COMPARISON OF ENGLISH AND FRENCH RIDDLES

Nishonova Shaxnoza Muhammedjonova
KSPI, Teacher

ANNOTATION

In this work Language riddles have words at their core and demonstrate the many nuances of communication. They take an alternative approach to language and expose words with unexpected meanings. These riddles demonstrate the intricacies involved at all levels of discourse and show how extraordinary words and sentences can be.

Keywords: riddles, enigma, pun, letter, alternative approach, conundra.

INTRODUCTION

Riddles are of two types: enigmas, which are problems generally expressed in metaphorical or allegorical language that require ingenuity and careful thinking for their solution, and conundra, which are questions relying for their effects on punning in either the question or the answer. In one sentence, you can't really fit enough information for the riddle to have just one answer. And when a riddle has multiple answers, what happens is that people guess their answers, and OP says no even though that answer is correct. The longest word in English dictionary is Smiles. It has only 6 letters but there is the distance of a mile between the two S. Smiles can be written as S + mile + S. This is just a riddle but the actual longest word in English dictionary is " " "Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis " which is a lung disease.
Alongside French charades and popular games, riddles in French are a great way to practice the language while having fun, even if you're only beginning to learn. Often based on jokes and puns, they may help you revise and expand your vocabulary, especially when it comes to idioms, slang and asking questions – as many French riddles feature the same few question phrases (Qui suis-je …? / Who am I?). With that, here are seven of our favorite French riddles. And to help, we've broken them down by the unique question phrases they begin with. Enjoy!
1. Fun with letters
The following riddle is perfect if you want to test your knowledge of the French alphabet and spelling:
Je commence la nuit, je finis le matin et j'apparais deux fois dans l'année. Qui suis-je ?   Réponse : la lettre N.
English translation: The night starts with me, the morning ends with me, and I appear twice in the year. Who am I?
Answer: The letter N.
The pun only really works in French, due to the different spellings between the two languages. As you may have figured out, N is the first letter of nuit (night), the last letter of matin (morning) and is doubled in année.
The following riddle is perfect if you want to test your knowledge of the English alphabet and spelling:
Which letter of the alphabet has the most water? Answer: C

2. Playing with letters and words: Like the one above, the following riddle is based on a pun around the French alphabet, but only partly so as it also adds a pun on words in the mix:

Je commence par E, je finis par E et je ne contiens qu'une seule lettre. Qui suis-je ?

Réponse: une enveloppe.

English translation: I start with E, I end with E, and I only contain one letter. Who am I?

Answer: An envelope

Little explanation is needed here, as the pun works in English as well as in French, since the spelling of both words starts and ends with the letter e. And while the words contain more than one letter, the actual object they designate doesn't!

 3. A poetic riddle: French learners will enjoy this poetic riddle, which requires a greater vocabulary range.

Je suis une petite pierre blanche qui tombe dans une mer noire et qui disparaît dans un tourbillon argenté. Qui suis-je ?

Réponse : un morceau de sucre dans un café

English translation: I'm a tiny rock that falls into a black sea and disappears in a silvery whirlpool. Who am I?

Answer: A sugar cube in a coffee

Riddles are poems which describe something (or someone) without naming it. The intrigue of a riddle is trying to guess the object, person, or idea being deceptively described.

In English language poetic riddles:

At the back of every Igloo,

 And the middle of the Moon,

Always running around in Loops you'll find me,

 If you look inside the Room.

What am I? Answer: double oo

 Voiceless it cries,

Wingless flutters,

 Toothless bites,

Mouthless mutters. -J.R.R. Tolkien   Answer: wind

4. Get the hump: we may get the hump with this riddle, as it's based on a pun that doesn't work in English.

Quelle est la différence entre un chameau et un dromadaire qui travaillent ensemble?

English translation: What's the difference between a camel and a dromedary who work together?

Réponse : Le chameau bosse deux fois plus que le dromadaire.

Answer: The camel works twice as much as the dromedary.

The pun is around the word bosse which may have two meanings in English. Une bosse refers to the hump that you can see on the back of a camel or dromedary. But the verb bosser is also a French slang word that means "to work". So it's only natural that, with its two humps, a French camel should work twice as much as a French dromedary that has only one hump.

5. A high-flying pun: By an interesting reversal of situation, the riddles introduced by the question quelle est la différence? may highlight the fact that there's supposedly no difference

between the two mentioned objects, animals or people. Example: Quelle est la différence entre un voleur et une chauve-souris?

Réponse: Aucune, ils dorment tous les deux le jour et volent la nuit.

English translation: What's the difference between a robber and a bat?

Answer: There's none. They both sleep during the day and fly at night.

The joke here is that the verb voler has two meanings in French: "to fly" and "to rob". So while the bat flies at night, the robber is busy… robbing.

The French idiom être le comble can be translated as "to take the cake". From there, the question quel est le comble ? is a type of riddle in which you're asked to uncover a paradoxical fact.

6. A lovely pun: In the following riddle, the pun doesn't come from words with two meanings, but from words that wrongly appear to be connected thematically.

Quel est le comble pour deux abeilles?

Réponse : Partir en lune de miel

English translation: What takes the cake for two bees?

Answer: To go on a honeymoon.

There is of course a connection between bees and honey, but this doesn't really extend to a honeymoon, hence the contradiction.

