



CHALLENGES IN THE TERMINOLOGIZATION OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN LINGUISTIC STUDIES

Sheraliyeva Shirin Abdisalomovna

Doctor of Philosophy in Philological Sciences (PhD), Assoc. Prof. (Int.) Uzbekistan State World
Languages University E-mail: shirin.3009@mail.ru ORCID: 0009-0009-1210-9189

Annotation: *The main goal of this research is to clarify the problems of terminologization of phraseological units in linguistics. A number of scientific works have been researched on this topic. The views of different scientists on this concept are given as an example. The study of the terminologization problem of phraseological units in linguistics is relevant and important in the modern world, because phraseological units play an important role in linguistics and are an integral part of any language. The task of our research was to clarify the phenomenon of terminologization in phraseology, in particular, in terminological phraseologisms. The following linguistic and interdisciplinary research methods were used to achieve the goal and fulfill the tasks set in this research work: the method of linguistic description; method of oppositions; methods of communicative linguistics, in particular, the transformational method; semantic method.*

Key words: *phrase, phraseology, phraseological units, term, terminology, terminologization, structure, semantics, scientific text, discourse.*

INTRODUCTION

In the 1960s, the rapid expansion of scientific knowledge led to the emergence of numerous new terms in the language. This phenomenon drew the attention of many linguists and researchers, as terminology began to be recognized as a distinct, rapidly developing lexical system – a structured component of the national vocabulary governed by specific patterns [1: 37-38].

During the 1970s and 1980s, the study of terminology in global linguistics was advanced by scholars such as V. M. Leychik, K.Ya. Averbukh, I.N. Volkova, A.S. Gerd, A.I. Moiseev, E.F. Skorokhod'ko, and others. Their research focused on several key areas: (1) the linguistic description and systematic organization of terms; (2) automated approaches to terminological analysis; (3) analysis of terms for the creation of languages in modern information systems; and (4) the standardization of scientific and technical terminology. The concept of the term continues to unify these diverse areas of study to this day.

The influence of terminology on the formation of phraseological units has also been extensively explored by scholars such as F.P. Filin, F.P. Sorokoletov, V.G. Gak, and Yu.S. Sorokin. For instance, F.P. Filin emphasized that “the widely used literary language serves as a primary source for vocabulary expansion” [7: 183], highlighting the interplay between standard language and specialized terminological development.

METHODS

In order to achieve the goal set in this research work and fulfill the set of tasks, based on the problem of terminologization of phraseological units in contemporary linguistics, a multi-faceted interdisciplinary approach was used to study and describe these units, and



the following linguistic and interdisciplinary research methods were used: linguistic description method (terminology in the description and analysis of phraseological units as an object of terminologization); the method of oppositions (terminologization of phraseological units); methods of communicative linguistics, in particular, the transformational method (in the analysis of structural or semantic changes of terminologization of phraseological units depending on the situation); semantic method (in determining the meaning of phraseological units).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Phraseological units are recognized as essential components of language, playing a significant role in communication by enriching speech and facilitating the expression of specific semantic content. E.N. Dimitrieva notes that phraseological units can undergo transformation processes, including terminologization and reterminologization. According to Dimitrieva, “Terminologization is the process by which phraseological units acquire a specialized terminological meaning within a particular field of knowledge or activity” [2]. Indeed, language is in a constant state of development and evolution, and phraseological units change in terms of usage, extension, and interpretation. Terminologization represents one of the key processes in this dynamic.

N.N. Melex observes that “the process of a term’s transition into the general vocabulary is characterized by phonetic, semantic, morphological, graphic, syntactic, pragmatic, and psycholinguistic features, alongside changes in the meaning of the terminological unit” [5: 4-5].

According to A.D. Khayutin, linguistic terms “can be defined as words associated with a particular object of knowledge – whether conceptual or material – which subsequently enter into systematic relations with other similar words, collectively forming a specialized terminological system” [8: 16].

The terminological system is introduced into the language as a semiotic phenomenon, distinct from the natural language system, and composed of private, isolated linguistic signs. A term is not considered part of the common language until its meaning becomes widely recognized. When a term’s meaning extends beyond the boundaries of its specialized conceptual system, it may enter the general language vocabulary; however, it continues to retain its status as a term within the terminological system.

A.Yu. Fetisov defined terminologization as “the process of gradual change of the state of stability/instability, forming the basis of a metaphorical concept” [6: 8]. This definition was approved by E.A. Nikulina in her doctoral dissertation, explaining that “the terminologization of phraseological units is such a complex process that the phraseological unit loses its features such as imagery, emotionality, evaluativeness under the influence of the special text in which it is used, and at the same time forms its own terminological meaning” [4].

“Terminologization of phraseological units is the process of introduction and use of phraseological units in the field of certain knowledge or professional activity. As part of terminology, phraseological units have a special meaning and become part of the specific terminology of a certain field. Terminology of phraseological units allows us to create a



common language and ensure more clear and effective communication within the professional community” [3].

Based on the above definitions, we can say that the terminologization of phraseological units is the process of acquiring a specific meaning of phraseological units related to the scope of a certain field of knowledge or activity. As a result of such a phenomenon, phraseological units are included in the vocabulary of a special language used in scientific, technical or professional fields.

Phraseological units can serve not only for the terminological system of business, economic, medical, military or legal terms, but also for the emergence of scientific terminological units.

For example, the English phraseological unit *throw in the towel* conveys the following meaning:

– Russian: *сдаться; признать поражение* (to give up; to admit defeat).

Sports term: literally throwing a towel into the boxing ring to stop the fight.

When we analyzed this phraseological unit, it was found that it represents both a phraseological unit and a sports term with the general meaning of concession or defeat, because giving up in a competition or struggle signifies failure. The idiom has also expanded metaphorically to everyday contexts, where it retains the core meaning of surrender.

Another example is the English phraseological unit *on the ropes*, which expresses the following meaning:

– Russian: *быть в трудном положении; на грани поражения* (to be in a difficult situation; on the verge of defeat).

Sports term: a boxer pressed against the ropes while struggling to defend themselves. Analysis shows that the common meaning for both the phraseological unit and the sports term is vulnerability or critical danger, because being “on the ropes” represents a position in which defeat is imminent. The idiom has also entered general usage to describe any situation where one is under extreme pressure or threat.

CONCLUSION

As discussed, phraseological units play a significant role in language, enriching its expressive potential and facilitating accurate and emotionally nuanced communication. The terminologization of phraseological units represents a crucial process through which language adapts to the evolving needs of society and professional activity. This process contributes to the formation of a shared professional vocabulary and promotes more effective communication within specialized communities. Consequently, the theoretical study of terminologization is a vital task for linguists and experts across various fields.

In summary, the terminologization of phraseological units is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that influences both language development and broader social processes. It reflects sociolinguistic and linguistic changes and has practical applications across diverse areas of human activity. A thorough understanding and analysis of this process provides deeper insight into language dynamics and its role in shaping communication and societal interaction.



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