

Article

Comparative Analysis of Thematic Classifications In English Phraseology

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Abstract: This study explores the thematic classifications of phraseological units in the English language, addressing the knowledge gap in how these units are categorized across different linguistic frameworks. Utilizing a comparative analysis method, the research examines existing classifications proposed by various linguists and identifies inconsistencies in the criteria used for categorization. The findings reveal significant differences in how phraseological units are interpreted and classified, with implications for the standardization of phraseology studies. The results suggest a need for a more unified approach to classification, which could enhance the accuracy of linguistic analysis and improve the application of phraseology in translation and language teaching.

Keywords: Thematic Classification, Phraseological Units, Modern English, Set Expression, Meaning.

1. Introduction

The main purpose of writing this paper is to study the classification of phraseological units of the English language. To achieve this goal, it is important to consider the concept of phraseology as a science, various types of classifications. Phraseology is an extremely complex phenomenon, the study of which requires its own research methods, and the use of other sciences (lexicology, phonetics, stylistics, grammar, philosophy, logic, history and regional studies)[1]–[3].

There is a phraseological system in linguistics, in which the linguistic unit is a phraseological unit or phraseological unit in the narrow sense of the subject. In a broad sense, the linguistic unit is all combinations with a figurative meaning (proverbs, sayings, phraseological units, aphorisms, "catchphrases"). The formation of phraseology as a science stretches over several centuries[4]–[6]. As a result, there are various classifications of phraseological units. The English language is rich in phraseological units, and is also an analytical language. We use phraseological units constantly in our speech in order to diversify it and clearly express our thoughts. Phraseological units are most often found in literary works[7]–[9].

Phraseology is a special section of the science of language, which studies the structural and semantic properties of phraseological units, and studies the reasons for their emergence in the language system and the peculiarities of their use in speech[10], [11]. The term "phraseology" is derived from the Greek words: "phrasis" - expression, turn of speech and "logos" - teaching. There is a phraseological system in linguistics, in which the

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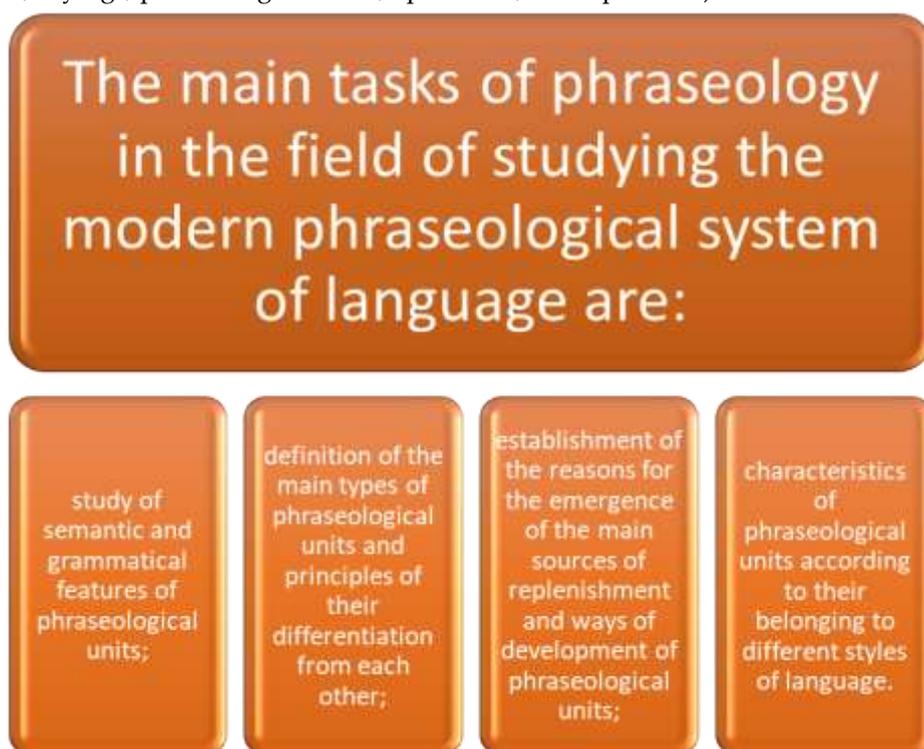
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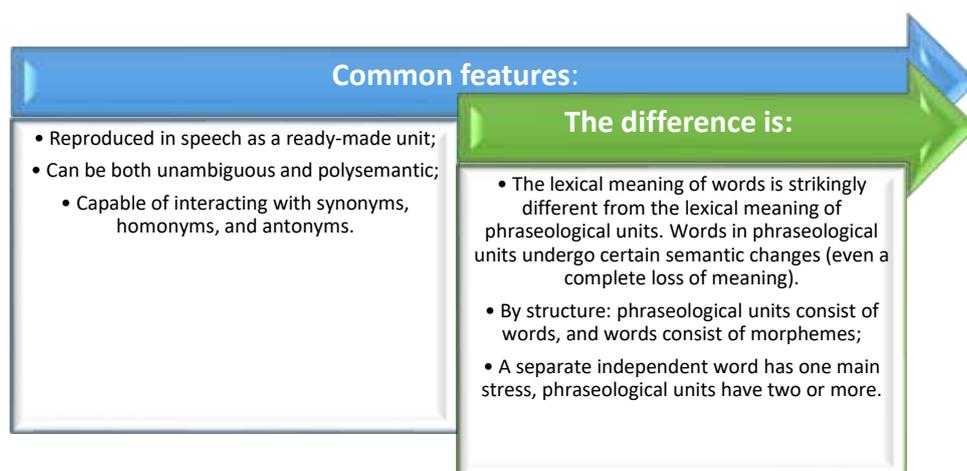
linguistic unit is a phraseological unit or a phraseological unit in the narrow sense of the subject. In a broad sense, the linguistic unit is all combinations with a figurative meaning (proverbs, sayings, phraseological units, aphorisms, "catchphrases").



