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**M. NARIKBAYEV KAZGUU UNIVERSITY
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Research articles

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Various approaches to the study of set expressions and the problem of their classification.

Baigarayeva Adel

Abstract

The paper aims at identifying various categorizations of phraseological units used in the English language. Therefore, the main purpose is to appeal to existing knowledge about the classification of sets of expressions and accordingly report the information. Moreover, discovered sorting techniques are applied to the evaluation of three well-known novels. The methodology of the research adopts six different sources that address the fluctuating tendencies in the way the authors separate PU (phraseological units) and summarize them; however, no other primary research is made. The results revealed that different analyses adversely fit cases and can be used for different purposes. Namely, Smirnitsky's classification is practical for those who in studies languages, Logan Smith's classification is useful for people dealing with the history and finally Vinogradov's classification is essential for translators.

Keywords / List of abbreviations

Phraseology, phraseological units, set of expressions, idioms, idiom, classification, meaning, approaches, phraseological combinations, phraseological unities, phraseological fusions, compatibility

FS, PUs – phraseological units

Introduction

Language is one of the main tools for understanding the world. Written and oral communication have even more practical applications than mathematics, physics, or biology. Intellectual disciplines like linguistics or literature recognize direct communication that takes place all the time; however, there are also a set of expressions that convey diverse meanings. This paper will address the classification of phraseological units to shed light on the idiomatic expressions and their usage in contemporary literature. The paper will be of two parts; in the first part, analysis of the existing studies on the issue will be covered. In the second part, an attempt to apply identified categorizations to some popular pieces will be made. Although there is a number of classifications that are widely accepted and absence of evidence to suggest that one is better than the others are, some may be of better use to sciences or disciplines. Therefore, it can be implied that some will prefer specific methods, while others carry more information to the rest.

Theoretical part

1.1 Various approaches to the study of set expressions

1.2 Problem of their classification

Literature review

While studying the topic of the set of expressions I have recognized the value of A. Rey's phraseological concept, it is necessary to note its most controversial moment – the lexicological approach to phraseological phenomena. It includes FS in the lexical composition of the language, considering them as the upper bounds of the vocabulary. In this case, there can be no question of phraseology as a linguistic discipline.

The "classical" period of the formation of phraseology as a separate linguistic discipline falls at the end of the 40-the 60s of the XX century, which is associated with the rapid development of phraseology. The beginning of this period is associated with the early works of V.V. Vinogradov. He was the first to propose a classification of FS from the point of view of semantic fusion and motivation of their components, which was of fundamental importance for the further development of phraseology as a special section of the science of language.

V.V. Vinogradov put forward a classification of phraseological units, including a) phraseological fusions; b) phraseological unity; c) phraseological adhesions. Comparison of these three groups shows that between FS, on the one hand, and phraseological unities and adhesions, on the other hand, there is a difference in the different nature of their stability. The first group is characterized by a structural feature - limited compatibility of components, the other two groups – by the degree of motivation. The absence of a single criterion for identifying phraseological units in itself excludes a clear definition of its essence. V.V. Vinogradov introduced the concept of "phraseologically related meaning" into scientific use as a special

type of lexical meaning. He believed that “to have different meanings for a word most often means to enter into different types of semantically limited phraseological connections”. Thus,

the problem of phrase combinations by V.V. Vinogradov associates it with the system of lexical meanings and their polysemy, largely due to the presence of phraseologically related meanings,

which directs researchers to describe such meanings in the structure of a polysemantic word. According to V.N. Teliya in this “one of the fundamental theoretical installations for lexicology, previously only spontaneously carried out in lexicography, and after the publication of the works of V.V. Vinogradov, which became the basis for highlighting the lexical and semantic variants of the word”. Supporters of the "broad" understanding of phraseology regard it as an independent linguistic discipline and refer to it as stable reproducible combinations in the form of any syntactic constructions, including complex sentences. I find a broad view of the object of phraseology in the works of S. Bally, E. D. Polivanov, G. O. Vinokur, I. E. Anichkov, and V. V. Vinogradov.

