

KAZGUU LIBERAL ARTS DIGEST

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INFORMATION ABOUT THE JOURNAL

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«KLAD” journal admits for publication various types of articles: original research, review articles, short reports or essays, reflections, case studies, methodologies and cases in english; containing the results of fundamental and applied research in the field of philosophy and identity, history of kazakhstan, pedagogy, linguistics and methods of teaching languages, translation, and tourism.

CONTENTS

Проблемы с социализацией подростка в школе и как это влияет на его индивидуализацию	7
Ашкенова К., Жумагазина М., Насанова Ж.	
Жас дағдарысы кезіндегі бастауыш сынып оқушысының жеке басының дамуының жағымсыз факторларының психологиялық диагностикасы	17
Бағайқызы А., Шаку Ұ., Асаналі М., Жабенова Т., Максұтова Ж.	
Психология личности и гендерная специфика. Как гендер влияет на становление личности?	27
Бахромова А., Изтелеуова К., Ким И	
Влияние типа родительского воспитания на адаптацию ребенка в социуме	34
Бекенова А., Берғалиева А., Жанкина Д., Жумадилова А., Константи́ниди А.	
Sociolects used in M. S. Narikbayev KAZGUU University	49
Akizhanova M.	
Phraseological Units of the English Language Containing Proper Names	54
Gulnaz E. Baltabolat	
Peculiarities of Political Discourse in the English Language	61
Lunara Barysheva	
Use of Compounds in Scientific Texts	69
Yelizaveta Frolova	

Word Order in English and Chinese: A Case Study of the Chinese Folk Tale	76
Assemgul Khamidullova	
Representation of the Trilingual policy by Kazakhstani Media and Information Portals	86
Russalina Akhmerova	
Competitive Environment	98
Barysheva Lunara, Frolova Yelizaveta, Serikbay Dilyara	
Bilingualism from early childhood	104
Baigazy Zhamilya	
What Are the Challenges of International Students in the Adaptation in Another Country?	116
Indira Kabdrasheva	
Experiences of the NIS Graduates with the CLIL Approach	128
Kalymzhanova Azhar	
Experiences of the Individuals with Multilingual Upbringing in Kazakhstan	140
Tokzhan Yessengali	
Language Learning Motivation	148
Tomiris A. Zhilkibayeva	
Experiences of students with disabilities at KAZGUU University	167
Abylgazina Aidana, Askhatova Meerim, Erik Aigerim	
Young women should get married according to civil law but not to traditions	175
Akkuzinova Leila	
Young women should get married according to civil law but not to traditions	178
Leila Akkuzhanova	
Young women should get married according to civil law but not to traditions	181
Anelya Ayapbergenova	
Young women should get married according to civil law but not to traditions	184
Anuarbek Shugyla	

Young women should get married according to civil law but not to traditions	187
Kazi Venera	
Each president should be elected only once	191
Koltsov Konstantin	
Young women should get married according to civil law but not to traditions	194
Kuandykova Aibibi	
Ladies in Eastern countries must cover their bodies	197
Orazbayeva Aruzhan	
The Day of the Dead	201
Kurdykenova K.	
PARIS FASHION WEEK	203
Sagadiyeva Yerkezhan	
Saint Patrick's Day in Ireland.	205
Danish Aisulu	
Members of Editorial Board	207

PART 02

KAZGUU LIBERAL ARTS DIGEST

RESEARCH
PAPERS



PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONTAINING PROPER NAMES

GULNAZ E. BALTABOLAT

Abstract: This study is the analysis of phraseological units, including proper names according to the classification that was created based on the previous classification of researchers. Overall, 92 phraseological units containing proper names in the book “The Painted Veil” by William Maugham were used for the practical part of the study. Phraseological units were analyzed and the results of the analysis were explained.

