

Structural Analysis of Phraseologisms Representing Personality Traits in English

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ABSTRACT

The article is based on preliminary research on the contrastive analysis of phraseological units in Oxford dictionary of Idioms. In this paper, the structure of phraseologisms is represented.

Keywords: Lexicography, phraseography, phraseological unit, idiom, expression, phraseology, dictionary.

1. INTRODUCTION

As you know, language is a mirror that embodies the culture, character of a nation, peoples. In particular, through language, the customs, traditions, views, character traits of the people to whom it belongs are reflected. In World Science, interest in the subject of character was formed in ancient times. In World linguistics, the analysis of units that represent and reveal the appearance, character, characteristics of a person has been of interest to linguists for many years. In particular, this issue has become an object of more linguoculturology in the coming years.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The vocabulary of a language has unlimited properties in terms of its capabilities and level of proficiency and it is one of the most important part of the linguistics. As the the world is developing and new things are being invented, the vocabulary of

the languages is also becoming richer. Besides, as a result of globalization many words, phraseological units are being borrowed from one language to another language. That's why to study and renew dictionaries of phraseological units is actual issue in linguistics.

In this direction, significant work was carried out in World linguistics, in particular, within the framework of Russian, English, French, German. As an example, the Russian linguist E. A. Polyakova makes a comparative analysis of phraseologisms in Russian and English, which represent the character of the person whose insect names are involved in her scientific work. This work is further researched on the basis of the materials of insect names in English and Russian phraseological units recorded in phraseological and explanatory dictionaries, as well as samples of some artistic texts. Also, through the work of the author, we can see that some phraseological units are applied bilaterally, that is, phraseologism, expressed in English by the name of an insect, is translated into Russian in a completely different way without any insect name *mukin*. In addition, the characteristics represented by insects are also bilingual. For example, phraseologisms composed of the "butterfly-бабочка" component can be used in English to describe four different properties 1) беспокойный, тревожный; 2) слабый, беззащитный; 3) красивый, яркий; 4) беззаботный, легкомысленный), while in Russian only two of them 5) красивый, яркий; 6) беззаботный, легкомысленный) can be seen.

In her scientific research work, O. Sitnikova comparative studies personality traits, that is, phraseologisms in Russian and Greek related to its appearance or internal characteristics. In his work, the author defines the phraseological unit *belaya vorona* (white dwarf) as a person who stands out from others. That being said, this phraseological unit in Russian is equivalent to the English phraseologism "black sheep."

In her scientific research, L. D. Belousova covered the translation of phraseologisms representing the external appearance of an individual from English into Russian and the issues of finding their equivalents in two languages, also showing their similar and different aspects in languages. For example, the

idiom “as fat as a pig” is used in English to represent obesity in humans, and the phraseological unit толстый как свинья of the same structure in Russian.

3. DISCUSSION

In this chapter, we will consider the structural analysis of phraseological units, phrases in English.

The Oxford dictionary of English idioms was out of print for the first time in 1999, and a second edition was prepared in 2004. The author of this edition is Judiz Siefring, which includes more than 5,000 phrases, 350 of which are phrases introduced by the author into the new edition. In this book, phraseological units are given in the alphabetical order, which are also stylistically distinguished.

In English, just like in Uzbek, the structure of phraseological units is different. In particular, in English we can meet phraseological units that represent personality traits in the form of adj+noun, verb+object or subject+verb. Below we will analyze them through examples and divide them into groups. We can divide into two types, according to the structure of phraseologisms that represent personality traits:

1. Phraseologisms which equals to set expressions (an admirable Crichton, alive and kicking, alive and well, the angel in the house, a rotten (or bad) apple, an armchair critic, a bag {or bundle} of nerves, a bag {or whole bag} of tricks, as bald as a coot, like a bear with a sore head, a beggar on horseback, a big cheese (fish, gun, noise, shot, or wheel), the black sheep, as blind as a bat, tough as old boots, as bright as a button, bright young thing, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, as brown as a berry, a broth of a boy, like a bull at a gate, like a bull in a china shop, as busy as a bee, Caesar's wife, Mr Clean, too clever by half, couch potato, crazy like a fox, fresh as a daisy, a dark horse, deaf as an adder (or a post), lame duck, dyed in the wool, an eager beaver, early bird, easy meat, fair and square, a ghost (or spectre) at the feast, be all fingers and thumbs, big fish, fit as a flea, a fair-weather, as

