



PROCEDIA

of Philosophical and Pedagogical Sciences

Vol. 3 | Issue 3 | pp. 35-39 | Available online @ <https://procedia.online/index.php/philosophy>



Phraseology As A Linguistic Discipline

Munira Avazova

Qarshi davlat universiteti magistranti

E-mail: muniraavazova19@gmail.com

+998973167706

QarDU dotsenti Shaxlo Xalilova taqrizi asosida

Abstract : Uzbek phraseology has a special significance as an object of linguistic research with its unique vocabulary structure and charm.

Of particular note is the ability to express multiple meanings using a single word or phrase. The study of the essence of language provides a deeper understanding of the spiritual heritage, history, national values, cultural riches of each nation. In this regard, it is important to study the properties of stable compounds in the language, their linguocultural analysis. This article discusses the specifics of national culture in the semantics of phraseological units.

Keywords: translation of phraseological units, stylistic function, methodological coloring, equivalent application.

Citation: Urozov Shahobiddin Ziyadullayevich, Amir Timur's Charismatic Rational Leadership. *Procedia of Philosophical and Pedagogical Sciences* 2024, 3(3),35-39.

Received: 29 May 2024

Revised: 29 May 2024

Accepted: 6 June 2024

Published: 24 July 2024



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Introduction

The English language is the main language among the world's language systems and it is one of the dominant international languages all over the world. It is the main reason that nowadays plenty of popular music's lyrics, advertisements, video games or the computer programs are in English. Phraseology takes one third part of colloquial speech and every English learner should pay attention to this field properly. Consequently, using any phraseological unit without knowing the real meaning of it may lead to misunderstanding among the speakers. Sometimes we may see that the whole meaning of idiom is absolutely different from the individual meaning of its components, e.g. "to blow one's top", means "to be angry at something or someone", or "behind the eight ball" means "to be in trouble". These examples show that some idioms can not be translated by word for word. Phraseology is the branch of linguistics and mainly studies phraseological units in it. Phraseology as an independent branch of linguistics appeared in 1940s.

Phraseology is a section of linguistics that studies the phraseological composition of language in its present state and historical development.

Phraseological wealth of language is studied and reflected in the works of both Russian and European linguists. For the first time, phraseology was mentioned in the works of the Swiss linguist of French origin Charles Bally (1865-1947). In his book "Essay on Stylistics" he distinguished four groups of word combinations [34, 29] Thus, Charles Bally distinguished "combinations of words according to the degree of their stability: 1) combinations in which there are freedom of grouping of components, and 2) combinations that do not have such freedom" [25, 31]. Although, Charles Bally did not give a detailed description of these groups and only outlined them schematically, his ideas laid the foundation for the selection of phraseological connections and the development of the equivalence theory of the phraseological unit. His work has been reviewed by many other researchers, such as V.V. Vinogradov, R.A. Budagov, N.N. Amosova, A.V. Koonin and others. Soviet linguist E.D.

Polivanov was the first person who worked on the matter “phraseology as a linguistic discipline” [39, 67]. He wrote in his work on phraseology: “And now there is a need for a special department that would be commensurable with the syntax, but at the same time includes in itself not the general types, but the individual meanings of the data of individual (lexical) meanings of individual words [40, 45]. The next scientist, who investigated the same issue, was B.A. Larin. He argued that “this branch of linguistics is still at the stage of registration as a fullfledged science, but he pointed out that, it is impossible to deny the necessity of singling out such a discipline” [16, 112].

Professor B.A. Larin under the subject of phraseology demonstrated

“indissoluble, stable combinations, that is, close unity of several words, expressing a holistic view” [37, 22]. They are decomposable only etymologically, that is, outside the system of the modern Russian language, historically.