INTRODUCTION

Proper names in phraseological units are found in all languages of the world. Since ancient times, people may have wondered why exactly these geographical places or people’s names were included in stable expressions. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to analyze phraseological units with proper names in the English language. The relevance of the research is that this topic may not be fully investigated in Kazakhstan and proper names in phraseological units in “The Painted Veil” by William Maugham may not have been analyzed yet, it turns out that this research might be one of the first studies on this topic and in Kazakhstani context. In this study phraseological units containing proper names will be analyzed according to some criteria, that is, first, they will be identified by Pierini structure; second, the origin of it will be found; third, the type of proper name in the phraseological unit will be demonstrated; finally, the meanings of phraseological units will be presented. In the end, some conclusions from the analysis will be summarized. By conducting the analysis, the answer to the question “How to interpret phraseological units of the English language containing proper names?” will be given.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Since the study aims to analyze and organize proper names in phraseological units, several classifications designed by other researchers will be introduced. Before proceeding to the analysis, it is important to elucidate a phraseological unit. Atamurodova (2020) states that a phraseological unit “is a stable, coherent combination of words with partially or fully figurative meaning” (p.158). They present the cultural, and historical backgrounds and the worldview of the people speaking a certain language. Moreover, there is another definition given by The Free Dictionary (n.d.):

[A phraseological unit is] a word group with a fixed lexical composition and grammatical structure; its meaning, which is familiar to native speakers of the given language is generally figurative and cannot be derived from the meanings of the phraseological unit’s component parts. The meanings of phraseological units are the result of the given language’s historical development.

Thus, it can be said that phraseological units are usually unique for each language. As well as they are distinctive, the names of geographical places, people, words that

can only be understood by native speakers, and historical events take place in stable expressions.

Proper names in phraseological units have a valuable place in the language because they serve as signs of cultural, linguistic, geographical, ethnic, and social identity. They can be considered as the demonstration of the interaction of culture and language in phraseology (Sušinskienė, 2009).

Sušinskienė (2009) classifies phraseological units into large topics such as People names and Place names. These large topics are divided into sub-topics. For instance, "People Names" is divided into "Bible", "Mythological Figures", "Real People", etc. However, Sayfullayev looks at phraseological units from another perspective. That is his classification is a bit different. He divides them into 3 groups: native phraseological units, borrowed phraseological units, and intra-linguistic borrowings, that is, phraseological units borrowed from American and other varieties of English. He also mentions phraseological units containing proper names, but described them superficially, without going into details (Sayfullayev, 2021).

1. Pierini (2008) combines four types of phraseological units with proper names, such as idioms, irreversible binomials, stereotypical comparisons, and formulas. The author writes about the structure of phraseological units of each type. Unlike previous researchers, Pierini does not provide readers with a definition of stable expressions, focusing only on the analysis of their construction.

Having studied the many articles read, one can conclude that there is no definite fixed classification of phraseological units. Also, it can be said that every mentioned researcher classified them from dissimilar angles.

After summarizing the above research papers, based on the classifications, I decided

to create a new allocation of phraseological units containing proper names, which is a mixture of the classifications of Sayfullayev and Sushinskene. Before I classify them, every phraseological unit will be analyzed according to Pierini's criteria. It will look this way:

1. Pierini's classification;
2. The origin of the phraseological unit:
 - Native
 - Borrowed
3. Type of proper name in the phraseological unit:
 - Personal name
 - Place name
4. Topics of phraseological units according to their meanings.

This classification will be applied for further analysis.

METHODOLOGY

In this research, as it was mentioned before, I am going to study phraseological units containing proper names. As for the practical part of my analysis, I decided to choose the book "The Painted Veil" by William Maugham. To be more precise, phraseological units will be classified according to the classification that was given in the literature review section. It means, first, each stable expression will be analyzed following the Pierini structure system (what formula does it correspond to). Second, I will use Internet resources to determine whether a phraseological unit is native or borrowed. Then, depending on the type of proper name, phraseological units of each group will be divided into two subgroups, such as names of people and places. Fourth, the definition will be provided by many dictionaries (Cambridge Dictionary, Oxford English Dictionary, Collins Dictionary, etc). Then the phraseological units will be grouped by similarity of meaning. Thereafter, the following example is given to avoid misleading.

"Jack of all trades":

1. According to Pierini, its structure is NP1* + preposition + NP2*, because two noun phrases (Jack, trade) in it are connected by the preposition.