7. Wolves in sheep's clothing: The paradox may also come from elements that have nothing to do with each other or are natural enemies, as in the following example:

Quel est le comble pour un mouton?

Réponse : Avoir une faim de loup

English translation: What takes the cake for a sheep?

Answer: To have a wolf's hunger

While the literal translation of avoir une faim de loup is indeed "to have a wolf's hunger", the idiom actually means "to be starving". But it would make more sense for a sheep to make a wolf hungry than to be the one feeling hungry.

We hope our list of seven riddles gives you some insight into a few popular types of French riddles and how they're constructed through puns and wordplay. Practicing French with tools like riddles can help you to revise and grow your vocabulary and understanding of French humor and culture.

In French language: Qu'est-ce qui commence par E, qui finit par E et qui ne contient qu'une seule lettre ?

In english translation: What [word] starts with E, ends with E, and yet has only one letter in it?

Réponse： Une enveloppe !

Explanation of the French riddle

An envelope! [Pun on the word "lettre"].

French Pun: Un voleur est au vingtième étage d'un immeuble. Tout à coup son pied glisse et il tombe en bas.

Les policiers disent : "Ce fut son dernier vol".

A thief is on the twentieth floor of a building. Suddenly his foot slips and he falls down. The police say: "This was his last flight

Explanation of the French pun

"vol" means both "flight" and "theft, robbery"".

The model essentially describes the four steps people take to solve a puzzle: Identify a key feature in a pattern; Figure out where that feature appears in the sequence; Come up with a rule for manipulating the feature; Check whether the rule holds true for the entire pattern.

In older texts, riddle-contests frequently provide the frame stories whereby riddles have been preserved for posterity. Such contests are a subset of wisdom contests more generally. They tend to fall into two groups: testing the wisdom of a king or other aristocrat; and testing the suitability of a suitor. Correspondingly, the Aarne–Thompson classification systems catalogue two main folktale-types including riddle-contests: AT 927, Outriddling the Judge, and AT 851, The Princess Who Can Not Solve the Riddle.

Defining riddles precisely is hard and has attracted a fair amount of scholarly debate. The first major modern attempt to define the riddle in modern Western scholarship was by Robert Petsch in 1899, with another seminal contribution, inspired by structuralism, by Robert A. Georges and Alan Dundes in 1963. Georges and Dundes suggested that "a riddle is a traditional verbal expression which contains one or more descriptive elements, a pair of which may be in opposition; the referent of the elements is to be guessed". There are many possible sub-sets of the riddle, including charades, droodles, and some jokes.

In some traditions and contexts, riddles may overlap with proverbs. For example, the Russian phrase "Nothing hurts it, but it groans all the time" can be deployed as a proverb (when its referent is a hypochondriac) or as a riddle (when its referent is a pig).

Much academic research on riddles has focused on collecting, cataloguing, defining, and typologising riddles. Key work on cataloguing and typologising riddles was published by Antti Aarne in 1918–20, and by Archer Taylor. In the case of ancient riddles recorded without solutions, considerable scholarly energy also goes into proposing and debating solutions. Whereas previously researchers had tended to take riddles out of their social performance contexts, the rise of anthropology in the post-War period encouraged more researchers to study the social role of riddles and riddling. However, wide-ranging studies of riddles have tended to be limited to Western countries, with Asian and African riddles being relatively neglected.

Riddles have also attracted linguists, often studying riddles from the point of view of semiotics; meanwhile, the twenty-first century has seen the rise of extensive work on medieval European riddles from the point of view of eco-criticism, exploring how riddles can inform us about people's conceptualisation and exploration of their environment

REFERENCES

1. Taylor, Archer, English Riddles from Oral Tradition (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1951).
2. Elli Köngäs Maranda, "Riddles and Riddling: An Introduction", The Journal of American Folklore, 89 (1976), 127–37 (p. 131); doi:10.2307/539686; JSTOR 539686; cf. Hannah Burrows, "Wit and Wisdom: The Worldview of the Old Norse-Icelandic Riddles and their Relationship to Eddic Poetry", in Eddic, Skaldic, and Beyond: Poetic Variety in Medieval Iceland and Norway, ed. by Martin Chase (New York: Fordham University Press, 2014), pp. 114–35 (p. 116).

3. "Riddle, n. 1", Oxford English Dictionary Online, 3rd edn (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).

4. Petsch, Robert. "Neue Beitrëge zur Kenntnis des Volksrätsels", Palaestra, 4 (1899).

5. Jump up to:a b Georges, Robert A.; Dundes, Alan. "Towards a Structural Definition of the Riddle", Journal of American Folklore, 76(300) (1963), 111–18 doi:10.2307/538610, JSTOR 538610. Reprinted in Alan Dundes, Analytic Essays in Folklore (The Hague: Mouton, 1975), pp. 95–102.

6. Rakhimovna, Otaboyeva Mazmuna. "Phenomenon of graduonymy in speech patterns." ACADEMICIA: AN INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH JOURNAL 11.1 (2021): 786-789.

7. Отабоева, Мазмуна. "The study of grad on my in speech patterns and the principles of forming graduonymic rows." Современные тенденции инновационного развития науки и образования в глобальном мире 1.2 (2022): 175-180.

8. Tolibovna, Safarova Zilola. "The image of orphan heroes in romans of formation (bildungsromans)." ACADEMICIA: An International Multidisciplinary Research Journal 12.1 (2022): 525-529.