8 In his essay “Essays on Phraseology” B.A. Larin examines the types of

phraseological combinations proposed by Sh. Bally and V.V. Vinogradov, and notes that “an essential shortcoming of the classifications of these scholars is the limitation of the material of a modern and almost exclusive literary language” [37, 112]. According to the scientist, the basis for the classification of phraseological units should be the historical principle of the formation of idioms, the principle of gradual accumulation of idiomatic development from fluid phrases to indecomposable. Professor Larin offers “a three-member classification, which reflects the main stages of the history of the phrase - from free to indecomposable. First, the name of reality is a direct expression of the perception of some phenomenon of reality, then a figurative expression of generalizing thought. Finally, a conditional symbol, in which imagery, semantic duality is obscured. The further the internal external deformation or the rearrangement of the primary expression has come, the less the imagery, the more abstract its meaning” [37, 123].

Thus, B.A. Larin proposed a simpler three-term scheme [37, 147]:

1. common word combinations (free variables);
2. stable metaphorical word combinations (phraseological unity, stereotyped speech);
3. idioms (phraseological interconnections, indecomposable utterances).

V.N. Teliya distinguishes the following structural types of phraseological

turns [44, 46]: 1. phraseological turns, one of whose members, is the word in its free use, and the other is the word in its specific form of existence. Historically, such components arose, as a rule, “budding off” from a multi-valued word or preserving the track of the former, now deceased, use of the word. For example: to fall into despair, fraught with consequences, a sensitive issue;

2. phraseological turns, completely lost the semantic links of their components with the elements of the lexical system of language and become distinctive “separately” words. For example: pruning wings, etc. Genetically, these turns also date back to variable combinations of words.

The methodology of the research: Actually, as a linguistic term “phraseology” has different meanings in PostSoviet countries, Great Britain, and the United States. Therefore, attaching a unique definition to the phraseology was the main problem at those times. So, different investigations assigned different definitions to it. But generally, phraseology is a branch of the linguistic science which studies stable combinations of words that is characterized by a constant lexical composition, grammatical structure with a figurative meaning. This meaning is reproduced in speech in accordance with historically established norms of use. Phraseological unit is a fixed word-group that cannot be freely made up in speech but is used as a ready made unit, which doesnot allow of any variability of its lexical components of grammatical structure. Thus, “phraseological units can be considered stable verbal complexes of different structural types with a single cohesion of components, the significance of which arises as a result of complete or partial semantic transformation of the component composition” [47, 56]. 10 As an independent linguistic discipline, phraseology has arisen recently. A

comprehensive study of the phraseological foundation of various languages is one of the main tasks of phraseology as a linguistic science. This science is engaged in the study of such aspects as the stability of phraseological units , the consistency of

phraseology, the semantic structure of phraseological units, their origin and basic

functions. Phraseology deals with the development of methods for studying

phraseological units, the principles of their selection, classification of phraseology

descriptions of dictionaries. This science deals with study of primary, initial forms of meanings of phraseological units, definition of their sources. Phraseological units are highly informative units of language; therefore, they can not be considered as “decorations” although in some cases, for example in interpretation they can be used as “decorations”, but it is considered obsolete. Phraseologisms are one of the language universals, since phraseological units are met in every language. Phraseology characterizes all aspects of a person’s life, his attitude towards work, for example “Golden hands” [38, 31](positive meaning that characterizes a hard working person), or “To beat the bucket” [38, 23] (is used to imply somebody’s death). Sometimes phraseological units show an attitude towards other people for example “A bosom friend” [38, 11], a disservice, personal advantage and disadvantage, for example “a black sheep” [38, 13], “a snake in the grass” [17, 11], or to show the condition of the person, for

example "to make someone blush" [17, 45]. Consequently, phraseologisms are used in everyday speech, literature, poems, works of art, journalism. They give expressiveness to the utterance, they serve as a means of creating imagery and they make our speech brighter, more emotional, more imaginative.

In modern English Phraseology is one of disputable items, and it seems that this linguistic discipline is not going to lose its actuality. The results of researches that have been done on phraseology show that this problem has not been solved yet.

Consequently, there are several terms that are used in phraseology. Let's study them individually: idioms, set expressions, set phrases, proverbs.

