

## Idiomatic Phrase Processing in Arabic "A Psycholinguistic Study"

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### ABSTRACT

**Background.** The background of this study is to explore psycholinguistic methods to assist Arabic language learners in processing idiomatic phrases more effectively. The focus is on identifying cognitive strategies that can improve the understanding and use of idiomatic phrases in communicative contexts. By solving this problem, it is hoped that learners can become more proficient in the idiomatic aspects of Arabic, improve communication skills, and feel confident interacting with native speakers.

**Purpose.** The main objective of this study is to investigate the psycholinguistic aspects of Arabic idiomatic phrase processing, exploring cognitive strategies in non-native and native learners. The research aims to identify factors that influence comprehension, such as proficiency, culture, and learning experience, focusing on technology-based teaching methods to improve mastery.

**Method.** This study takes a psycholinguistic approach, using a quantitative survey to investigate the processing of Arabic idiomatic phrases. The research involves identifying phrases, designing a survey, and analyzing the data to enhance the insights of understanding, which contributes to the understanding of psycholinguistics.

**Results.** Research shows that learning Arabic in a formal environment has a positive impact on communication skills. The use of Arabic idiomatic phrases in daily life enriches communication. Online resources are dominant in understanding idiomatic phrases. The main obstacle is the difference in Arabic dialects. Psychological factors play an important role in the comprehension of idiomatic phrases and impact on overall Arabic language skills, especially in the context of social and professional communication.

**Conclusion.** His study concluded that learning Arabic in a formal environment, such as school or university, has a great effect on students' speaking ability. The use of idiomatic phrases is also recognized as enriching everyday communication.

### KEYWORDS

Arabic, Idiomatic, Psycholinguistic

### INTRODUCTION

The processing of idiomatic phrases in Arabic is the main focus in this psycholinguistic review. One of the main problems that learners and speakers of Arabic face is the difficulty in understanding and using idiomatic phrases appropriately (Alzoubi, 2020). Arabic is rich with idiomatic expressions that are often difficult to translate literally, and this is the root of the problem. The problem arises because idiomatic phrases in Arabic tend to have

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specific meanings that cannot be understood directly through word-by-word comprehension. Learners often struggle to identify the conceptual meaning behind such expressions, hindering effective communication and deep understanding of the Arabic language. This can create discomfort in formal and informal communication situations (Ennasser, 2022).

This study aims to explore (El-Dakhs, 2019) methods that can help Arabic language learners process idiomatic phrases more effectively. The focus is on identifying cognitive strategies that can enhance the understanding and use of idiomatic phrases in communicative contexts. By solving this problem, it is hoped that learners can better master the idiomatic aspects of Arabic, improve their communication skills, and feel confident in interacting with native speakers (Hamdan, 2022).

It is important to address the issue of idiomatic phrase processing in Arabic as this has a direct impact on communication effectiveness and cultural understanding. A better understanding of idiomatic phrases can enrich one's language competence and open the door for deeper integration with the Arabic-speaking community. Moreover, a better understanding of idiomatic phrases can enrich cultural understanding, thus building a bridge between the learner and the society that uses the language (Al-Assaf, 2022; Krine, 2023).

To overcome this problem, teaching methods that focus on the context and situation of using idiomatic phrases can be applied. Specific exercises that emphasize understanding the concepts behind idiomatic expressions, as well as simulations of actual communicative situations, can help learners familiarize themselves with idiomatic usage in various contexts. In addition, the application of technology in Arabic language teaching, such as the use of educational apps and online platforms, can be an effective solution to engage learners in real situations of idiomatic phrase usage (Daud, 2020; Krine, 2023).

This study was conducted in response to the challenges faced by Arabic language learners in understanding and using idiomatic phrases, with the main aim of providing an in-depth psycholinguistic review of idiomatic phrase processing in (Abdullina, 2020). Idiomatic phrases, which are an integral part of the linguistic richness of Arabic, are often a source of difficulty for learners due to the special meanings they contain and are difficult to interpret literally. Therefore, this study is important to provide a deeper understanding of how cognitive processes are involved in processing idiomatic phrases in Arabic (Rayyan, 2020).