2. Its first use occurs in the XIV century by the English poet Gower, so it can be considered a native phraseology.

3. It contains a personal name.

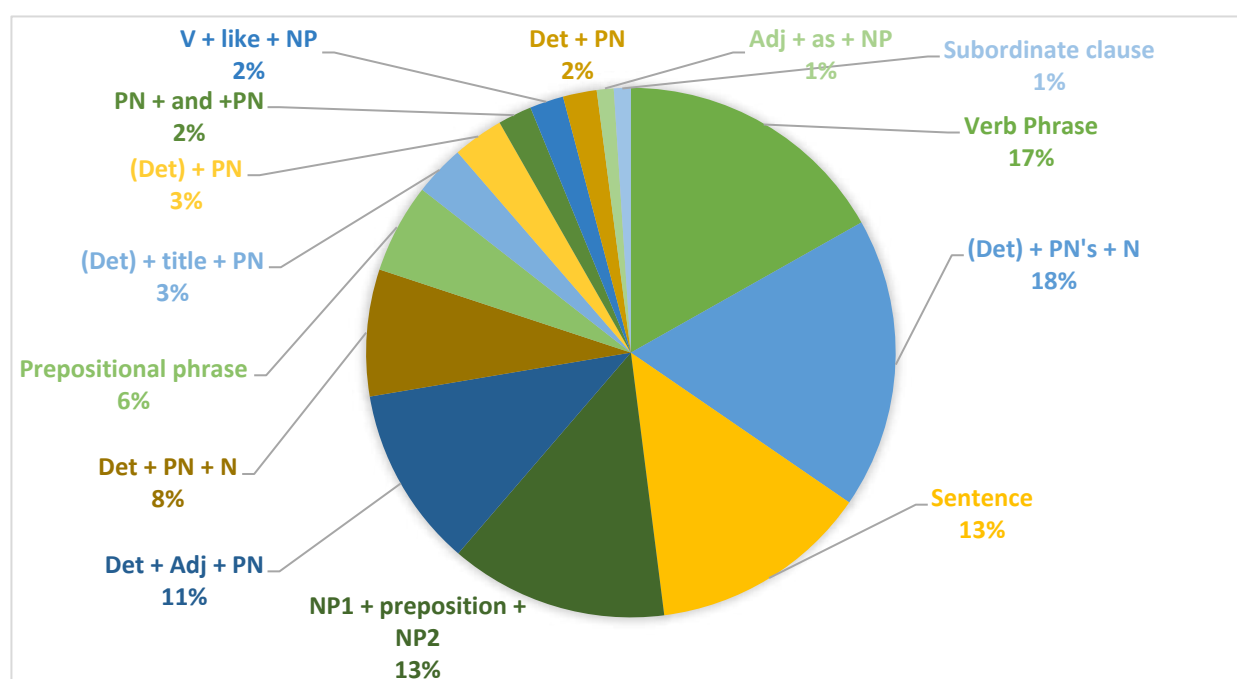
4. "Someone who can do many different jobs" (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.). In the end, after the analysis results are obtained, I will make a summary depending on the number of proper names (personal/place names) found in phraseological units, i.e., the percentage ratio will be represented (for example, more people's names than toponymic or vice versa). In the subsequent parts of the study, the abovementioned steps will be represented in more detail and in practice.

