



Phraseological stable combinations and their practical application in idiomatic expressions on the examples of the works of Theodor Dreiser

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ABSTRACT

Phraseology is a branch of the science of language that studies stable combinations of words. Phraseologism is a stable combination of words, or a stable expression. Used to name objects, signs, actions. It is an expression that arose once, became popular and entrenched in the speech of people. The expression is endowed with figurativeness, it can have a figurative meaning. Over time, the expression can take on a broad meaning in everyday life, partially including the original meaning or completely excluding it. The phraseological unit as a whole has lexical meaning. The words included in the phraseological unit separately do not convey the meaning of the entire expression. Phraseological units can be synonymous (at the end of the world, where the raven did not bring bones) and antonymous (lift up to heaven - trample into the dirt). Phraseologism in a sentence is one member of the sentence.

Keywords:

figurativeness, differences, expressions, distinguishable features, novelty, expressions, fables, broad meaning, generality, practical application

The language is the most essential factor of characterizing every nation's beliefs, culture and the attitude to the world. As beliefs, worldviews and cultures do not look like to each other, proverbs and sayings of different nations are not the same. One of the most outstanding linguists Nida said that it is important to study the language of the nation when we study its culture. According to his point of view language and culture is an interrelation system, which was developed together at the same time. He explains it as follows: 'Cultural factors are deeply interwoven with the language, and thus are morphologically and structurally reflected in the forms of the language.'

Phraseology of each language makes a significant contribution to the formation of

figurative pictures of the world. Knowing the phraseology allows to get a deeper understanding of the history and character of the people. Phraseologisms exist in close connection with vocabulary. Their study helps to get better understanding of the vocabulary structure, education and the use of lexical units in speech. When we talk about this term, our tongue instantly curves into another notion that signifies the above concept. This is the phraseological units (PU) term. They are special language means in which the originality and uniqueness of any language is concentrated. Considering PU in this aspect, we come to the disclosure of the 'phraseology' concept in the broad sense of the word. In a narrow sense, phraseology is a section of

linguistics that studies stable speech speed [3, p. 942].

The richness of vocabulary of every language depends on not only the ways of forming new words, but also on the permanent idioms it may form. The science which studies the 'world' of those units is called phraseology. Phraseology is the science about idioms, and it was firstly used in 1928 by Y.D. Polovinov. [1, p. 208]

Phraseology resembles a picturesque gallery comprising the samples of eternal and marvelous customs and traditions of a nation, historical memorials, fairy tales and songs. Phraseology is not only the most colourful part of vocabulary, but also the most democratic layer.

For the first time, phraseology was used in the study of literature. While translating some fiction from one language into another it became impossible to translate inseparable word combinations. Then the phraseological unities in those languages were researched. The term phraseology was first used in philology in 1558 by the English literary scholar Neander. While translating the literary works Neander had to use this term. Although the biggest part of phraseological materials are included in vocabulary and other sources, the research works on the theory of phraseology have been rarely met in the sources concerning linguistics (L. Smith, D. Curry, W. Ball, Ch. Bally). Up to now the matters of English phraseology have been studied within grammar, stylistics, lexicography and the history of language. Later phraseology has been studied as a branch of lexicology. As the linguistics developed, nowadays phraseology has been admitted and is being researched as an independent branch of linguistics in most languages. It is worth pointing out that a number of Eastern European and Russian scholars researched this field in their works.

Phraseology (from Greek — phrasis, "way of speaking" and — logia, "study of") is a scholarly approach to language which was developed in twentieth century. It took its start when Charles Bally's notion of locutions phraseological elements entered Russian

lexicology and lexicography in the 1930s and 1940s [1] But Merriam Webster's dictionary states that the term phraseology came from new Latin Phraseology and means a manner of organizing words and phrases into longer elements: style and choice of words. Macmillan Dictionary also defines phraseology a particular way of putting words together to express something. Besides, this dictionary explains phraseology as terminology as it denotes the words and phrases used in a particular profession. According to the definitions and statements given above, we can surely state that every student who aims at commanding English deeply must know phraseology and they have to break their backs to learn it. When you come across with the idiom break their backs, you might understand it directly. However, your choice would be incorrect. Because all components in the idioms do not keep their lexical meanings. They can differ when they are used within the phrase or idiom. The English language is full of phraseological units. Obviously, idioms, phrases, phrasal verbs and set expressions, aphorisms, maxims, proverbs and sayings are the main units of any language, without them our language may seem shallow or boring. Such linguistic units play an active role in our speech, language and culture, they make the language and speech colourful as well as attractive. Time by time they are being developed and polished. It is impossible not to mention about these units while learning the language. However, students may face difficulties in differing these terms from each other. Let us consider them briefly. A phrase is a group of related words that do not include subject-verb relationship. From syntactical viewpoint no matter how many words the phrase consists of, all the elements are regarded as a single unit. Phrases may be of different kinds. Examples:

The pretty and clever girl — noun phrase
My favorite football player, best goal keeper, Ignatiy Nesterov have been playing for Uzbekistan's combined team for a long times — appositive phrase
I cannot find the books that I put on the shelf yesterday — prepositional phrase

An idiom like a phrase is a group of words. However, the most distinguishing feature of an idiom is that its meaning is hardly predictable as the meaning of the idiom stays far from the lexical meaning of the components of the idiom.