Through a psycholinguistic review, this study aims to identify the cognitive strategies used by learners in understanding idiomatic phrases, as well as identify the psychological barriers that may arise in the comprehension process (Bosma, 2023). With a better understanding of the psycholinguistic processes involved, it is hoped that this study can provide a foundation for the development of more effective teaching methods and learning strategies that can help learners overcome difficulties in the processing of Arabic idiomatic phrases. Overall, this study is geared towards making a positive contribution to Arabic language teaching and learning by approaching the understanding of idiomatic phrases from a psycholinguistic point of view (Ruiz, 2023)

This research on the processing of idiomatic phrases in Arabic makes a significant contribution in filling the knowledge gap that currently exists in the linguistic literature (Dichy, 2019). Although idiomatic phrases are an important part of the Arabic language, there is limited in-depth understanding of the cognitive processes involved in the processing of idiomatic phrases. This research aims to fill the gap by carrying out a rigorous psycholinguistic analysis of how the brain processes and interprets idiomatic phrases in the context of Arabic (Smadi, 2019).

Addressing this gap, this study applies a holistic approach that integrates psycholinguistic methods, linguistic analysis, and pedagogical approaches. An in-depth understanding of the cognitive strategies used by Arabic learners in the processing of idiomatic phrases will provide the

basis for the development of more effective teaching strategies. These methods will include the use of contextualized exercises, communicative situations that resemble everyday life, and the use of technology in the learning process. In this way, this study not only contributes to the theoretical understanding of the psycholinguistics of idiomatic phrases in Arabic, but also provides practical implications for more effective and satisfying Arabic language teaching (Rayyan, 2020).

The innovation proposed in this study is the application of technology-based interactive teaching methods to improve the understanding and use of idiomatic phrases in Arabic language learning (Alotaibi, 2020; Dabwan, 2022). This approach involves developing mobile applications or online platforms specifically designed to engage learners in real communicative situations that require understanding of idiomatic phrases (Koderi, 2019). By utilizing technologies such as educational games, simulations of everyday situations, and interactive exercises, this innovation aims to create a challenging yet fun learning environment. In addition, the use of data analysis from learners' interaction with the application can provide a deeper understanding of effective cognitive strategies in processing idiomatic phrases. Through this approach, it is hoped that innovations in teaching methods can make a positive contribution to the effectiveness of learning Arabic idiomatic phrases psycholinguistically (Erlisnawati, 2021; Ghani, 2022).

The topic that researchers discuss about the context of psycholinguistic review of idiomatic phrase processing in Arabic raises 3 questions: 1) How are cognitive processes involved in the comprehension of idiomatic phrases in Arabic by non-native learners, and are there differences in cognitive strategies between idiomatic phrase processing and non-idiomatic phrase processing? 2) To what extent do factors such as Arabic proficiency level, Arabic learning experience, and cultural background affect the processing of idiomatic phrases in native speakers of Arabic? Are there differences in the processing of idiomatic phrases between certain age groups?. 3) How can the use of technology in the context of Arabic language teaching affect the processing of idiomatic phrases? Can the integration of mobile applications or online platforms with a focus on idiomatic phrases improve the understanding and mastery of idiomatic phrases in Arabic learners?.

The purpose of this study is to investigate in depth the processing of idiomatic phrases in Arabic through a psycholinguistic approach. This study aims to understand how the brain processes and interprets idiomatic phrases in Arabic, in both non-native learners and native speakers of Arabic. By focusing on the cognitive strategies used, this study seeks to identify factors that influence the processing of idiomatic phrases, such as language proficiency level, cultural background, and learning experience. In addition, this study also aims to contribute to the development of more effective teaching methods, particularly through the application of technology in the context of Arabic language learning. Thus, the main goal of this study is to improve the understanding and mastery of Arabic idiomatic phrases as well as provide deep insights in psycholinguistic language processing.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