A consistent study of the semantics of the associated meaning of a word led to the fact that many phraseologists realized that the problem of word compatibility is central in phraseology. "The study of phraseological units, no matter what types are considered, inevitably lead to problems of compatibility, since the" phraseological meanings "of lexemes are always due to compatibility". I understand phraseology as a science that studies the compatibility of lexemes and sememes in their entirety, arguing this position by the fact that “the compatibility of lexemes is a fact of the language, it should be the subject of a special section of linguistics that studies the laws of the compatibility of lexemes. We consider phraseology to be such a section”.

The classification developed by A.V. Kunin covers all types of phraseological units and breaks them down into classes, subclasses, and categories.

The problem of semantic categories in phraseology as an aspect of the study of semantic relations within the systemic relations of linguistic units is one of the important problems of

semantics. As observations have shown, the phraseological fund of the English language, despite all the variety of structural and semantic features, is characterized by a number of

systemic properties, one of which is the presence of synonymous and antonymic comparisons of phraseological units. Such pairs of phraseological units as with good grace (willingly) - with a bad grace (reluctantly), as dull as ditch-water (sad) - as cheerful as a lark, gay as a lark

(very cheerful), form in the system phraseology of opposition by meaning. The ability of such units as be in smooth water (s), be out of the wood (s), turn the corner (getting out of a critical situation, difficulty) to coincide in meaning is usually considered as a synonymy of phraseological units. Speaking about the synonyms of phraseological units, it is necessary to take into account the connotative characteristics assigned to the linguistic unit. Considering phraseological synonyms in phraseological synonyms, the researcher always pays attention to a complex, subtle system of differences in the number and nomenclature of components included in the connotative aspect of the meaning of phraseological units - synonyms. I would also like to note that phraseological synonyms can differ in such components of the connotative aspect of meaning as imagery, intensity, emotive-evaluative component, and functional-stylistic affiliation.

For example, synonymous with the general meaning "to reprimand somebody" many phraseological synonyms have an inadequate figurative basis and moreover, have a differentiated criterion as an emotive-evaluative component.

Thus, the classification of phraseological objects can be carried out on the basis of a number of principles: semantic, historical, stylistic, contextologic, communicative, grammatical, or their combination (see the works of Sh. Bally, N.N. Amosova, V.V. Vinogradov, A. V. Kunin, B.A.Larina, A.G. Nazaryan, E.G. Rizel, A.I.Smirnitsky, T.Z. Cherdantseva) consistent study of the semantics of the associated meaning of a word led to the fact that many phraseologists realized that the problem of word compatibility is central in phraseology. "The study of a set of expressions, no matter what types are considered, inevitably

lead to problems of compatibility, since the "phraseological meanings" of lexemes are always due to compatibility".

According to the point of view of contemporary researchers who study the sphere of set expressions, over history, the semantic classification of set expressions occurs as a result of phraseological units the overall meaning of which differs from the value of separate components. It refers to the initial type of categorization development. The second category is described by idioms, which are phraseological units that have a single semantic unity and

have no significant differences from constituent pieces of it. The categorization is helpful to determine and to study the found set expression in accordance with their semantic qualities. The classification proposed by I.V. Arnold divides phraseological units into 3 parts:

- set-expressions (word combinations denoting only the one semantic meaning for the whole, ready-made sets)
- semi-fixed combinations (ready-made groups with the separate direct meaning of each its constituent part, but has one functional meaning)
- free phrases (classification 1, phrases made in the flow of speech, where the words are used in their direct meanings)

Methodology

The paper will be based on the theoretical and practical part. The first part will include review of existing studies. Namely, works of S. Bally, E. D. Polivanov, G. O. Vinokur, I. E. Anichkov and V. V. Vinogradov on phraseological combinations are analyzed. Their works are implied to be reliable guidance in classifying phraseological units. While conducting a literature review some hypotheses are made. Therefore, second (practical) part of the paper further evaluation and analyses are made. Famous modern pieces like: Night with an Angel, Romeo & Juliet and Alchemist will be examined in regard to the stated hypotheses. Set of expressions from all 3 books are noted down. Subsequently, randomly chosen categorization were applied to each book, sometimes two of them. As a result, this method revealed some practical uses of each method.

