

FRI-2G.509-1-LCSIPC-01

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**BIBLICAL IDIOMS IN CONTEMPORARY DISCOURSE**

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***Abstract:** This paper examines the relation between appraisal instantiations realized through Biblical idioms in the Biblical text itself and their potential for expressing an attitude in their lexicalized meanings. It reports on some of the findings of a larger study on 375 Biblical idioms in English in which appraisal analysis is applied. Three types of findings are discussed related to three types of intertextual connections: between Biblical idioms and the source text, between the idioms and proverbs and between idioms and other works of art including literary works, works of visual arts and popular culture. The analysis shows that most of the idioms keep the potential of realizing appraisal derived from the Biblical context. Only a small number have undergone a change in meaning which is also associated with a change in their potential of realizing appraisal. In addition not all intertextual connections that have been examined strengthen the tie to the Biblical text. In a number of cases a particular usage of an idiom contributes different connotations to the lexicalized meaning which gain wide popularity. It is argued that awareness of the origin of Biblical idioms and the intertextual connections to later works of art play a major role but are not crucial for a felicitous speech act.*

***Keywords:** Biblical idioms, appraisal analysis, intertextuality.*

***JEL Codes:** I20*

THE PAPER IS PUBLISHED AT JOURNAL OF APPLIED LINGUISTIC AND INTERCULTURAL STUDIES (JALIS) ISSUE 2, ISSN 2603-3291 (ON-LINE), 2019.