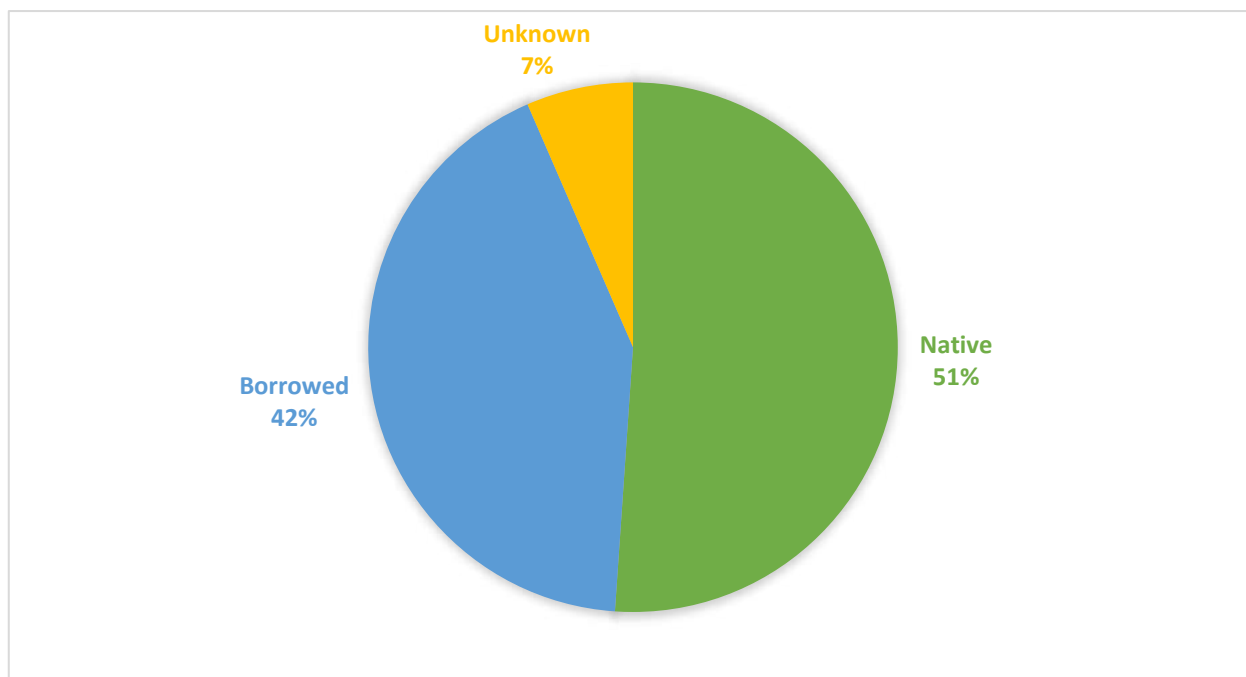
FINDINGS

Each phraseological unit was analyzed according to the criteria that have been mentioned in the methodology part (see Appendix). First of all, all phraseological units were classified according to the Pierini system of structures of phraseological units with proper names. Also, during the classification, phraseological units in the form of a sentence were encountered, thus they did not correspond to any of the Pierini structures. "Phraseological units -

Sentences" have formed a separate type of structure called "Sentence". Therefore, some results were summed up: the most common structures are "(Det) + PN's + N1" – 16 (for example: Job's news), and "Verb Phrase" – 15 (for example: not know someone from Adam). This is followed by "Sentence" – 13 (for example: when in Rome, do as Romans do), "NP1 + preposition + NP22" – 12 (for example: a sop to Cerberus) and so on ("Det + Adj + PN3" – 10, "Det + PN + N4" – 7, "Prepositional phrase" – 5, "(Det) + title + PN5" – 3, "(Det) + PN6" – 3, "PN + and +PN7" – 2, "V + like + NP8" – 2, "Det + PN9" – 2, "Adj + as + NP10" – 1, "Subordinate clause" – 1) (see Figure 1).

If to talk about the number of native phraseological units, there are 47 of them, and the number of borrowed ones is 39. Speaking separately about borrowings the most common ones are from Bible (14), then Greek (4), Roman (3) and Italian (3), and so on (2 Arabic, 1 Irish-English, 1 North Africa, 1 Spanish, 1 Dutch, 1 Chinese, 1 Greek and Roman, 1 Late Latin). The origins of 6 phraseological units were absent on the Internet. It turns out 51% of 92 phraseological units are native, and 42% are borrowed. Here it can be said that the number of native phraseological units predominates (see Figure 2).





The next criterion is the type of proper names in phraseological units. During the analysis of phraseological units, proper names were found that are neither personal names nor place names. Therefore, they will be categorized as “Others”. 50 phraseological units include personal names and 21 geographical names. Also, the number of “others” is 22 units, 8 of them are nationalities, 4 religious figures, etc. (1 weekday, 1 comedy, 1 greatness, 1 Syrian god, 1 cat breed, 1 three-headed watchdog, 1 doll, 1 abstract, 1 language, 1 McCoy). 54.3% of phraseological units contain personal names, 22.8% - the name of the place, and others – 23.9% (see Figure 3).

