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## POLYSEMY IN COMPARATIVE PHRASEOLOGY (BY THE MATERIAL OF THE ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES)

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### Annotation

The article contains an analysis of the scientific literature on the problem of studying the polysemy of comparative phraseological units, a definition of polysemantic CPUs is proposed, complete and incomplete identities are differentiated among interlingual correspondences of CPUs.

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The paper deals with review of linguistic literature on the problem of polysemy in comparative phraseological units, suggests a definition of polysemantic comparative phraseological units, and specializes full and partial identities among interlingual correspondences of units under study.

The phraseological fund of any language is, both from a linguistic and methodological point of view, a layer of the language, constituting an alternative to metaphor in terms of the nature of the basis of semantic transfer, comparative phraseological units (CPU) [1]. Analyzing the scientific literature, we note that the first cautious steps in the study of comparative phraseology were made in the late 50s early 60s of the last century (Kiselyova 1956, Shirokova 1960, Chernysheva 1963), when the term comparative phraseological units itself did not yet have an unambiguous interpretations. The dissertation research of N.M. Sidyakova, who offers the following definition of the object of study: "... the term comparative phraseological units (CPU) refers to phraseological units based on comparison and correlated with adjectives, adverbs and modal words." In the 70s and 80s, the ideas of comparative phraseology continued to develop, mainly on the material of the German language (Mikhailov 1971, Nevedomskaya 1973, Iskanderova 1982). The first works appeared on the problems of comparative phraseology in Germanic languages (Glazyrin 1972), in German and Ukrainian languages (Munitsa 1975). The eighties and nineties are characterized by an intensive study of the comparative phraseology of the Slavic languages (Kabanova 1986, Nikolaeva 1989, Kraevsky 1992, Kuznetsova 1995, etc.). A new wave of activity in the study of comparative phraseology has been observed recently. The problems of variance of comparative phraseological units, the problems of interpretation of their internal form and hyper-hyponymic connections within CFU, the problems of synonymy of CFU and their translation are studied. The characteristic features of the semantic transformation of the component composition of the English CFU are given. There are works related to the comparative analysis of the CFU of the languages of the Slavic group, English and Russian, as well as studies that offer a typological interpretation of comparative phraseological units in terms of universals, in terms of isomorphism and allomorphism and situational modeling on the material of modern Germanic

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languages. Of the 350 dissertations in the field of phraseology over the past twenty years, there are not even a dozen works devoted to the study of paradigmatic relations in the system of phraseology. The issues of synonymy of verbal phraseological units of the English language are studied (Bogoyavlenskaya 1994), the synonymy of Russian phraseological units is studied in comparison with Chinese ones (Sun 1998), attempts are made to differentiate variance and synonymy in Ukrainian phraseology (Nerovnya 1990), antonymic-synonymous paradigms in 153 phraseology of the Russian language are analyzed (Volkotrub 1991), the problems of phraseological homonymy in French (Strogaya 1988) and Russian (Pavlova 1996) are considered, a comparative analysis of phraseological antonyms in English and Tatar is carried out (Mardanova 1998). The only fundamental work devoted to the problem of polysemy in phraseology is L.V. Kholkhoeva, who studies the development of polysemy of verb phraseological units in the language of the New English period.

Ignorance of phraseology impoverishes speech, makes it inexpressive, makes communication difficult, and prevents the correct understanding of fiction and special literature [2].

Studies show that "phraseological polysemy is formed by sequential and parallel rethinking, which occurs on the basis of metaphorical and metonymic transfer" [3]. As for the issues of polysemy in comparative phraseology, they have not been studied so far. In traditional linguistics, comparative phraseological units are usually consideredmonosemantic linguistic signs, i.e. signs that have the same meaning [4]. At the same time, the possibility of the existence of stable comparisons with two phraseosemantic variants is noted, and the extreme rarity of polysemantic comparatives is emphasized.

In our work, the taxonomy of the polysemy of comparative phraseological units of compared languages is carried out in order to provide linguistic grounds for determining the nature of their interlingual equivalence. In order to describe the object of study (CFU), we will use the term polysemantic CFU to designate comparative phraseological units with at least two phraseosemantic variants. Following L.V. Kholkhoeva, under the semantic structure of a polysemantic phraseological unit, we mean "an interconnected and organized unity in a certain way, consisting of two or more meanings" [3]. A comparative analysis of the semantic structure of the studied comparative phraseological units shows that the full structural-semantic equivalents are, as a rule, monosemantic, for example: English. (as) mute as a fish (meaning: mute, characterized by absence of speech, of a person or animal) - rus.mute like a fish (meaning: silent); English (as) cunning as a fox (meaning: sly and scheming, esp. in plotting for one's own advantage or in escaping the consequences of wrongdoing) (as) fat as a pig (derogatory, grossly overweighed).