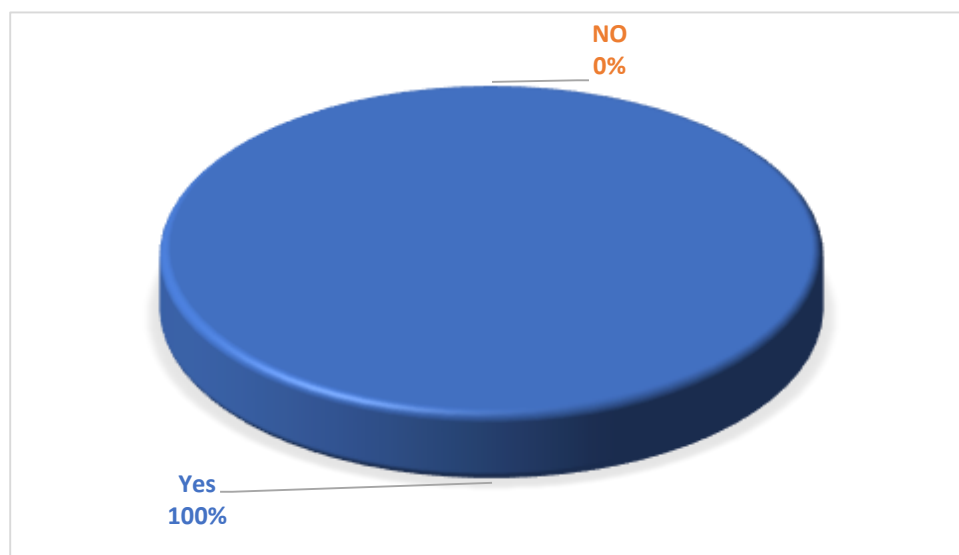
This study aims to investigate the processing of idiomatic phrases in Arabic through a psycholinguistic approach with a focus on a quantitative study using the survey method (AlKhars, 2019). Idiomatic phrases are often an important part of language, and understanding and processing these phrases can provide deeper insights into individuals' linguistic cognition. In this study, we used quantitative methods by designing and distributing a survey to respondents consisting of Arabic speakers of various backgrounds. The survey consisted of structured questions aimed at assessing the understanding and processing of idiomatic phrases in the context of various communicative situations (Tange, 2019).

This research will be carried out by detailing several methodological stages. First, identification and selection of idiomatic phrases in Arabic that will be the focus of the study. After that, designing a survey with structured questions covering the understanding, interpretation, and usage of idiomatic phrases in specific sentences (Ju, 2023; Tremblay, 2019). The survey will be distributed online to respondents who are native Arabic speakers or have a high level of fluency in the language. The collected data will be statistically analyzed to evaluate the comprehension patterns of idiomatic phrases and the factors affecting them. The data analysis will also include comparisons between groups of respondents based on certain variables, such as age, education level, and level of fluency in Arabic. Thus, this study is expected to make a significant contribution to the psycholinguistic understanding of idiomatic phrase processing in Arabic.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Idiomatic phrases in Arabic can be obtained from various sources such as books, teachers and social media. The function of idiomatic phrases itself is to increase the reasoning of language speakers in order to understand the meaning of their interlocutors. This is where one's psychology plays a role in interpreting the language of the speaker. Therefore, researchers spread a google questionnaire from about Arabic idiomatic as follows:

### Have experience learning arabic in a formal environment



**Figure 1.** Arabic learning experience in a formal environment

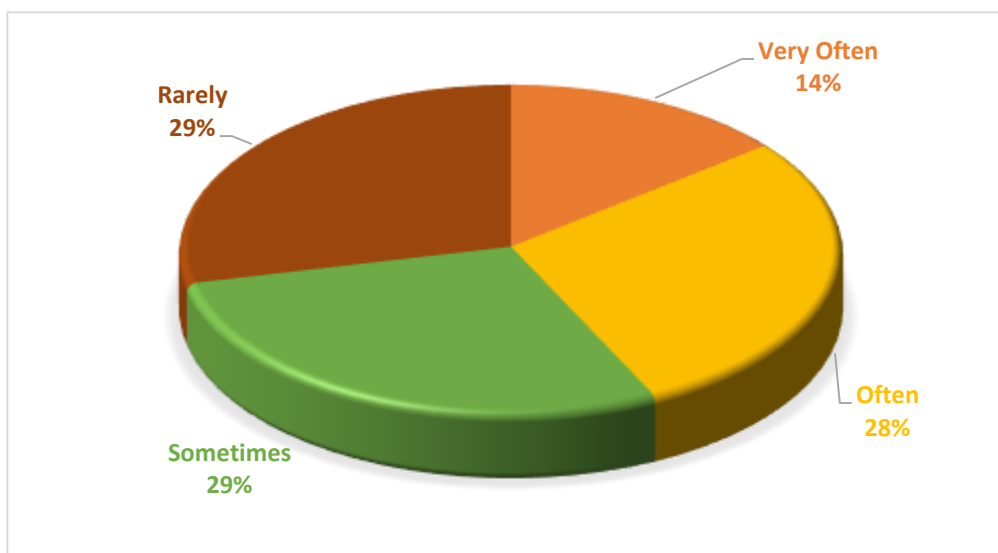
The survey results show that all respondents had experience of learning Arabic in a formal environment, with 100% of the total respondents answering yes and no one answering no. This finding reflects that learning experience in a formal environment, such as a school or university, can provide a solid foundation for Arabic language learning with a systematic curriculum structure and teaching methods. The fact that none of the respondents had no formal learning experience indicates the high level of participation in formal education to acquire Arabic language skills. Formal education in Arabic can provide a solid foundation in understanding language structures, vocabulary and idiomatic phrases, which in turn can support communication proficiency and deeper cultural understanding among Arabic learners.