Phraseological units are stable, constant in their component composition and reproducible linguistic units that have a holistic, unified meaning. The main features of phraseological units are:

1. reproducibility (regular repetition in speech);
2. idiomaticity (semantic in decomposability of phraseological units);
3. stability (semantic fusion and in decomposability of phraseological unit components);
4. semantic integrity (internal semantic unity of phraseological unit components (loss of proper lexical meaning of phraseological unit components))
5. separate design (representation of phraseological unit by at least two components).

By correlating a phraseological unit with a word, we can identify a number of common features, as well as differences:



Speaking about modern English, we can definitely call it an analytical language, which can be traced in all English phraseology, analyticity influences the phraseological structure. This explains such a wide distribution of "noun+noun" turns in it, which easily

break down and turn into phrases (for example, a girl Friday), as well as the attributive use of phraseological units of different structural types.

Thus, phraseology is an extremely complex phenomenon, the study of which requires its own research methods and the use of other sciences (lexicology, phonetics, stylistics, grammar, philosophy, logic, history and regional studies).

The development of phraseology as a science has been going on for several centuries. In different eras and countries, linguists have thought about the need to include phraseological units in dictionaries. This idea was expressed by M.V. Lomonosov, I.A. Baudouin de Courtenay, I.I. Sreznevsky, A.A. Fortunatov, E.D. Polivanov and others. They considered it necessary to study phraseology. In the middle of the 20th century, the study of the phraseological environment of various languages of the peoples of the CIS, and then European languages, began. The allocation of phraseology as a separate section on language is associated with the name of V.V. Vinogradov, whose works are based on the study of the theory of Sh. Bally, who is the founder of the theory of phraseology. Bally was the first to systematize word combinations in his books.

Charles Bally's theory of phraseology. Initially, he identified four groups of word combinations according to the degree of stability: free, habitual, phraseological series and phraseological unities. In his later work, "French Stylistics," he distinguished two main groups:

- a. free combinations, lacking stability, which disintegrate after their formation;
- b. phraseological units, phrases whose components, constantly used in these combinations to express the same thought, have lost any independent meaning.

