FUNCTIONAL AND SEMANTICAL FEATURES OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Annotation: *In this article discusses about functional and semantical features of phraseological units in the English language*

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In contemporary linguistics, phraseology is one of the most fascinating research topics. Many studies have been conducted to explore phraseology, particularly idiomaticity. The linguistic nature of idioms is now well understood. Despite this, several features of idiomaticity have yet to be thoroughly researched. One of these is researching the terms and their meanings. Lexicology is the branch of linguistics that studies the vocabulary of a language and the qualities of words. The word's exterior structure, or meaning, is now often referred to as its semantic structure. This is undoubtedly the word's major feature. Semantics is a subfield of lexicology that analyzes the meaning of words. A different approach structural feature of the word is its a sense of unity The word possesses both eternal oneness, which is sometimes correctly read as indivisibility. A word is a speech unit used in human communication that represents a group of sounds, has grammatical meaning, and is distinguished by formal and semantic unity.

A word's strength lies in its unity, both in sound and meaning. However, phraseological units, such as idioms, present a different kind of unity. They are functionally and semantically inseparable, meaning their components cannot be replaced or rearranged without altering their meaning. This fixed nature, where the meaning transcends the sum of its parts, is what makes idioms so intriguing. The term word denotes the basic unit of a given language resulting from the association of a particular meaning with a particular group of sounds capable of a particular grammatical employment. A word therefore is simultaneously semantic, grammatical, and phonological unit. So, functionally and semantically inseparable units are usually called phraseological units. The lexical component in phraseological units are stable and they are non -motivated its meaning cannot be deduced from the meaning of its components allow their lexical components to be changed or substituted. In phraseological units the individual components do not seem to possess any lexical meaning outside the word group. In English and American linguistics the situation is very different. No special branch of study exists and the term "phraseology" is a stylistic one, meaning "mode of expression", peculiarities of diction, choice and arrangement of words and phrases characteristic of some author or some literary work.[10] Phraseological units or idioms are characterized by a double sense: the current meaning of constituent words build up a certain picture, but the actual meaning of the whole unit has little or nothing to do with that picture in itself creating an entirely new image. Idioms are an established and basic aspect of standard spoken and

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[10] Чиненова Л.А. Английская фразеология в языке и речи. Москва, 1986, стр. 108

written English that, when employed effectively, covers and enriches the language. Idiomatic usage refers to employing words and phrases in commonly used forms, regardless of whether they appear to be the only logical ones. English - speaking people say "the lesser (not less) of two evils", a ten -foot (not feet) pole, and he is (not has) ten years old. We can say that a person eats "like a pig" to mean greedily, or "like a bird" to mean not very much, but we say that "someone has an eagle eye" to mean that he or she has excellent vision. Every utterance is a patterned, rhythmic and segmented sequence of signals. On the lexical level these signals building up the utterance are not exclusively words. Alongside with separate words speakers use larger blocks consisting of extremely variegated structurally. However, the existing terms, e.g. set phrases, idioms, word-equivalents, reflect to a certain extent the main debatable issues of phraseology which center on the divergent views concerning the nature and essential features as distinguished from the so-called free word-groups.[11]

Some phraseological unities indicate another feature of the type, namely the possibility of synonymic substitution, which is limited and does not change the overall meaning. Others are easily translated, even internationally. The third category, idioms, differs from phrasemes in that they cannot be divided into determining context and components with phraseologically bound meaning. The new meaning, the meaning of the idiom, is formed by the unit as a whole, while each constituent retains its previous significance.