Looking at the data above, the researcher sees that the experience of learning Arabic in a formal environment, such as in a formal educational institution, such as a school or university, has a significant impact on students' ability to speak Arabic. Some analysis related to the experience of

learning Arabic in a formal environment includes Organized Learning structures. The formal environment provides an organized learning structure (Ma, 2022). A well-designed curriculum that complies with learning standards can provide a comprehensive learning experience, covering aspects such as grammar, vocabulary, listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Then there is access to learning resources. Students in formal environments can access a wide range of learning resources, such as textbooks, teaching materials, learning software and libraries. Formal environments provide students with instruction from educators who are competent and trained in Arabic language teaching (Alhamami, 2023; Fidayani, 2023).

Active Practice in Communication. This means that involvement in class activities, such as discussions, role-playing, and group projects, gives students the opportunity to actively participate in Arabic communication (Suliman, 2021). Measurable Tests and Assessments. Measured tests and assessments help identify students' strengths and weaknesses and guide further teaching. Then Collaborative Learning. Formal environments often encourage collaborative learning, where students can work together with classmates to understand and hone Arabic language skills. Then the Use of Technology in Learning is also very important. Formal environments often utilize technology to enhance the learning experience. The use of software, apps and online platforms can provide students with more resources and help sustain their interest in learning. Through a combination of these factors, the Arabic learning experience in formal environments can provide a solid foundation for the development of Arabic language skills (Kanan, 2019).

### Use of arabic idiomatic phrases in daily life



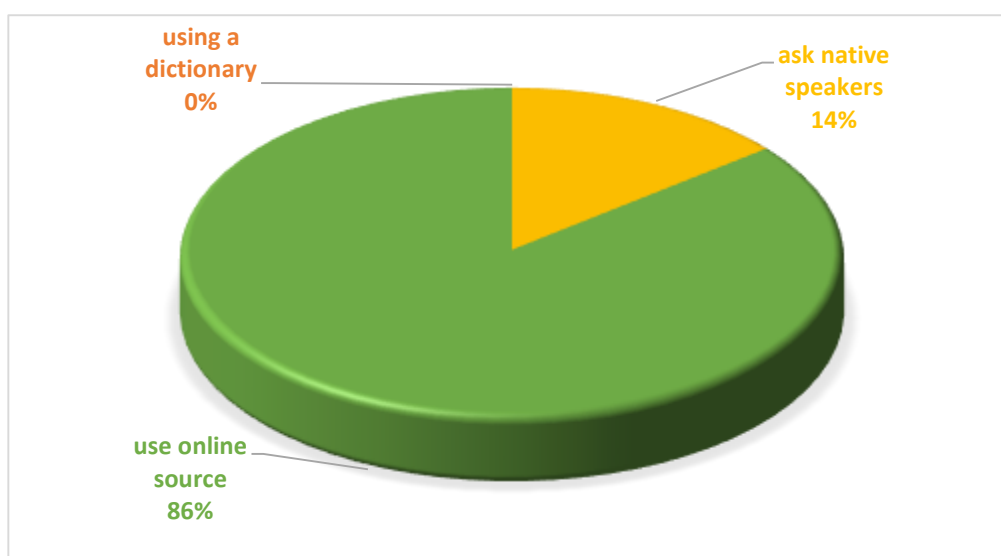
**Figure 2.** Use of arabic idiomatic phrases in daily life