And he considers groups of habitual combinations and phraseological series as intermediate types of phrases. The works of Charles Bally contributed to the further study of phraseological research. Classification of phraseological units by V.V. Vinogradov, Russian linguist studying the works of Charles Bally, Albert Sechehaye and A.A. Shakhmatov, understands the need to systematize knowledge about phraseological units. V. V. Vinogradov distinguished three types of phraseological units:

1. Phraseological unities – motivated units with a single integral meaning, which arises from the fusion of the meanings of lexical components. Phraseological unities allow the components to be separated by means of a substitute "packaging material" and act as potential equivalents of words.
2. Phraseological combinations – turns of phrase in which one of the components has a phraseological related meaning, which manifests itself only in connection with a strictly defined range of concepts and their verbal designations. Such phrases are not equivalent of words, since each component has different meanings.
3. Phraseological fusions, or idioms – unmotivated and unproducible units that act as equivalents of words (for example, "like the back of my hand").

In turn, V.V. Vinogradov divides phraseological fusions into four main types:

1. Phrasal systems that contain extinct and, therefore, incomprehensible words (for example: to cut off with a shilling, etc.).
2. Phrasal systems that consist of grammatical archaisms, representing a syntactically indivisible whole or, in their structure, not corresponding to the living norms of modern word combinations (for example: sweetlye, hurra, etc.).
3. Phrasal systems that have undergone expressive individualization and therefore have become lexically and semantically indecomposable (for example: to be in Queer Street, etc.).
4. Phrasal systems that represent a fused semantic unity, so the lexical meanings of the components are completely indifferent to understanding the whole (for example: a fishy story, on Shank's mare, etc.).

V. V. Vinogradov's convictions in the field of phraseology have caused critical remarks from several scientists. N. N. Amosova states that it is not always possible to differentiate between fusions and unities. This is one of the most difficult problems, which has not yet been solved, even with intensive research.

N.N. Amosova developed her own classification of phraseological units, which is called contextual, since phraseological units are not considered in isolation from the context. According to N.N. Amosova: "context is a combination of a semantically realized word". There is a constant and variable context. She defines phraseological units "as units of constant context, which is how they differ from the so-called "free" combinations of words, representing units of variable context".

N.N. Amosova believes that the main criterion for identifying phraseological units is their stability. The author divides phraseological units semantically into two classes:

1. The class of phrasemes is a class of units of constant context, in which the semantic meaning of the realized word is phraseologically related (black frost, white day). According to the author, "phrasemes can have different structures and different morphological composition of the context that forms them". The key word cannot be replaced by a synonymous one, since two synonymous phrasemes appear (Christian name - first name)
2. The class of idioms is "units of constant context, in which the demonstrative and semantically realized element normally form identical and both are represented by the general lexical composition of the phrase and which are characterized by a holistic meaning" (the day after the fair).

2. Materials and Methods

The methodology employed in this study involved a comprehensive literature review and comparative analysis of existing classifications of phraseological units in the English language. The research began with the identification of key sources, including seminal works by prominent linguists such as V.V. Vinogradov, N.N. Amosova, and A.V. Kunin, whose classifications have significantly influenced the field of phraseology. These sources were selected based on their relevance and contribution to the thematic categorization of phraseological units. The study then proceeded to analyze and compare these classifications, focusing on the criteria used for categorizing phraseological units, such as structural properties, semantic integrity, and contextual stability. This comparative approach allowed for the identification of similarities and differences in the classifications, highlighting areas of agreement and contention among linguists. Additionally, the analysis considered the historical and cultural contexts in which these classifications were developed, providing a broader understanding of their theoretical foundations. The findings from this comparative analysis were further examined in relation to modern linguistic practices, particularly in the fields of lexicology, translation studies, and language teaching. By integrating these perspectives, the methodology facilitated a critical evaluation of existing classifications, offering insights into their applicability and limitations in contemporary linguistic research. The approach was qualitative in nature, relying on the interpretative analysis of textual data to derive conclusions that contribute to the ongoing discourse on the classification of phraseological units.