11 There were plenty of scholars that studied these terms differently and in many cases they express the same thought. In order to look at different aspects of phraseology we should subdivide more stressed words. These words are semantically full (undivided)" [49, 34]. According to Arnold's viewpoint, "in set phrase the main feature of variability is a constancy of the lexical components and grammatical structure of word combinations" [9, 45]. To Smirnitski's opinion, "word equivalent" highlights semantic and functional inalienability of concrete word groups their heaviness to the function in speech as single words" [42, 56].

Generally, in linguistics two types of meaning are accepted: 1) denotational and 2) connotational meaning. "Denotational meaning refers to the one unique meaning moreover, one inseparable unit that belongs to the whole phrase. For example, "apple sauce" means "nonsense". However, connotational meaning belongs to the whole word-group, e.g. "old boy" which means "friend".

In Koonin's opinion, "a fixed word- group is described as a completely or partially carried meaning". In order to differentiate free word groups from phraseological units we should see two criteria: 1) semantic criteria, and 2) structural criteria" [36, 34]. Firstly, in the semantic criteria each meaningful part of free word- groups indicates an individual concept, e.g. "a red flower", "a pretty woman" etc [17, 34]. Secondly, phraseological units transmit only the concept.

Phraseological units are described by various degrees of semantic change: 1) it is possible that semantic change influences the whole word-group that is directed as "complete transferred meaning", e.g. "to skate on thin ice" means "to take risks", "to have one's heart in one's boots" means "to be anxious about something" [38, 11]; 2) it is again possible that semantic change affects only one component of a wordgroup, that is named "partially transferred meaning" For example "to fall in love" means "to love someone" or, "to have a small talk" means "to have an useless talk" [38, 12].

The analyses and results: There is such a type of idioms that describes human appearance that are mainly based on irony or jokes. However, sometimes this kind of idioms may be a little bit unpleasant and heartbreaking. Consequently, idioms that describe human may be separated into two groups, as idioms with positive qualities, and idioms with negative qualities. For instance, "His fingers are all thumbs" (means "he is clumsy") or "she is as good as a pie" (means "she is kind and friendly too much") [13, 45]. Some of this kind of idioms may be referred to the social norms that people belong to, e.g., "all brawn and no brain" (which means "the person whose physical strength is enough but mentally not so much intelligent") [13, 56]. The phraseological units which describe human appearance may be split into below mentioned subgroups as well depending on the object they depict:

1) Idioms related to facial features, as someone may be born very attractive or vice versa ugly. By means of these idioms speaker or writer may transmit the positive or negative thoughts about someone e.g. "face like bulldog chewing a wasp" [17, 78]. This idiom is rather negative one, because it refers to the people who are ugly because you consider they have a screwed-up ugly mimicry. Or the idiom that has the same as the first one – "face only a mother could love" [18, 90] which means that someone is unattractive. Mainly this phrase is used in humorous way.

2) To continue the topic about idioms related to human appearance, we may add expressions about eyes. As one's eyes may be in various shape or express different thoughts, e.g. "pie eyed" means "an absolutely drunk person" [17, 73]. Another example to the idioms from this range is "saucer eyes" which means "to open eyes largely because of being surprised at something" [17, 45].

3) Next type of facial idioms is connected with a nose, as it may be big, small, hooked and etc. As "nose to light candles at" means "a red nose" (for example, after playing snowball, or because of being in a hot condition for a long time) [13, 56]. 4) Talking about the idioms related to the human appearance, we may not

forget about hair, as someone may have straight hair or curved one, or sometimes one may lose his hair. All these details help to make new idioms about hair. There are plenty of idioms in Modern English related to hair, e.g. "to be thin on the top" (a person who is going to be bald) or "hell of hair" this expression is used to describe a person who owns untidy hair [13, 56].

5) The next subdivision is about the body shape. According to someone's

being fat or thin, e.g. "a beer belly" "pot belly" which both mean "to be fat" or "turkey neck" [18, 34].