Practical part

Findings

All aforementioned things considered, it is highly paramount to draw up a concluding part, namely, to fill up the gaps with findings made throughout this study. First and foremost, since taking into consideration that set of expression refers to a stable phrase peculiar to a certain language, the meaning of which is not determined by the meaning of the individual words that make up it; it was needed to establish certain classification approaches and also to perfectly possess the language under consideration, namely the Russian one.

Thus, let us provide with the reached categorization with the expressions used in the book “Night with an Angel” by Russian writer Vladimir Kunin:

- Phraseological unity- is a steady linguistic turnover, in which, nevertheless, the signs of semantic separation of components are clearly preserved. As a rule, its general meaning is motivated and derived from the meaning of individual components. Phraseological unity is characterized by imagery; each word of such a phrase has its own meaning, but together they acquire a figurative meaning. Such type of an expression can be found on the first page of the abovementioned book: “Под лежащий камень вода не течет”. In Russian, this means that “water cannot flow under the steady stone” and each of the words has its own meaning, but this phrase built up of separate words makes up a figurative expression, which means that if you will not move or do something at least, nothing will happen to you (meaning anything good). However, it should

be mentioned that this phrase has its own translated version in English as well: “The rolling stone gathers no moss”.

Another example of this type is: “Только не вздумайте вешать мне лапшу на уши...”, which refers to “tell lies” or “intentionally misleading”.

- Collocation- is a stable linguistic turnover, which includes words with both free meaning and phraseological related, not free (used only in this combination). Phraseological combinations are stable turns, but their integral meaning follows from the meanings of their individual words.
- Unlike phraseological combinations and unities, combinations are semantically divisible — their composition allows limited synonymic substitution (replacement of individual words), while one of the members of the phraseological combination turns out to be constant, while others are variables. In the book also was such an expression: “один перегрызет глотку другому”, which literally means “one will bite another’s neck” or “chew out the throat” and is usually interpreted as: “In a fit of rage, anger, to brutally deal with someone”.
- Phraseological fusion- this is a semantically indivisible turnover, the meaning of which is absolutely not deducible from the sum of the values of its constituent components, their semantic independence has been completely lost. For instance, “в ус себе не дуετε”, which refers to “not to show any concern, not to pay attention”. Its indivisible feature can be proved by the fact that it is not even translated otherwise than literally: “Do not blow into the mustache”.

Another example is the book “Romeo and Juliet” written by William Shakespeare in about 1594-96. Different kinds of idiomatic expressions were used and below I will calculate how many times they were used in the book of Shakespeare, their initial meanings. Here I am going to show one example of an expression that used in a sentence: "Nay, if our wits run the wild-goose chase, I am done; for thou hast more of the wild goose in one of thy wits than, I am sure, I have in my whole five." Overall, 24.545 words were used in a book and according to which I can easily identify numeric data and classify according to Smirnitsky each expression. Here is the list of set of expressions, and other important factors:

Set of expressions	Meaning	Times mentioned and percentage
Heart of gold	good-natured	2 times = 0.008%
Kill with kindness	by being very kind, to obtain what you desire	5 times = 0.024%
Wild-goose chase	aimless movement	7 times = 0.045%
Green-eyed monster	being sick with jealousy	3 times = 0.009%
Lie low	keeping quiet and avoiding attention	4 times = 0.013%
Faint-hearted	lack of self-confidence	1 time = 0.001%

Apple of my eye fond & proud 6 times = 0.038%
 Wear your heart of your sleeve showing emotions in an honest and open manner 1 time = 0,001%

Smirnitsky's classification

Heart of gold	one-summit unit
Kill with kindness	multi-summit unit
Wild-geese chase	two-summit unit
Green-eyed monster	multi-summit unit
Lie low	two-summit unit
Faint-hearted	two-summit unit
Apple of my eye	one-summit unit
Wear your heart of your sleeve	multi-summit unit

Secondly, I decided to count the frequency of idioms used in one monologue. Since Romeo and Juliet were full of monologues. For instance, in a monologue consisting of 200-300 words, Romeo on average, in one monologue person use about 2 idioms. So, in my opinion, it is crucial to find out the average usage of idioms.