3. Results and Discussion

It should be with the interpretation of the results and their comparison with those of other studies. No need to repeat the results, review literature, references that do not have a close relationship with the present result in the manuscript.

It is important to say that in English and American linguistics the term "setexpression" is more common than "phraseological unit", which essentially means the same thing, and the concept of "idiom" is also used. In English linguistics, it does not have

the narrow meaning of phraseological fusion, but denotes all stable expressions in general. Thus, the classification of phraseological units by structure:

- Nominal (substantive) nouns denoting a person, object, phenomenon: better half; chip of the old block; on the last leg of one's trip; copy-cat.
- Verbs denoting an action, a state as a process: to hit the nail on the head; to keep the fall rolling; to ditch somebody; mushrooming; chew the fat.
- Attributive, denoting properties, features of a person, object, phenomenon: all thumbs; armed to the teeth; blue blood.
- Adverbials denoting properties, qualities, signs of action: with flying colors; till the cows come home; to look like a million.
- Modal, denoting a different attitude of the speaker to what is being said: it's another pair of shoes; it's not my cup of tea.
- Interjections expressing feelings, emotions - "And how!"
- Communicative serving to connect individual parts of a sentence or entire sentences, parts of a coherent text: all in all; all told; by and large; by the way.
- Comparative (Similes - as...as.../ like...): as white as sheet; as good as gold; as easy as ABC; as large as life; as bad as bad can be; like a bull in a China shop; like chalk and cheese.
- Binomials: odds and ends; wait and see; more or less; sick and tired; in black and white.
- Idioms describing people: to have a heart of gold; hard as nails; in cold blood.
- Idioms describing feelings or mood:
 - a. Positive feelings: to be on cloud nine; to be in high spirits;
 - b. Negative feelings: a face as long as a fiddle; looked down in the dumps; in a black mood;
 - c. Physiological state: I could eat a horse; on top form.

There are various sources of origin of phraseological units. One of the most widespread classifications of phraseological units by this feature belongs to A.V. Kunin, who divides English phraseological units by their origin into three main groups:

1. Native English phraseological units make up the majority of English phraseological units, which most often reflect the traditions and customs of the English people, as well as various facts from English history. For example, "an aunt Sally" is a subject of attacks or insults; a false argument put forward in order to be refuted later. This phraseological unit is based on the folk game "Aunt Sally". An important source of native phraseological units is professional speech, and many of them have literary origins (Shakespeareans and idioms of other English writers).
2. Borrowed from foreign languages. Literary works are an important source for these phraseological units. The most significant are: The Bible, ancient mythology and literature. For example, the phraseological unit "the root of all evil", the love of money has a biblical origin. Many phraseological units are borrowed from ancient Roman literature. For example, "the golden mean" by Horace.
3. Borrowed from American English. More often, the source of these phraseological units are literary works by American authors. For example, "smoke the pipe of peace" by G. Longfellow. Or "the call of the wild" by Jack London.

4. Conclusion

Phraseology is a special section of the science of language, which studies the structural and semantic properties of phraseological units, and studies the reasons for their occurrence in the language system and the peculiarities of their use in speech. Phraseological units are stable, constant in component composition and reproducible linguistic units that have a holistic single meaning.

Today, the dictionary of phraseological units of the English language is huge. Studying this section of the language seems an impossible task. Thanks to various

classifications of phraseological units, it is possible to organize phraseological units only according to a certain criterion. From the classification by origin, it can be clearly said that the main source of phraseological units are literary works of various times and peoples, from the Bible to English modern classics. However, most often phraseological units are of European origin and less often Asian. Perhaps the reason is the territorial proximity directly to Great Britain or the countries of the former English colonies. However, the stock of phraseological units is replenished not only with literary and historical units, but also with political ones.

The international significance of the English language today is very great. It follows from this that knowledge of English phraseological units is important, since without them it is impossible to correctly translate and understand English speech. Nevertheless, many languages copy phraseological units from each other or borrow them, which makes it easier to understand and use them.

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