

THE THEORETICAL BASES OF STUDYING PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN MODERN LINGUISTICS

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Abstract

This article explores the field of phraseology within Modern linguistics. The purpose of the article is to examine the evolution and significance of phraseology as an independent discipline and to shed light on the characteristics and types of phraseological units. The methodology employed in this study involves a comprehensive analysis of the works of prominent linguists, such as E. Polivanov, V. V. Vinogradov, and A. V. Kunin. Their contributions to the development of phraseology and the understanding of phraseological units are examined. Key results of the study reveal the establishment of phraseology as a distinct discipline, the identification of various types of phraseological units, and the recognition of their cultural connotation and linguistic imagery. The article emphasizes the importance of phraseological units in language and communication, providing insights into cultural, historical, and semantic dimensions. The practical implications of this research lie in the enhanced understanding and analysis of phraseological units, benefiting practitioners in fields such as language teaching, translation, and interpretation.

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Introduction. While creating a linguistic picture of the world, special attention is paid to such an object of study of linguistics as a phraseological unit (PU). The interpretation of its meaning is closely connected with the cultural and historical traditions of people who speak the language. Since language is a reflection of the reality surrounding a person, the analysis of language units representing phraseological units is one of the ways to conceptualize the language picture of the world. In this work, the originality of a phraseological unit as a linguistic sign will be explored through its linguocultural aspect, that is, through the way the "language" of culture is woven into its content. Linguoculturology as a field in phraseology and in modern linguistics as a whole is going through the stage of its formation; the subject of its research, basic concepts, theoretical principles, and scientific methods - all this forms a range of issues that require their comprehensive understanding.

The study of English phraseology allows us to better understand the history and character of a native speaker. Phraseological units have already become the subject of a large number of linguistic studies. Nevertheless, their role in the linguistic picture of the world in the new emerging conditions requires special consideration.

Literature review. In modern linguistics, phraseology is viewed as one of the elements of lexicology, stylistics, syntax and lexicography. But it is also considered as an independent discipline. The Swiss linguist Charles Bailey first mentioned the term *phraséologie* in his book *Essay on Stylistics*, where Bailey considered phraseology to be a branch of stylistics (Bailey, 1905).

The Russian linguist E. Polivanov (1931) first raised the issue of studying phraseology as an independent discipline. He argued that phraseology "will take a separate and stable position (like morphology, phonetics, etc.) in the linguistic science of the future, when our science will be devoid of random gaps in the consistent formulation of various problems" (Polivanov, 1966, p. 61). Larin was the next scientist after Polivanov who believed that it was necessary to single out phraseology as an independent one, since its study as part of other sections of linguistics was unsuccessful. The richness of phraseology has been studied by many linguists (Larin, 1956, pp. 200-201).

The founder of phraseology as an independent discipline was V. V. Vinogradov, who in his works outlined his vision of phraseological units on the example of the Russian language and distributed them into semantic groups (Kunin, 1970, p. 8). He understood phraseological units as lexical complexes with special semantic characteristics. In his works on phraseology V.V. Vinogradov stated the doctrine of phraseological units in the Russian language and classified them into semantic groups (Vinogradov, 1977).

Proceedings of V.V. Vinogradov were a step forward for their time and contributed to the emergence of many works on the phraseology of different languages. Such an accumulation of systematized facts is one of the prerequisites for the creation of phraseology as a linguistic discipline. However, even after the publication of the works of V.V. Vinogradov's phraseology did not become a linguistic discipline and did not go beyond one of the sections of lexicology. This was due to the fact that despite the great importance of the works of V.V. Vinogradov, the basic concepts of phraseology as a linguistic discipline were not developed by him. These issues mainly include: the system of studying phraseological units, their stability and systemic nature. V.V. Vinogradov did not offer a clear definition of the phraseological unit. Too broad understanding of the volume of V.V. Vinogradov did not make it possible to establish its boundaries and separate phraseological units from adjacent formations.

However, it should be noted that it was in the works of Academician V.V. Vinogradov, published in the fifties of the last century that the foundations were laid for the formulation of phraseology into a separate science. V. V. Vinogradov was the first to use the term "phraseological unit" (PU), spoke not only about the description of phraseological units, but also about the theoretical foundations of their creation and functioning. He identified such characteristics of idioms as the demotivation of the combination, the inequality of the value of the whole to the value of the components, the semantic integrity of the combination (Vinogradov, 1947, pp. 339-364).