Another novel to analyze is "Alchemist" written by Brazilian writer, Paulo Coelho in 1988. I chose one to demonstrate the working principle of idioms and expressions I choose one of the books from the mystical fiction genre which has become an international bestseller that has been widely translated in the second half of the 20th century. According to Arnold's classification, 60% of expressions used in this book were free phrases and only near 30% related to fixed and only about 10% set expressions.

Examples: "Thin as a rake", said the main character about getting a little brother, which means he is very thin, and here especially she referred to some negative aspects of his health.

"Break a leg" is usually used to express that the speaker wishes good luck and crosses fingers to that person.

"Piece of cake" – main characters used this expression in order to calm each other and try to believe that it is something that can be easily done. So, kind of motivation words. According to Vinogradov's classification is phraseological fusion.

"Costs an arm and a leg" – their surgery was very expensive, so they used this expression to show that it is not an affordable price.

“Takes two to tango” – means that the active participation of two people, partners is required in order to achieve a goal, and they are both equally important. Sometimes used in a negative connotative manner.

“Kill two birds with one stone” – used to say that they can accomplish two goals with a single action. According to Vinogradov’s classification it is phraseological fusion.

Overall, 62 idioms were used in one book, however the most important were this one. Additionally, I decided to classify some of these set-expressions according to the classification of Vinogradov, for example, “heart of gold” set down to phraseological combinations. The word “gold” itself expresses that something is connected to precious, and it has the direct meaning “something worthy due to its kindness” and it is clear here that the speaker is talking about something very expensive and valuable. Although, let’s look at another example “break a leg”, it is obvious that it is impossible to find out the meaning of an expression by looking at a single word and without knowing the background, that is why it is called phraseological fusion.

Koonin’s classification

Break the ice – nominative-communicative

Thin as a rake - nominative-communicative

Break a leg - nominative

Piece of cake - nominative-communicative

Costs an arm and a leg - nominative-communicative

Takes two to tango – nominative

Kill two birds with one stone – nominative-communicative

Amossova’s classification

Break the ice - verbal word-groups

Thin as a rake – adjectival phrase

Break a leg – verbal phrase

Piece of cake -adjectival phrase

Costs an arm and a leg – adjectival phrase

Takes two to tango – verbal phrase

Kill two birds with one stone - verbal phrase

Discussion

The results from the analyses of 3 novels, an expression used in them, and the problems of classification supported the expected hypothesis. The findings showed a significant difference in the average frequency of using idioms in monologues and the whole books. It was found that set of expressions is more frequently used in monologues than in other books, scientific journals, and

articles. In the other 2 books, the count of idioms used in the whole book was quite similar. By stating my major findings, I realize that it is better to use different types of classifications to different idioms/set expressions. For instance, we can use L. Smith's classification of literary works, famous sayings and is better used by the historian. Since he mostly classifies according to etymology, the origin of an expression. Another classification by I. Smirnitsky, is essential for linguists, as they focus on the meaning and structure of an expression and according to a degree of transference divided into proper PU and idioms. For example, Vinogradov's classification suits translators, as he classified by as the purpose of this classification aligns with the general meaning of an expression. Thus, translators can look for the equivalents and appropriate translation of a particular idiom, expression, phraseological unit. When compared to previous findings, my paper stands out because it examines three different genres and classifies them using different methods.

Conclusion

This paper can be further expanded by addressing classification problems by conducting primary research, as currently it is only based on literature review. A survey or interview featuring owners of different jobs can make a difference in assumptions made in the final part of the paper. For example, in spite of the fact that Smirnitsky's classification was understood to be most helpful to linguists or journalists, it can be a case that it is also convenient or valuable for musicians. Whilst Smith's classification is essential for people keen on history, the origin of words, and their equivalents in other languages (whether it is borrowing or not). Moreover, Vinogradov's classification I found especially useful for translators since to classify more detailed and deep understanding of the whole idiom is needed. Concluding everything mentioned above in my theoretical part, this research points out the classification of phraseological units, especially sets of expressions. At the beginning of my paper, I explained the general definition of a word, then went into detail and drew a logical sequence between the practical and theoretical parts of this research. Furthermore, different types of classification should be used for different purposes and in different fields of research. In this paper, I investigated phraseological units from several perspectives, on the one hand by comparing a classification, and on the other by analyzing the frequency of expressions used in a speech.

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