There are different types of idioms from the viewpoint of the isolation of the components. Some of them contain obsolete elements not occurring elsewhere, or elements in an obsolete meaning. These idioms are never homonymous to a free phrase, and so they are completely independent of distribution: to skate on thin ice 'to take risks', to cudgel one's brains 'to make great mental efforts'. The very presence of obsolete elements 'nick' and 'cudgel' signals that the combinations are idiomatic. Other idioms can correlate with homonymous free. On the other hand the difference between phrasemes and idioms being based on semantic relationships, the approach is no less subjective than classifying them according to motivation. The classification is unable to give us the means of a consistent grouping of material. It seems altogether questionable whether it may be possible to give an objective classification without accepting the structural approach. According to the points of some linguists we define phraseological units as units of fixed context. Fixed context is defined as a context characterized by a specific and unchanging sequence of definite lexical components, and a peculiar semantic relationship between them. Units of fixed context are subdivided into phrasemes and idioms. A phraseme, also called a set expression, set phrase, idiomatic phrase, multiword expression, or idiom, is a multi-word or multi-morphemic utterance at least one of whose components is selectionally constrained or restricted by linguistic convention such that it is not freely chosen.

Phrases are usually binary: one component has a phraseologically defined meaning, while the other acts as the context (little talk, small change). In idioms, the entire creates

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[11] A.V.Koonin's Англо- русский фразеологический словарь.М, 1967

the new meaning, despite each element's previous meaning may be reduced or even completely lost: just in time 'at the exact moment'. Idioms may be motivated or demotivated. A motivated idiom is homonymous to a free phrase, but this phrase is used figuratively: take the bull by the horns 'to face dangers without fear'. Both phrasemes and idioms may be changeable or steady. That is what is meant when phrasemes and idioms to be characterised by semantic unity. In the traditional approach, such units have been defined as word-groups conveying a single concept (whereas in free word-groups each meaningful component stands for a separate concept).

Some phrasemes are stylistically neutral and in this respect are very much like the so-called "usual phrases". However, the difference between a "usual phrase" and "a phraseme" remains even when the latter is stylistically neutral. It is a contextual difference. Here is an example of a neutral phraseme: "grey hair" – old person. It is not mainly a matter of colour: the main thing is that it is an old, not a young man. At the same time it is a matter of people's appearance but appearance characterizing old man. Below an attempt is made to distinguish neutral and stylistically colored phraseological units, by the stylistic device which motivates their meaning. As a starting point, we have taken the following approach: in many cases the meaning of its components. So it follows that some stylistic device lies at the basis of its meanings we attempted to define the basic stylistic devices, which motivate the existing meaning of the phraseological unit, and to classify them accordingly phrasemes and idioms were treated separately. It turned out that the most frequent stylistic devices motivating the meaning of the whole are: metonymy, epithet, metaphor, simile and oxymoron in phrasemes; and metaphor, metonymy, epithet, oxymoron in idioms.

There are many scholars who regard idioms as the essence of phraseology and the major focus of interest in phraseology research. The structural criterion also brings forth pronounced distinctive features characterising phraseological units and contrasting them to free word-groups. Structural invariability is an essential feature of phraseological units, though, as we shall see, some of them possess it to a lesser degree than others. Structural invariability of phraseological units finds expression in a number of restrictions. As a rule, no word can be substituted for any meaningful component of a phraseological unit without destroying its sense. To carry coals to Manchester makes as little sense as В Харьков со своим самоваром.The idiom to give somebody the cold shoulder means "to treat somebody coldly, to ignore or cut him", but a warm shoulder or a cold elbow make no sense at all. The meaning of a bee in somebody's bonnet was explained above, but a bee in his hat or cap would sound a silly error in choice of words, one of those absurd slips that people are apt to make when speaking a foreign language.

Thus, the patterns on which phraseological units are produced reflect the relationship between the degree of semantic motivation and stability and the variety of their structural patterns. Rhyme, synonymy, parallel construction, and other features frequently contribute to its stability. Phrasemes are likely to have as many patterns as idioms, although many phrasemes are formed on common, unique patterns, whereas idioms are much more unique in their construction. Furthermore, the contextual approach to the analysis of phraseological units allows us to distinguish between phrasemes and idioms, which offer

varying degrees of stability and semantic motivation of the whole based on the meaning of the components.

THE LIST OF USED LITERATURE:

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