Introduced by V.V. Vinogradov, the term PU has firmly come into use in scientific circles. Phraseological units were considered as lexical units equivalent to words, therefore, adherents of the school founded by V.V. Vinogradov, used the lexicological approach in the study of phraseology and proceeded from the functional proximity of the phraseological unit and the word. This was the reason why phraseology did not yet have a pronounced independent status and was included in lexicology as one of the subsections of the latter. "Phraseological units are included in the vocabulary of the language, and phraseology - in the composition of lexicology, mainly for the reason that phraseological units are considered as equivalents of words, and lexicology is considered as a linguistic discipline that studies the vocabulary of the language, i.e., words and their equivalents," writes A.V. Kunin (Kunin, 1970, p. 11).

Results and discussion.

Most phraseological units do not have words-identifiers i.e., lexical synonyms. Scientists have collected

accurate information about the percentage of phraseological units and their lexical synonyms in French. Statistical analysis showed that out of 22,851 phraseological units in French, only 2,867, i.e., 12.5% have identifying words (Nazaryan, 1981, p. 34). There are reasons to believe that a similar situation occurs in the English language. Words and phraseological units are introduced into speech in finished form. This fact is carried as one of the arguments in favor of the proposition of complete parity.

Preface into speech in finished form is a shaky base for the parity of a phraseological unit to a word, because reduplication in completed form is a characteristic point of all units of the language, and it is inappropriate to consider them as equivalents of words. "It is only important to take into account the characteristic features of reproducibility in finished form, depending on the structural and semantic features of various units of the language. And in structural and semantic terms, phraseology is a separately designed unit of language, much more complex than a word, and this affects its actualization in a written or verbal context" (Kunin, 1996, p. 14).

Phraseological units are combinations of words, i.e. separately formed formations with completely or partially rethought components and specific phraseological meanings. PU is characterized not by stability in general, but by stability at the phraseological level, regular dependencies of verbal components, and structural-semantic non-modeling.

PUs are formed according to grammatical models of variable combinations and sentences. Words cannot consist of words, but consist of morphemes or stems, i.e. are integral structures. Words have a lexical meaning, which can be both literal and reinterpreted. If stability is understood in a complex way, then words are characterized by lexical stability. The modeling of words is fundamentally different from the modeling of phraseological units. Words of different types, with the exception of a certain number of words, are not formed according to the grammatical models of variable phrases.

According to the models of variable sentences, words cannot be formed at all. Words are formed according to prefixal and affixal word-building models that are not characteristic of phraseological units. All modifiable words, including modifiable words that are part of phraseological units, have paradigms, but phraseological units themselves do not have paradigms. Phraseological units and words are units of different language levels: phraseological units are units of the phraseological level, and words are units of the lexical level.

The theory of phraseology has come a long way from the theory of the complete equivalence of phraseological units to words, to the allocation of a unique phraseological meaning inherent only to this class of language units, and the formulation of phraseology into a separate science. According to the definition from the linguistic encyclopedic dictionary edited by V.N. Yartseva, a phraseological unit is a common name for semantically related combinations of words and sentences, which, unlike syntactic structures similar to them in form, are not produced in accordance with the general patterns of choice and combination of words when organizing an utterance, but are reproduced in a speech in a fixed ratio of the semantic structure and a certain lexical and grammatical composition (Linguistic Encyclopedic Dictionary, 2002, p. 622). The interpretive model of the meaning of phraseological units created in the theory (Telia, 1996, p. 69) adequately reflects those operations that are carried out when a native speaker perceives a phraseological unit. The peculiarity of this perception lies in the fact that all components of linguistic semantics (types of information) pass through various forms of awareness in culture. Thus, the semantics of a phraseological unit is given by culturally marked blocks. The cultural interpretation of a phraseological unit unites the linguistic semantics and the cultural connotation of a phraseological unit into a single whole; cultural meanings are "woven" into the proper linguistic semantics, and a special, phraseological meaning is formed, which can be called cultural-linguistic meaning.

Phraseological units are concentrated in the language for centuries and are formed again in each era, because they absorb cultural information, make it possible to say a lot using less linguistic means, and

at the same time reach the depths of the national spirit and culture (Maslova, 2001, p. 120). Phraseologisms carry linguistic images that are a way of perceiving a picture of the world and make a significant contribution to its formation, reflecting an evaluative attitude towards reality. Consideration of the traditional mentality of people helps to shed light on modern realities of reality, on the characteristic attitude to the world of various nations and people.

