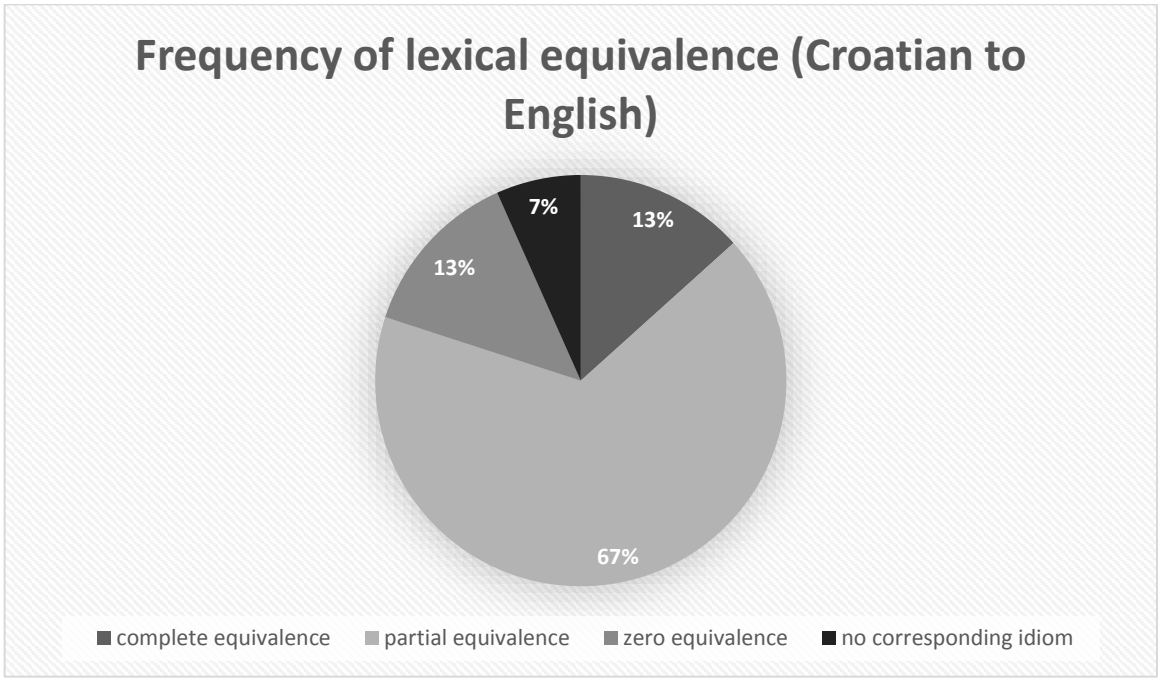
till the cows come home		
get away with it	izvući se kao da ništa nije bilo; proći lišo; i nikom ništa	als ob nichts geschehen wäre; das ist völlig (ganz) egal; das macht nichts
bide your time	sjediti i čekati; čekati pravi trenutak	no corresponding idiom
not be cut out for something	ne biti rođen za što	no corresponding idiom

Appendix 3: The complete list of idioms used in the research and their subtitle equivalents in Croatian and German

