

The word Redensarten here is an interesting one. On the one hand, it's neutral and means idioms, phrases or expressions, e.g. Es gibt eine Vielzahl von eindrucksvollen Redenarten in der deutschen Sprache (There are numerous impressive idioms in the German language), on the other hand it has a more or less derogatory, or better to say, satirical sense meaning platitudes, empty and hollow words, e.g. Vergiß all das, was er gesagt hat, das waren reine Redensarten! (Forget all that he's said, those were sheer platitudes!). The context decides.