Currently, there is no clear definition of the concept of "phraseological unit". There are disagreements about the scope of phraseology and the nature of linguistic facts treated as phraseological units. The importance of a precise definition of phraseological turnover is evidenced by the lexicographic practice when ordinary phrases are given in dictionaries as examples of phraseological units. Phraseological units are important linguistic phenomena in the language. Their meaning usually does not depend on the components included in them. The integrity of the structure distinguishes phraseological units from simple expressions and phrases. The main volume of phraseological units appears in the form of indivisible language units, in which additions are impossible. Hence, I would like to give another definition of phraseology.

Phraseological units are a stable combination of words, characterized by a constant lexical composition, grammatical structure, and a meaning known to native speakers of a given language, which is not derived from the meaning of the components that make up the phraseological unit. This meaning is reproduced in a speech in accordance with historically established norms of use.

Phraseological units (PU) are stable combinations of words that have a non-standard meaning and cannot be understood on the basis of the lexical meaning of individual components. Andrey Kunin, a Russian linguist, identifies several types of phraseological units:

- 1) **Idioms:** Idioms are expressions whose meaning cannot be understood based on the literal meanings of their individual components. They have a fixed figurative or metaphorical meaning that is unique to the idiom itself. Examples include "kick the bucket" (meaning "to die") and "piece of cake" (meaning "something easy").
- 2) **Phraseological Stable Collocations:** These are fixed combinations of words that have become established through common usage and have a specific meaning that is different from the individual words. Examples include "break the ice" (meaning "to initiate a conversation or interaction") and "spill the beans" (meaning "to reveal a secret").
- 3) **Set Phrases:** Set phrases are fixed expressions that are often used in specific situations or contexts. They have a predictable structure and cannot be easily modified. Examples include "good morning" and "thank you very much."
- 4) **Proverbs and Sayings:** Proverbs and sayings are short, traditional expressions that convey a specific moral or practical lesson. They are typically well-known and widely used. Examples include "A stitch in time saves nine" and "Actions speak louder than words."
- 5) **Quotations:** Quotations are well-known phrases or sentences taken from famous speeches, literature, or other sources. They are often used to emphasize a point or reference a specific source. Examples include "To be or not to be, that is the question" and "I have a dream."
- 6) **Phraseological Binomials:** Phraseological binomials are pairs of words or phrases that are commonly used together to convey a specific meaning. Examples include "safe and sound" and "odds and ends."

Kunin's research emphasizes the importance of understanding phraseological units as integral parts of language and communication. By studying and analyzing these units, linguists and language learners can gain insights into the cultural, historical, and semantic dimensions of a language. Kunin's works, such as his textbooks, phraseological dictionaries, and linguistic encyclopedic dictionary, serve as valuable resources for exploring and deepening our knowledge of phraseology.

Conclusion. In conclusion, the study of phraseology has evolved over time, and it is now recognized as a distinct discipline within linguistics. Initially considered as a component of lexicology, stylistics, syntax, and lexicography, phraseology has gained independence due to the efforts of linguists such as E. Polivanov and V. V. Vinogradov. Vinogradov, in particular, played a crucial role in establishing phraseology as a separate science by introducing the term "phraseological unit" and outlining its semantic groups. Phraseological units are characterized by their stability, unique meanings that cannot be deduced from the literal meanings of their components, and specific grammatical and lexical compositions. They are formed according to grammatical models of variable combinations and sentences, distinguishing them from words, which are lexical units formed through different word-building models.

The importance of phraseological units lies in their ability to convey complex ideas and cultural meanings using concise language. They reflect the cultural connotations and mentalities of different communities and contribute to the formation of linguistic images and the understanding of the world. Moreover, phraseological units are a fundamental part of language vocabulary, and their study provides valuable insights into language structure, communication, and cultural aspects. Despite ongoing debates about the definition and scope of phraseological units, their significance in language cannot be underestimated. The study of phraseology continues to evolve, with ongoing research contributing to our understanding of the intricacies and functions of these linguistic phenomena. Overall, the recognition of phraseology as an independent discipline has enriched our understanding of language and culture, emphasizing the importance of studying and analyzing phraseological units as integral components of linguistic systems.

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