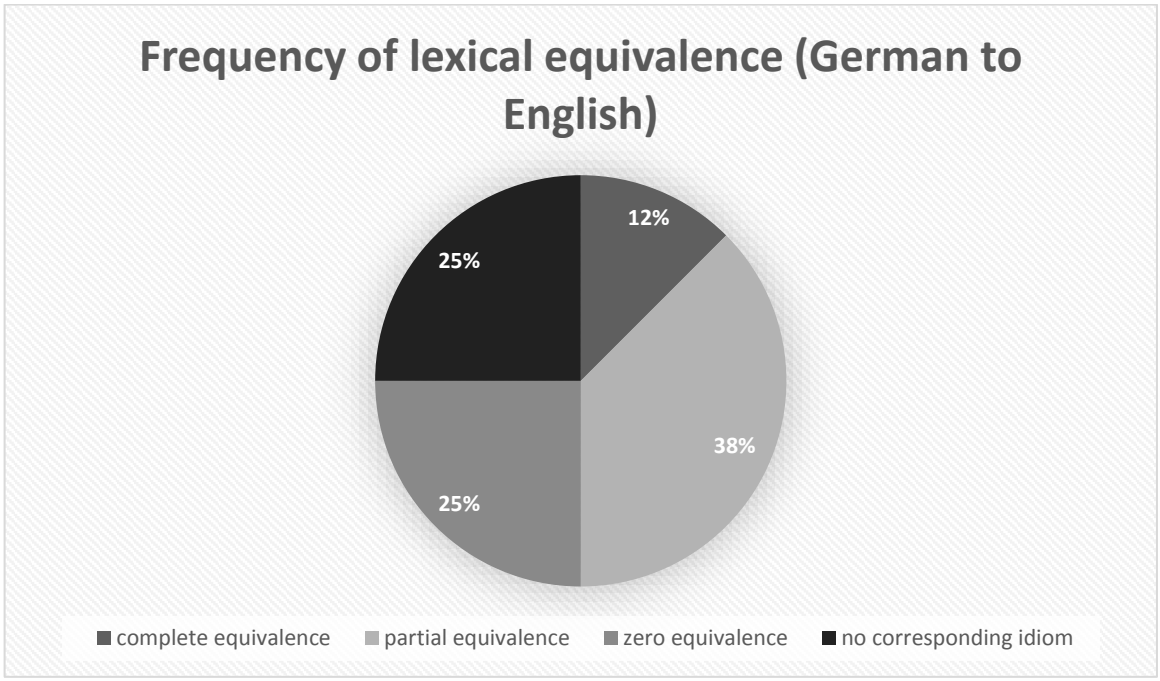
PU in English	**Croatian equivalent**	**German equivalent**
bang your head against a wall/bang your head against a brick wall	Ali stavili su te na usmjeravanje prometa, Jim. Zašto *udarati glavom o zid?*	Aber die haben dich den Verkehr regeln lassen, Jim. Wieso weiterhin *gegen eine Wand rennen?*
rub it in	Vjeruj mi, ja znam tko je šef. Gospodine smiluj se. Nema potrebe da ga *utrljate u ranu.*	Vertrauen Sie mir, ich weiß wer jetzt der Boss ist. Herr, hab Erbarmen. Kein weiteres *Salz in die Wunde streuen.*
look the other way	I možda, samo možda, *pogledao je u drugom pravcu.*	Und vielleicht, aber nur vielleicht, hat er *in die andere Richtung geschaut.*
have the goods on someone	Pola policije ima *tajnu*, a Loeb *zna koja je.*	Die Hälfte der Cops des GCPD hat einen Cobblepot, und Loeb *hat die Beweise von ihnen allen.*
back to square one	Nije vidjela ubojicu. Ovo je malo nesretno, ali ne znači da se *vraćamo na početak.*	Sieh mal, das kommt unerwartet, aber das bedeutet nicht, dass wir *wieder am Anfang stehen.*
go over someone's head	Učini nešto ili *ću potegnuti na višu razinu.*	Tun Sie etwas dagegen oder ich werde *über Ihren Kopf hinweg handeln.*
rattle someone's cage	A tkogod da je uključen, *isplivat će poput ribe na površini*.	Wer auch immer in die Wayne Morde verwickelt war, *jeder wird seine gerechte Strafe erhalten*, oder?
wrap someone around your little finger	Vidiš ovaj *prst*? Malog Bruce-a *vrtim oko njega.*	Siehst du diesen *Finger*? Ich habe *den kleinen Bruce stramm herumgewickelt.*
do time	Nisam očekivao. Pričalo se da donosiš nevolje. *Samo želim odslužiti svoju kaznu.*	Nicht das, was ich erwartet hatte. Es hieß, Sie wären ein Querulant. Ich will einfach nur *meine Zeit absitzen.*
lose one's temper	Ali moraš ostati čist. Posljednje što ti treba je da dobiješ još godina jer *ti je pukao film.*	Aber du musst dich ruhig verhalten. Das Letzte, was du gebrauchen kannst, ist eine verlängerte Haft, weil du *die Kontrolle verloren hast.*
the rank and file	Vidio sam te ovamo *s čin i datoteka.* Morate biti očajni.	Dies ist das erste Mal, dass ich Sie hier unten *mit dem Fußvolk sehe.*
until the cows come home; till the cows come home	Znam da gnjavim *ko baba za penziju*. ali u nekom trenutku, moramo posjetiti Pingvina.	Ich schmeiße gerne *bis in alle Ewigkeit* Ganoven aus Fenstern, aber irgendwann müssen wir zu Penguin gehen.

get away with it	*Neće se izvući iz toga*, bar ne tako lako kako misle.	*Sie kommen damit nicht durch*, nicht so einfach wie sie denken.
bide your time	Pravit ću se odana i *čekat ću svoje vrijeme.*	Ich werde dieses Ding ganz loyal spielen und *abwarten.*
not be cut out for something	Ja sam na početku čuditi, Silver, *ako ste izrezati za zadatak* ispred nas.	Ich fange an mich zu fragen, Silver, ob du *für die Aufgabe*, die vor uns liegt, *geschaffen bist.*

Appendix 4: Diagrams of frequency of lexical equivalence in Croatian to English idioms and in German to English idioms



This diagram shows the frequency of lexical equivalence of the fifteen analysed idioms. The most frequent type is partial equivalence – 10 idioms out of 15. There are 2 complete and 2 zero equivalents in the target language, i.e. Croatian. Only one idiom has no corresponding idiom in the target language.



This diagram shows the frequency of lexical equivalence of the fifteen analysed idioms. The most frequent type is partial equivalence – 6 idioms out of 15. There are only 2 complete equivalents in the target language, i.e. German. The number of idioms with no corresponding idiom in the target language is 4, which is more than in Croatian.