Thereafter, the difficult part of the analysis - each phraseological unit was provided with its meaning. In order to find their meanings a large number of dictionaries have been used, such as Cambridge Dictionary, Collins Dictionary, Merriam-Webster Dictionary, The Free Dictionary, etc. In order to determine the meaning of one phraseological unit, definitions given by several dictionaries were viewed, and the meaning that was provided by one among all of the other dictionaries was selected since it better reveals the meaning of the phraseological unit. After determining the meaning, the phraseological units were

divided into groups depending on the similarity of the subject of the meanings. As a result, 8 groups were formed, such as Human (28), Life Situations (17), Difficulties (13), Emotions (9), Work (8), Injustice (7), Distance (6), and Plant (4). Among all the topics, the biggest is Human Qualities, and it is 30.4% (see Figure 4).

Two phraseological units differ from others: “Throw yourself on Waddington’s mercy” and “Only a Chinese would turn a handle that way”. They differ in that these phraseological units do not actually include a proper name, but they were included to better convey the idea intended to be expressed.

“Throw yourself on Waddington’s mercy” in the original sounds like this: Throw yourself on someone’s mercy. The word “someone” was replaced by the real person’s name “Waddington” to indicate a specific person. Thus, the author wanted to convey to readers that it is Waddington and no one else who will decide what to do with a person. That is, the name Waddington is not a permanent part of this phraseological unit, any person’s name can be in place of Waddington.

“Only a Chinese would turn a handle

that way” came from “turn a handle”. The author supplemented the phraseological unit, including “Chinese” in order to put emphasis on this particular nationality.

The next section will summarize some terminations based on the results of the findings.

DISCUSSION

The analysis of phraseological units containing proper names was demonstrated in the previous section. Based on the results of the findings, one could conclude that in “The Painted Veil” the number of native (51%) phraseological units is more than borrowed (42%) ones. Also, the origins of 6 phraseological units were not found, which is 7%. It could demonstrate that native phraseological units were frequently used in the early 20th century.

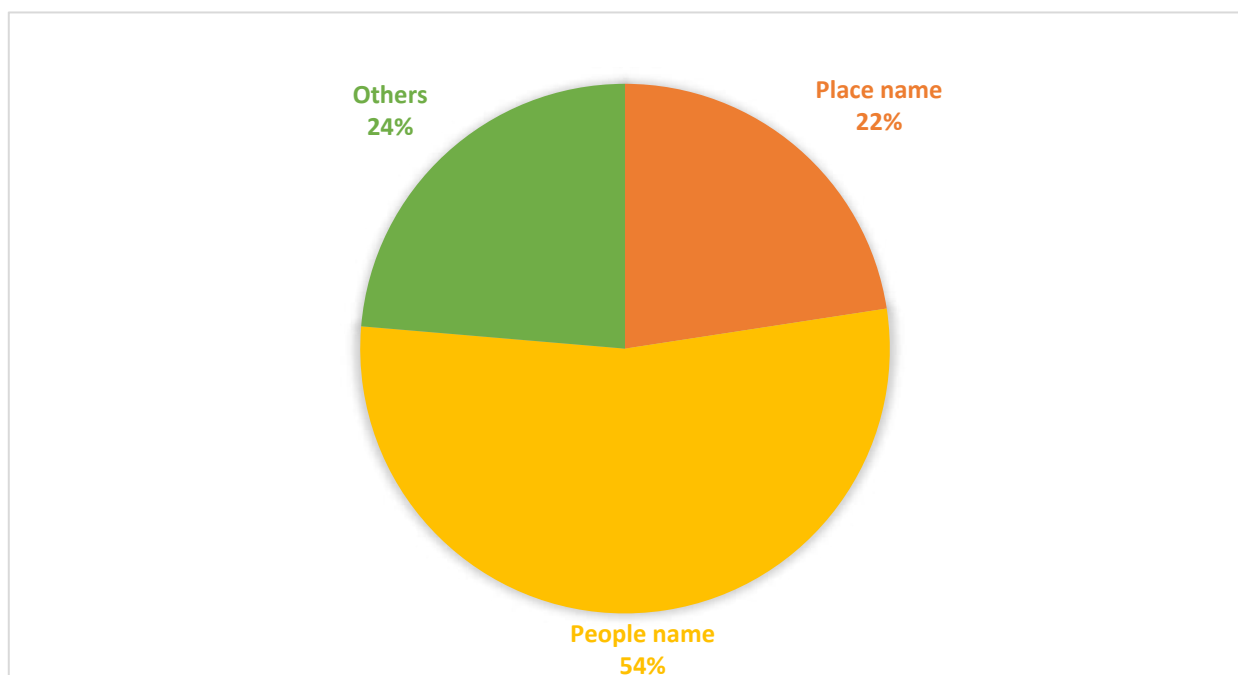
Second, if we talk about the type of proper names in phraseological units, the number of personal names (54%) prevails over the number of toponyms (22%). It could mean that at that time phraseological units containing people’s names were popular