The survey data shows that Arabic idiomatic phrases play an important and significant role in respondents' daily lives. A total of 14% of the respondents stated that they use idiomatic phrases "very often", indicating that in their daily lives, they give their conversations a distinctive Arabic feel. Meanwhile, as many as 28% admitted to using idiomatics regularly, creating a more colorful and expressive atmosphere of communication. On the other hand, about 28% of respondents use idiomatic phrases only occasionally, indicating that not every situation requires the use of such typical expressions. Interestingly, there are also 28% who rarely use idiomatics in their daily conversations, perhaps because they prefer a more direct style of language or have less exposure to

idiomatic phrases. The results of this survey reflect the richness and diversity in the use of Arabic in people's daily interactions.

The researcher sees that the use of idiomatic phrases in daily life in Arabic is a common habit and greatly enriches communication. Idiomatic phrases or typical expressions often have a special meaning that cannot be understood literally from the word-by-word meaning (Smadi, 2019). In all, the use of Arabic idiomatic phrases in daily life not only impacts language proficiency, but also forms a profound cultural and expressive foundation in communication. The use of these idiomatic phrases not only enriches the language, but also reflects the cultural heritage and deep understanding of daily life in the Arab world. When interacting with native speakers, understanding and using idiomatic phrases can also improve communication skills and build closer relationships. But not everyone uses idiomatic phrases in daily life although there are also many people who like to use idiomatic phrases in daily life.

### How to find and understand the meaning of idiomatic phrases in arabic



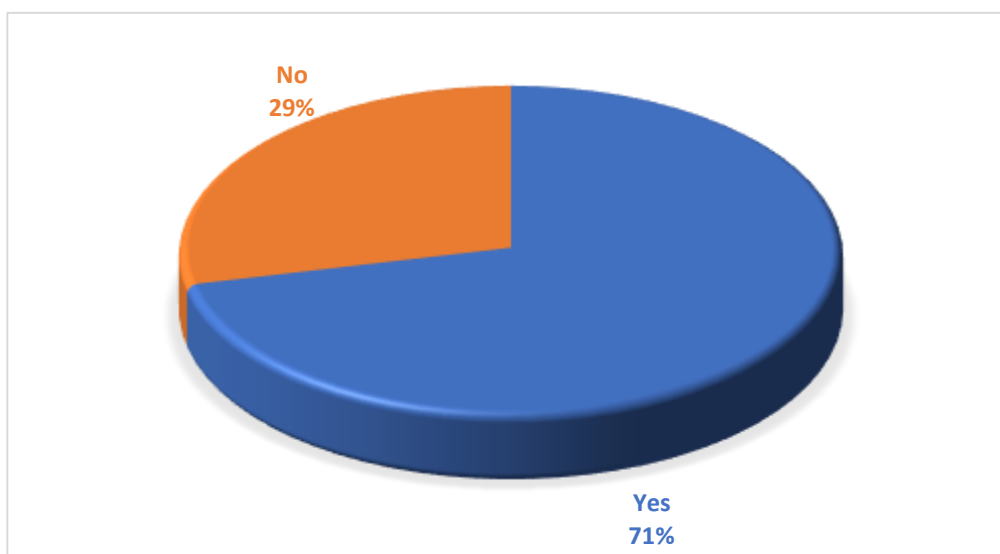
**Figure 3.** How to find and understand the meaning of idiomatic phrases in arabic

The survey results show an interesting pattern in the way respondents search for and understand the meaning of idiomatic phrases in Arabic. Of the total respondents, none used a dictionary as a primary source, while 14% chose to ask native speakers. Instead, most respondents, 86%, prefer to use online sources to look up and understand idiomatic phrases. This reflects a significant shift in learning method preferences, with the internet and online resources becoming the main sources of information in understanding linguistic aspects. The availability of various online platforms and resources seems to provide ease of access and flexibility, allowing individuals to independently explore and understand Arabic idiomatic phrases without dependence on conventional sources such as dictionaries or direct interaction with native speakers.

researchers' analysis of how to find and understand the meaning of idiomatic phrases in Arabic chooses more through online sources because of the ease of access to information, online sources provide easy access to information to find and understand the meaning of idiomatic phrases quickly and efficiently. Comprehensiveness of Resources, Online dictionaries and Arabic reference websites often provide definitions, usage examples, and contexts that help researchers in understanding idiomatic phrases. Speed of Information Update, Online resources can provide more up-to-date and regularly updated information (Alqudah, 2020; Ismail, 2021). With language

development and the use of idiomatic phrases changing over time, having access to up-to-date information is essential for accurate understanding. Diversity of Resources, Investigating various digital dictionaries, reference websites and Arabic learning apps can provide a richer perspective to the meaning of idiomatic phrases. However, not all choose to go through online resources, but some choose to ask native speakers directly.