Polysemantic comparative phraseological units of the English and Russian languages can be complete identities if their phraseosemantic variants coincide, cf.: (a) English. as cold as ice - meanings: 1) (smth is) very cold, 2) (smb is) very unresponsive: pyc. cold as ice - meanings: 1) (subject) very cold, 2) (people) indifferent, impassive; (b) English. as clear as day - meanings: 1) very clear and light, as though day, 2) obvious, that can be understood easily without further explanation: Rus. clear as day - meanings: 1) bright, shining, bright, 2) obvious, understandable, clear, etc. In comparative phraseological units of this structural type, the second component performs an amplifying function and at the same time is a differentiator of meaning [4].

Incomplete identities can be calledpolysemantic comparatives of one language, which have a phraseosemantic equivalent for at least one of their meanings in another language. So, for example, each of the following polysemantic comparative phraseological units of the English language includes one phraseosemantic variant that has an equivalent in Russian: (a) English. (as) flat as a pancake - meanings: 1) very flat, completely fattened, 2) without interest, being a disappointment or anti-climax: Rus. flat like a pancake - meaning: with a smooth surface; (b) English. (as) clear as crystal - meanings: 1) very clear, that can be seen through or to the bottom, 2) obvious, that can be understood easily without further explanation: Rus. clear as crystal - meaning: transparent. Among the polysemantic CFU of the English language, comparative phraseological units are found that do not have equivalent

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phraseological units in the Russian language in any of their phraseosemantic variants. For example: (as) cold as charity (lit.: cold as charity) - 1) (smth is) very cold, 2) (smb is) very unresponsive (Cowie, p. 18); (as) steady as a rock (lit.: stable as a rock) - 1) firm, 2) reliable, 3) loyal; (as) blind as a bat (lit.: blind as a bat) - 1) unable to see, or read, very easily (but usually not completely blind), 2) unable to see, or perceive, smth that is obvious to other people, etc.

The polysemantic unique comparative phraseological units of the Russian language include the following phraseological units (56 CFU): hard as a tree - 1) hard (about a hardened usually soft or elastic object), 2) hard, hard to chew (about bad food); long as a pole - 1) long; tall and thin, skinny, thin, lean, 2) long, skinny, thin (about human legs); white as boiling 1) white (about human teeth), 2) white (about the human body), 3) white (about an animal), 4) white (about an object), etc. Usually, in the considered comparatives, the basis of comparison in the first phraseosemantic variant is used literally, and in the second - with a certain semantic transformation, most often metaphorical, for example: (a) as dry as dust - 1) very dry, liable to crumble, 2) very tedious and uninteresting, читаемиллюстрации: «How long have you had this cake in the cupboard? It's as dry as dust, and tastes stale too.» «How different children's schoolbooks are now from the dry-as-dust grammars and manuals of fifty years ago!». (б) as high as a kite / as high as the sky - 1) very high, 2) drunk or drugged, см. контекстуальныеупотребления: «The tree grew as high as a kite.» или «Our pet bird got outside and flew up high as the sky». 2) «Bill drank beer until he got as high as a kite». или «The thieves were high as the sky on drugs».

In these phrases, the meaning of the entire phraseological unit is a kind of combination of partially rethought and completely rethought phraseosemantic variants of the comparative type. The polysemy of such phraseological units is closely connected with the polysemy of their first components [5]. The figurative meaning of some comparative phrases can be comprehended by the first component (the basis of comparison), while understanding the figurative meaning of other comparative phraseological units can be difficult due to unclear motivation: as sour as vinegar (lit.: sour as vinegar) - 1) very sour in taste (very sour in taste), 2) very bad-tempered, sharp-tongued, unfriendly (unbalanced, angry on the tongue, unfriendly). In contrast to the English language, in Russian-language comparative phraseological units, polysemy is more often characterized not by the entire CFU as a whole, but only by its object of comparison: light as a cork - stupid as a cork, breshet / slanderous as a gray gelding - stupid as a gray gelding, etc. [6].

From the point of view of referential reference, polysemantic comparisons can denote both the properties of an object and the qualities of a person and an animal, with a large proportion of anthropocentrism. So, a comparative analysis of comparative phraseological units (CPU) of the English and Russian languages shows that the polysemy of the linguistic signs under study is one of the main aspects of phraseological paradigmatics that must be taken into account when identifying and determining the types of interlingual correlation of CPU of the compared languages.

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