CHAPTER-VII

WHY CAN’T THESE BE IDIOMS?

Here is a list of phrases which are used idiomatically. After studying definitions and nature of idioms one starts wondering whether these are idioms. ‘the trying times’ (pareeksheya kaala), 'prying eyes', 'to take a hand', 'blind to' are very common usages in Kannada.

Running the household (p143 The Dark Room)

was taking up a very difficult line (64:33 The Vendor of Sweets)

This usage is not found in dictionaries, but can be compared to ‘on the right lines’.

(1) be on the right lines =if you are on the right lines, you are doing something in a way that will bring good results. (232 Cambridge international Dictionary of Idioms.)

(2) be+on+the+difficult+lines=verb+preposition+determiner+adjective+noun (verb idiom)

Mali went on (66:29 The Vendor of Sweets)

(1)Go on = (continue) by hook or crook you have to go on with life (132 J. S. Bright.)

Stood arrested and nearly dropped it (137:31.32 The Vendor of Sweets)

Jagan stood arrested by the spectacle (p178:2 ibid)

To grow up into devils? (p42:13 The Financial Expert)

It seemed to him an impossible world (p60:24 The Financial Expert)

Heaven help me if it gets dark (p61:37 The Financial Expert)

(1)Heaven means not heaven here. May be god. But it may be more than that.

Expectation of some unexpected help from unknown corners.

(2) heaven+help+me =noun+verb+pronoun (verb idiom)
Skies would open and start raining down wealth (p73:26 The Financial Expert)

The priest threw a sour look at him and .... (p77:35, 36 The Financial Expert)

A desperate idea welling up in him (p88:14 The Financial Expert)

They had thrown off twenty years (p92:29 The Financial Expert)

Others are too ready to swallow us up (95:8, 9 The Financial Expert)

I can probably drop in just for a few minutes (p98:30, 31 The Financial Expert)

Lal said haughtily (p98:36 The Financial Expert)

An off-handed manner (p108:19 The Financial Expert)

As if you remained half suspended (p117:7, 8. The Financial Expert)

I will send word to them. (p119:14 The Financial Expert)

The trying times he was going through (p135:26 The Financial Expert)

Away from the prying eyes of his elders. (p135:29 The Financial Expert)

Inviting him to take a hand and help himself (p153:22 The Financial Expert)

It also made him feel homesick (p167:34 The Financial Expert)

The officer Saw them off (p 173:17 The Financial Expert)

Given me up for dead? (p174:10 The Financial Expert)

Absolutely blind to all the (p174:20 The Financial Expert)
He found Dr. Pal **hanging too much about** his son’s establishment at Lawley Road (p189: 35, 36 The Financial Expert)

He **studied her face** for a while (p190:23 The Financial Expert)

And **go-betweens and busy-bodies** (p193:6, 7 The Financial Expert)

He was **blinded by pain** (p212:5 The Financial Expert)

Balu **followed her blindly in** (p212: 18, 19 The Financial Expert)

I’m **paying for** it (p213:33 The Financial Expert)

Could not **stomach the thought of food** (p215:18 The Financial Expert)

Saw them **manhandling the old man** (p215:24, 25 The Financial Expert)

**To man-handle** me? (p117:21 The Guide)

It **will wipe us out** (p216:33, 34 The Financial Expert)

**The tide rolled back** in about three or four months (p217:16 The Financial Expert)

With such **time-killers** as you two (p64:1 The Guide)

This gave me **food for thought** (p103:22 The Guide)

The **train of her own thoughts** (p106:17, 18 The Guide)

Came up and sat down on the mat with **an air of settling down to a chat** (p124:32, 33 The Guide)

Wanted to work off **feelings she had bottled up** all these weeks, (p151:11, 12 The Guide)

**How they sounded** (p156:26 The Guide)

**Ivory knick-knacks** (p168:4, 5 The Guide)
The system was breaking down (p178:26 The Guide)

Could I get at it (p180:19 The Guide)

We'll pause for a little breath (p181:2 The Guide)

Stealing up at my back (p187:27 The Guide)

To throw you out (p208:13 The Guide)

The judge has been wool-gathering (p208:21 The Guide)

Watching and staring, lynx-eyed (p211:12 The Guide)

**Conclusion:**

‘throw you out’, ‘kill you’, ‘time-killers’, ‘paying for’ etc are not what they actually mean literally. These usages are not found in dictionaries. But they are widely used phrases. A serious study of such usages may prove fruitful for lexicographers.