#### Difficulty in understanding idiomatic phrases derived from certain arabic varieties

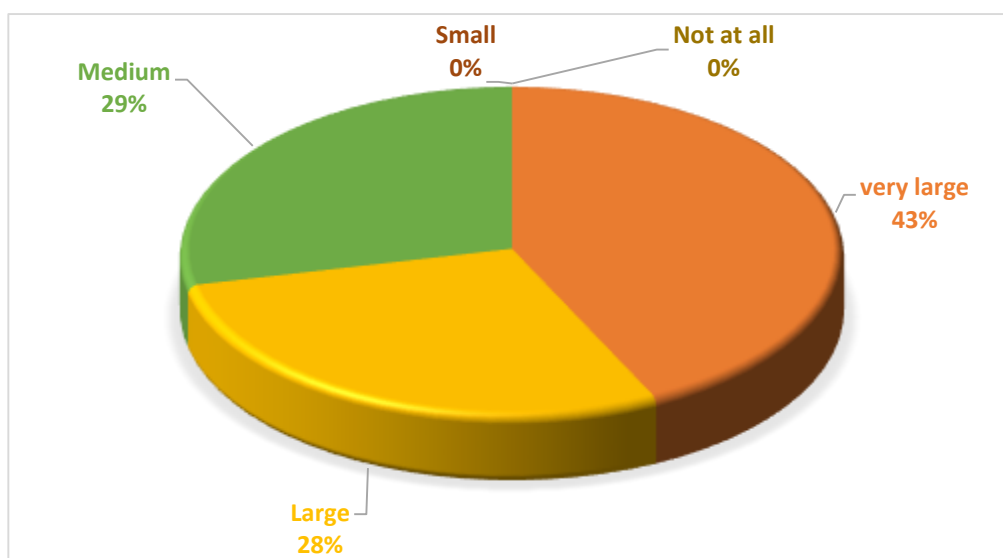


**Figure 4.** difficulty in understanding idiomatic phrases derived from certain Arabic varieties

The results of the survey showed that most of the respondents had difficulty in understanding idiomatic phrases derived from a particular variety of Arabic. A total of 71% of the total respondents admitted that they find it difficult to interpret idiomatic phrases that arise from a particular language variety. This highlights the complexity of understanding Arabic which has dialectal variations that can be a challenge for learners. Meanwhile, 29% of respondents stated that they had no difficulties in this context. This data reflects the diversity and complexity of Arabic, where dialectal variations play an important role in the comprehension of idiomatic phrases, and Arabic language users may face different challenges depending on the linguistic variations they encounter.

The researcher analyzes that in the data there are still many difficulties in understanding idiomatic phrases derived from certain Arabic variations due to several aspects, including dialectal differences, language structure, cultural context, and special linguistic characteristics. Then the diversity of Arabic Variations which has a significant range of dialectal variations from one region to another. For example, the differences between Egyptian, Levant, and Maghreb dialects. Idiomatic phrases can often differ between these dialects, causing confusion for learners who are used to one dialect. And other causes are Incongruence with Other Language Structures, Cultural and Social Context, Limited Learning Resources and so on.