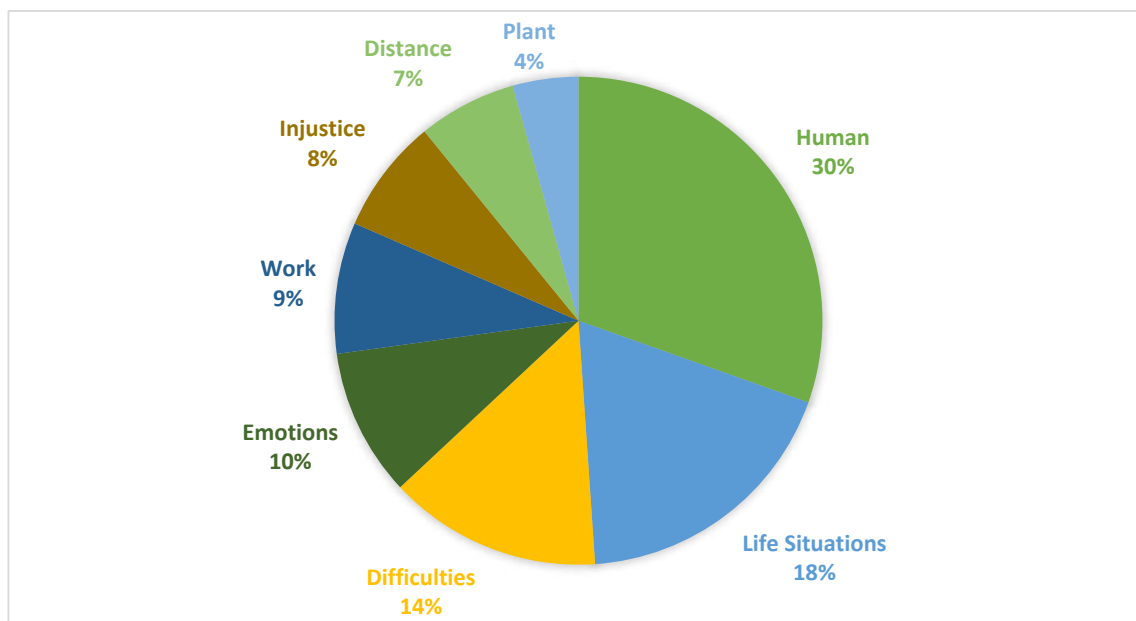
among people. What is more, there are phraseological units containing neither people nor place names, which are called “Others”. They are 24%. Considering the frequently encountered phraseological units that include God, we can also say that people at the beginning of the 20th century were inclined to express emotions by associating with God.

Third, there are more phraseological units on the topic of a person and his qualities (30%) than on other topics. Since proper names in phraseological units reflect the culture, history, and worldview of the people, this may mean that at that time the person and his values were in the first place, so phraseological units on this topic were most used.

Finally, the structure “(Det) + PN’s + N” is often found among the Pierini system of structures. It is 18%. These are phraseological units, such as “Abraham’s bosom,” “Hobson’s choice,” etc., expressing the belonging of something to someone.

The results of the entire study will be summarized in the next part.





CONCLUSION

To sum up, 92 phraseological units containing proper names in “The Painted Veil” by William Maugham were analyzed and classified according to the previously mentioned classification:

1. Pierini’s classification;
2. The origin of the phraseological unit:
 - Native
 - Borrowed
3. Type of proper name in the phraseological unit:
 - Personal name
 - Place name
4. Topics of phraseological units according to their meanings.

Criteria for the analysis of phraseological units were created on the basis of previously conducted research. The results of the analysis were demonstrated and explained. Determining the structure of phraseological units according to Pierini’s classification, finding the origin of phraseology, demonstrating the type of proper name in phraseological units, and providing the meaning, then grouping phraseological units depending on the themes of meanings are steps of my interpretation of phraseological units containing proper names.

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