6) The 6th division is devoted to the idioms connected with height. For instance, "mushroom growth" (growing very fast) [17, 34]. 15

7) Idioms about "age"- as someone may be old and young, e.g. "old head on young shoulders" this idiom is utilized for the child or young person that considers and shows himself as an older and more experienced person. Another example for this type of idioms is "to be too long in the tooth" (refers to the people who is old for doing something) [13, 67].

8) Now let's skip to the type of idioms connected with human clothes or tidiness. For instance, someone may dress untidy or fashionable. For example "dressed up to the nines" (putting on very fashionable, and smart clothes), or "mutton dressed as lamb" (this idiom refers to the women in middle age, who wants to seem younger by wearing the clothes designed for younger people) [13, 77].

9) Now let's see the subdivision related to the state of health. For example, "like death warmed up" (the meaning is rather negative, refers to the people who look very sick or tired). Opposed to the first example, there is an expression, such as "to be hale and hearty" [17, 34] which refers to the people, specially to the oldones whohas a perfect health.

10) The idioms which express a similarity or differences, e.g. "much of a muchness" [17, 11] (absolutely similar or nearly alike), or "spitting image" (to look like exactly each other as twins).

1.2. Equivalence of phraseology to a word. Various views about the difference between a word and phraseological unit.

The development of phraseology as a linguistic science lately has confronted researchers with a very complex problem - the relationship of the phraseological unit with a word. In modern linguistics there are different points of view regarding the very formulation of this question. Some consider the phraseological unit as equivalent words, others indicate their correlation with the word, the replacement of the theory of equivalence in the theory of correlation of phraseological combination with the word.

Conclusion and recomandations:These combinations of words are usually used in a fixed form and are reproduced in speech by ready blocks. Suchcombinations are stable, but refer to a common, not a phraseological foundation of the vocabulary. They retain theirvalue, sometimes changing only their function as, for example in the stable expression "Good morning" the nominative function (description of time of day) is replaced by a contact (greeting).

Despite, the fact that phraseological units consist of combination of words, linguists who investigate them do not take them as components of syntax, but as a component of lexicography. There are several reasons for it. Firstly, in phraseological 19 unit any of the components may be replaced. For example, the adjective "Red" may be used in combination with a huge number of nouns, preserving its color meaning.

In phraseological combination, the connection between the components is rigid and the replacement of any of them is impossible without destroying the meaning of the whole unit. Formally, corresponding to the language model, phraseological units are not modeled, that is why, they represent a single use of the language model for the ransmission in a permanent context of any semantic structure.

Another reason why phraseological units are considered as a component of lexicography is that it has common features with the word. Like the word, phraseological units are not created in the process of speech, but are produced as a ready made units. This sign indicates that phraseological units,like the word have a single lexical meaning. The ability to relate to any part of speech by itself and act as a single component for the entire combination of the sentence signals the presence of phraseological units of grammatical meaning.

English language is very rich in idiomatic expressions, that are constantly found in literature ,in newspaper, in films in radio and television broadcasts, as well as in everyday communication among the speakers. Examples of phraseological units can be given indefinitely. It seems that their stock will not be exhausted, as the

resources of different people with their most interesting traditions are inexhaustible and rich. The great number of phraseological units refer to the theme "love". In the "English-Russian" phraseological dictionary A.V.Koonin cites 29 phraseological units with the word "love". The majority of those units state the process of falling into love, as : " to be in love" , ' calf love", "to fall in love" . In many cases, the degree of one's love is indicated, e.g. "be fathoms deep in love "(means to love someone so deeply" [34, 45]. A number of English phraseological units carry a reproach , a negative attitude towards love, e.g. "as much love a between the old cow and the

haystack”(means love like a wolf a sheep), “to be out of love” (means not to be in love),cupboard love(self-serving love, love with reckoning) or “fall out of love “(means to stop love someone) “unrequired love”(not mutuallove),“love as the devil 20 love sholy water” (love someone so deeply as a dog) [34, 56]. The latter idiom emphasizes the ironic attitude to love.

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