## The influence of psychological factors plays a role in the processing of idiomatic phrases in arabic

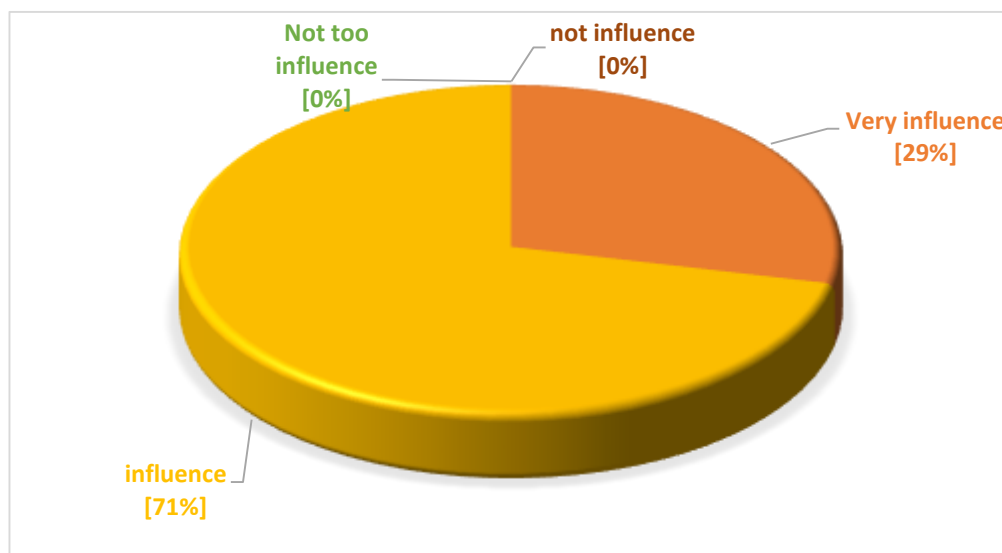


**Figure 5.** The influence of psychological factors plays a role in the processing of idiomatic phrases in Arabic

The survey results indicate that psychological factors have a significant influence in the processing of idiomatic phrases in Arabic according to respondents' perceptions. A total of 43% of respondents stated that the influence of psychological factors in the comprehension of idiomatic phrases is very great, reflecting the complexity and involvement of psychological aspects in this process. Furthermore, 28% of respondents recognized that the influence is great, while 29% saw it as a moderate influence. Interestingly, none of the respondents stated that psychological factors have little or no influence. These findings suggest that comprehension of Arabic idiomatic phrases not only involves linguistic aspects, but is also influenced by psychological factors such as personal experience, perception, and emotional context.

The influence of psychological factors on the processing of idiomatic phrases in Arabic can be quite significant. Some of the psychological factors that may play a role in the understanding and processing of idiomatic phrases include Individual creativity can affect one's ability to interpret idiomatic meanings (Zeike, 2019). More creative people may be more open to alternative interpretations or metaphors underlying idiomatic phrases. An individual's life experiences can also affect the understanding of idiomatic phrases. People who have direct experience with Arabic culture or the environment in which the phrase is often used may be more likely to understand the context and meaning behind the idiomatic. Then the level of confidence in Arabic language learning can also affect the extent to which one dares to try and understand idiomatic phrases that may sound unusual or complex. then one's overall attitude towards the Arabic language can affect the way they approach and process idiomatic phrases in the language.



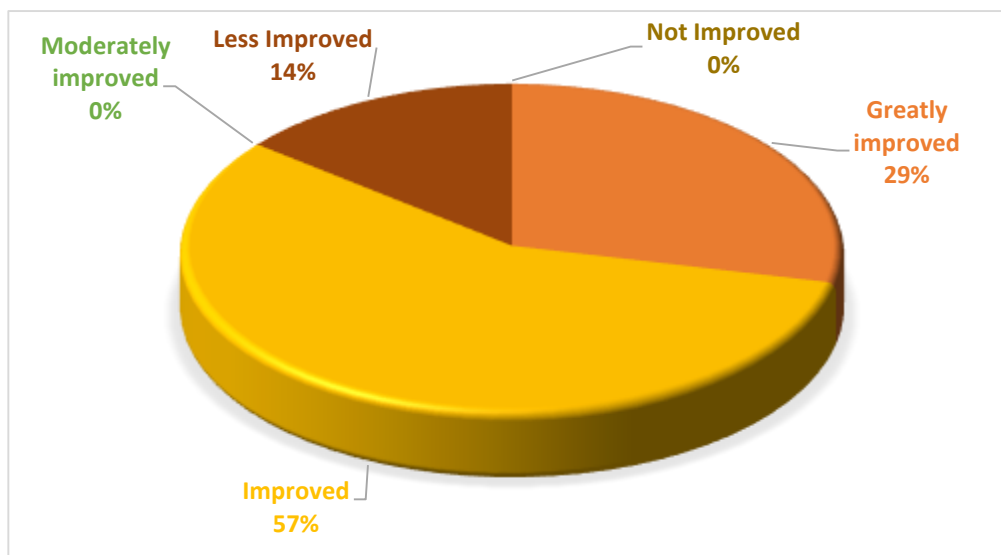
**Understanding of arabic idiomatic phrases affects your overall arabic language skills**