good as gold, green about (or around or at) the gills, green with envy, the green-eyed monster, happy as a sandboy, hard as nails, hard as the nether millstone, a hard case, a hard nut to crack out, Herod Herod, like a hen with one chick (or chicken), plain Jane, jack of all trades (and master of none) and all that jazz, Jekyll and Hyde, keen as mustard, high as a kite, Lady Bountiful, Lady Luck, Lady Muck, happy as Larry, lady (or man or gentleman) of leisure, tooth rather old, mad as a hatter (or a March hare), mad as a (cut) snake, the man in (or on) the street, mad as a March hare, milk and water, as artful (or clever) as a wagonload (or cartload) of monkeys, a mover and shaker, a tough (or hard) nut (to crack), nutty as a fruitcake, be (or look) a picture, plain as a pikestaff, poor as a church mouse (or as church mice), pretty as a picture, pleased (or proud) as Punch, right as rain (of a person), red as a beetroot, a rough diamond, good Samaritan, sick as a dog, sick as a parrot, the real Simon Pure, the straight and narrow, a tall poppy, thick as two (short) planks, a doubting Thomas, an ugly duckling, a wet blanket, silly as a wheel very silly, whiter than white, a wise man of Gotham).

2. Phrases which equal to a sentence (lose your marbles, live on your hump, work like a beaver, have kangaroos in the (or your) top paddock, never hurt a fly, afraid of one's own shadow, blow hot and cold).

4. RESULTS

4.1. *Phraseologisms which equals to set expressions*

We can divide phraseological units belonging to this group into different groups depending on which word categories they are made up of.

a. *Noun+noun structure*

A ghost (or spectre) at the feast, Lady Bountiful, Lady Luck, Lady Muck, beggar on horseback, an armchair critic, a bag {or bundle) of nerves, a bag {or whole bag) of trick, Caesar's wife, Mr Clean, a broth of a boy, potato, the angel in the house, a man

of leisure, jack of all trades (and master of none) and all that jazz, Jekyll and Hyde, milk and water, the man in (or on) the street, a mover and shaker, lady (or man or gentleman) of leisure a, Herod Herod.

b. *Adjective+noun structure*

An admirable Crichton, a big cheese, a rotten (or bad) apple, the black sheep, bright young thing, a dark horse, lame duck, an eager beaver, early bird, easy meat, big fish, good Samaritan, a fair-weather friend, a wet blanket, a tall poppy, the real Simon Pure, a rough diamond, good Samaritan, a hard case, plain Jane, a wise man of Gotham, a tame cat.

From the examples above, we can know that in English the number of phraseological units in the Adjective+Noun structure is more comparing to other structural groups. We can see this in our table below.

c. *Adjective+adjective structure*

Whiter than white, alive and kicking, alive and well, fair and square, the straight and narrow.

d. *Past Participle structure*

Bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, dyed in the wool.

f. *Gerund+noun structure*

Doubting Thomas

g. *As+as structure*

Idioms in as+as structure are found in many ways in English. It also has a significant place in phraseological units representing personality traits. Below we will provide the idioms in this structure.

As bald as a coot, as blind as a bat, tough as old boots, as bright as a button, as brown as a berry, as busy as a bee, fresh as a daisy, deaf as an adder (or a post), happy as a sandboy, hard as nails, hard as the nether millstone, mad as a hatter (or a March hare), mad as a (cut) snake, as artful (or clever) as a wagonload (or cartload) of monkeys, mad as a March hare, fit as a flea, as

good as gold, nutty as a fruitcake, keen as mustard, happy as Larry, plain as a pikestaff, poor as a church mouse (or as church mice), pretty as a picture, pleased (or proud) as Punch, right as rain (of a person), red as a beetroot, sick as a dog, sick as a parrot, thick as two (short) planks, silly as a wheel.

h. *Like structure*

like a bull at a gate, like a bull in a china shop, like a bear with a sore head, like a hen with one chick (or chicken), like a lamb to the slaughter, crazy like a fox.

4.2. *Phrases which equal to a sentence*

Never hurt a fly, afraid of one's own shadow, blow hot and cold, lose your marbles, live on your hump, work like a beaver, have kangaroos in the (or your) top paddock, be all fingers and thumbs, too clever by half, green with envy, be a hard nut to crack, have a tooth, be (or look) a picture.

4.2.1. Results of structural analysis of phraseologisms representing personality traits in the Oxford dictionary of English idioms.

	Phraseological units	Number	Percentage
1.	Noun+noun	21	21%
2.	Adjective+noun	22	22%
3.	Adjective+adjective	5	5%
4.	Past Participle	2	2%
5.	Adverb	-	
6.	Gerund	1	1%
7.	As...as structure	30	30%
8.	Like structure	6	6%
9.	Sentence structure	13	13%

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, in the process of compiling a phraseological dictionary, it is necessary that the developers solve a number of issues. It could be concluded that phraseography should be treated as an independent discipline from the lexicography, as idioms, phraseological units large in number. This will result in

developing phraseological dictionaries. In this article, we analyzed Oxford dictionary of Idioms and divided phraseological units into several groups according to their structure. And we provide statistics of phraseological units expressing personality traits.

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