Examples:

big fish — an important person (in a particular social group)

rain cats and dogs — rain hard

kill two birds with one stone — succeed in doing two things at the same time

a green thumb — a careful gardener

However, it should be mentioned that lexical meanings of the elements of the idiom are helpful in guessing the logical meaning of the idiom. For instance, metaphorically by green we understand trees, wood, garden, etc. Set expression as its name says is a fixed expression. By set expressions some scientists mean idioms, but others do not support this idea. Consequently, learners wrestle with the question whether they are the same. Actually, the word fixed means “unchangeable”. In this sense, the followings may be examples for set expressions: By the way Take for granted For ages Many happy returns! Coming up from these examples, we can say idioms and set expressions are not purely the same; the identity is only in the degree of being fixed. The term phrasal verb is commonly applied to two or three distinct but related words in English. A phrasal verb consists of the combination of a verb and an adverb or a verb and a preposition. Like idioms, the meaning of a phrasal verb is not predictable. Examples: break up — end a relationship call on — visit somebody cut off — take out of a will. Many sources support that the meaning of a phrasal verb is not predictable. However, some phrasal verbs denote several meanings. For example, cut off as mentioned above means “take out of a will”. But, one more meaning of this phrasal verb is “remove with something sharp”. The latter meaning may be predicted. The meaning of eat out (eat at a restaurant) is also predictable due to the lexical meanings of the constituents. To summarize, set expressions and idioms have nearly similar character: the elements of each unit do not save their lexical meanings in idioms, sometimes in set expressions. On the

contrary, the components of a phrase keep their lexical meaning. Also, the components of a phrasal verb occasionally keep their lexical meaning, but often not. As language is dynamic, new and new literary as well colloquial expressions appear constantly. Due to such changes, languages become richer in vocabulary. On the other hand, dynamic processes in language challenge language learners to spend a special time for the study of fixed and non-fixed expressions. It is probably fair to say that phraseology as an individual part of linguistics should be carefully and profoundly studied by language learners as phrases, set expressions, idioms as well as fixed sayings are widely used in both written and oral speech in any language, particularly in English. In one word, I believe that the EFL learner must study the phraseology — phraseological units, their origin, characteristics and usage, cultural specifics, etc. — in order to speak fluently and accurately as well as understand thoroughly as a native speaker for it helps the EFL students to make a complex speech and feel confident. Phraseology means a vague component of language which has a prototypical feature of idiomaticity, and includes interjections (even if they only consist of one word), idioms, popular sayings, conversational routines and institutionalised formulas such as proverbs. Many authors also include collocations on the boundary of the category, i.e. combinations of words that are generally found together in the general use of a language. Phrasemes or Phraseological units (PU) thus constitute a kind of “periphery” of language, insofar as they entail some degree of irregularity in terms of grammar as well as the lexicon (archaisms, vulgarisms, etc.). Another important characteristic is that they have a high level of fixation, which means they can be recognised as such by the community of speakers. They also often contain a conventional metaphorical factor for use.

Here we will discuss phrasemes in general terms, without distinguishing between the various types, but a brief terminological clarification of this wide range of subcategories is useful. First of all, the central core of the

category, which is most widely accepted as prototypical, consists of what we usually call idioms (both those including verbal forms and those which do not). Idioms are polylexical forms that usually have the following characteristics (or many of them): syntactic irregularity, idiomaticity (no semantic compositionality, i. e. the meaning of an idiom is not the regular sum of the meanings of its component parts), metaphoricity, a high degree of grammaticalisation as constructs, and the ability to perform pragmatic functions as connectors or other discourse markers. Idioms usually create considerable difficulties in two fields of applied linguistics: translation and the learning of second languages (Salvador, 1995). Phraseological studies are based on a long tradition of compiling these linguistic units, which aroused the curiosity of scholars and many other speakers. This is more common in the case of proverbs than in other types of PU, as we shall see below. This curiosity leads to a tendency towards interlinguistic or interdialectal comparatism: the contrast between forms of speech in different languages and even between different dialects has often been grounds for scholarly interest as well as humour, especially as these differences often give rise to misunderstandings that can be a reason for comedy, and provide material for jokes.

However, in recent decades linguists have sought to systematise this epistemological field (Corpas, 1997; Conca & Guía, 2014), particularly considering the interests of linguistics as they apply to translation and the teaching of second languages. Indeed, phrasemes present difficulties for learners of a second language and for translators, because many of these expressions fail to fulfil the ideal of lexical and grammatical regularity due to their idiomaticity, and they have a meaning that is not equal to the sum of their partial meanings, as one might expect from a purely semantic compositional mechanism. Inconsistencies of this nature create barriers in the teaching and learning of second languages and for translators, as they show that a complete command of any language is not only the result of knowledge of a lexicon and a

grammar. These questions have led to numerous monographs and doctoral theses which have investigated how these difficulties might be overcome. Nevertheless the main aim of this chapter is the study of the sociolinguistic aspects of Catalan phraseology in relation to the identity of Catalan linguistic community.

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