**Figure 6.** understanding of Arabic idiomatic phrases affects your overall Arabic language skills

The survey results show that understanding idiomatic phrases in Arabic has a significant impact on overall Arabic language skills according to respondents' perceptions. A total of 29% of respondents stated that an understanding of idiomatic phrases greatly affects their Arabic language skills, while the majority, 71%, recognized that it affects Arabic language skills in general. There were no respondents who felt that understanding idiomatic phrases had little or no effect. These findings reflect the importance of idiomatic phrases in the context of communicative success in Arabic, highlighting their central role in everyday language use. The conclusion of this survey shows that understanding idiomatic phrases is not only seen as a mere linguistic aspect, but also as a key element that can affect overall Arabic language skills to varying degrees.

Understanding idiomatic phrases in Arabic can have a significant impact on overall Arabic language skills. The following is an analysis of some related aspects, namely the understanding of Communicative Context. Idiomatic phrases are often related to specific communicative and cultural contexts. Understanding idiomatic phrases helps one to better understand and feel the cultural context, which in turn improves the ability to communicate effectively in situations that require the use of idiomatic phrases. Then the Ability to Translate with Context. A person who understands idiomatic phrases can have better abilities in translating Arabic, especially in contexts that require proper interpretation of idiomatic meanings. And there are many other aspects.

## Understanding idiomatic phrases in arabic can improve your communication skills in social or professional contexts



**Figure 7.** understanding idiomatic phrases in Arabic can improve your communication skills in social or professional contexts

The survey results show that understanding idiomatic phrases in Arabic has a significant positive impact on respondents' communication skills, both in social and professional contexts. A total of 29% of respondents stated that understanding idiomatic phrases greatly improved their communication skills, while the majority, 57%, recognized a significant improvement. No respondents felt that the understanding of idiomatic phrases had only moderately improved. However, about 14% of respondents stated that understanding idiomatic phrases improved their communication skills less. This finding highlights the important role of idiomatic phrases in enhancing fluency and expressiveness in communication, both in social situations and professional settings. The conclusion of this survey illustrates that understanding idiomatic phrases is not just a linguistic aspect, but also plays a role in improving the effectiveness and success of communication in various life contexts.

Understanding idiomatic phrases in Arabic has a significant positive impact on one's ability to communicate in social and professional contexts. Here are some analyses related to this, namely effectiveness in Daily Communication. Understanding idiomatic phrases allows one to communicate more effectively in daily life. In social contexts, the use of idiomatic phrases can make interactions more natural, make conversations more lively, and help speakers to convey messages more clearly and powerfully (Ruiz, 2023). Then recognition and acceptance in the Arabic-speaking community. The ability to use idiomatic phrases appropriately can make one more accepted in the Arabic-speaking community. It creates a sense of community and helps in building strong interpersonal relationships. Then it shows a Deep Understanding of the Arabic Culture. Using idiomatic phrases correctly can reflect a deep understanding of Arabic culture. This can enhance one's reputation as an individual who appreciates and respects the local culture, which is an important aspect in social and professional contexts (Ennasser, 2022).

## CONCLUSION

The conclusion of the study was that the experience of learning Arabic in a formal setting, such as at school or university, has a significant impact on students' ability to speak Arabic. The survey results show that high participation in formal education provides a solid foundation in understanding Arabic language structures, vocabulary and idiomatic phrases, which in turn supports communication proficiency and deeper cultural understanding among Arabic learners. Moreover, the use of idiomatic phrases in daily life is recognized as a common habit that enriches communication and reflects cultural heritage and a deep understanding of daily life in the Arab world. Although there are difficulties in understanding Arabic dialectal variations and the use of idiomatic phrases, understanding them is considered to have a significant positive impact on overall Arabic language skills, including the ability to communicate in social and professional contexts.

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Look this example below:

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; In-vestigation.

Author 3: Data curation; Investigation.

Author 4: Formal analysis; Methodology; Writing - original draft.

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