



The Semantic Meaning of Phraseological Units and their Prototypes

Nasrullaeva Nafisa Zafarovna

Doctor of sciences in philology, professor of the department of English theory and practice,
Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages

Abstract: The subject of the manuscript is the semantic meaning of phraseological units in modern English language. The paper considers a comprehensive study of the stylistic and pragmatic meaning of phraseological units and their prototypes. The relevance of the work performed in comprehensive analysis of the stylistic and pragmatic meaning of phraseological units and their representation in the context of usage. Currently, there is a well-known contradiction between the stylistic essence of phraseological units in context and their dictionary representation. The problem of stylistic coloring, the realization of its potential in speech is one of the most interesting aspects of the investigation.

Key words: phraseological unit, semantic meaning, stylistic potential, context, structure, component, inner shape, outer shape.

Introduction. The rapid development of phraseology, which for the first time appeared as an independent branch of linguistics in the sixties of the twentieth century, urgently requires the coverage of important problems, the study of which will allow to identify and determine all the features of phraseological units that make up the specifics of the object of phraseology and methods of its research. In phraseology, which reflects in the semantic structure of its units the wisdom and aspirations of the people, i.e. cultural traditions, myths and folk legends, religious beliefs and legends as well as historical events. Moreover, phraseological units reflect so called “pragmatic element”: a complex range of emotions, emotional reactions, subjective assessments, ways of speech influence on the interlocutor, figurative, expressive representation of reality and a vivid expression of the national identity of the language.

However, despite the great importance of studying the content of phraseological units, there are still numerous problems of theoretical content of phraseology, including semantical meaning, structure and components of phraseological units [2, p. 33].

Meanwhile, the study of the semantics of vocabulary and phraseology will contribute to solving cardinal problems not only of semasiology, phraseology, linguistics, linguistics of the text, but also of the whole science of language as a whole, including applied linguistic disciplines such as phraseology, translation and methods of teaching language, native and foreign without a “comprehensive interpretation” of the category of meaning.

Results and discussion. It is known that phraseology is considered as a science that studies the meaning, form and use of permanent combinations of verbal signs that exist in a given language and function in the speech of its speakers, as well as limitations in the compatibility of words and verbal meanings that create these combinations.

Moreover, proverbs and sayings, fairy-tale formulas, historical aphorisms and other folk works in the process of losing the structural features of the genre, become like structural phraseological units and thus become the property of the phraseology [1, p. 61].

A.V. Kunin says: “A phraseological unit is a stable combination of words with a completely or partially transferred meaning” [3, p. 14]. A phraseological unit has a different set of categorical features than a word. These signs are as follows: a) lexical meaning; b) component composition and c) grammatical categories.

The categorical essence of phraseological units (further PhU) as an independent, non-word equivalent unit of language finds its expression in the specific features of its form, predetermined by the component composition and originality of its semantics, which is composed of the lexical meaning and grammatical meaning. The signs of PhU include: separateness, reproducibility and stability.

In many works on phraseology, the important role of the internal form in the semantic structure of phraseological units is noted. The inner form is also the center of the image, one of its features, prevailing over all others. Being a dynamic component of meaning, the internal form in some cases determines the semantics of PhU [4, p. 144]. The internal form of PhU is much more stable than the internal form of the word, which is explained by the reinterpreted nature of the phraseological meaning, the separateness of phraseological units and the specifics of their prototypes.

There are four types of prototypes – speech, language, extra-linguistic and mixed which are based on internal forms: simple and complex. This classification is based on a single principle, since the material on the basis of which the phraseology arose is taken into account.

Speech and language prototypes correspond to a simple or complex internal form, while non-linguistic ones correspond only to a complex one.

The phrases that go back to speech prototypes include phrases with a transparent inner form: *burn one's fingers* – burn yourself on something; *the cat among the pigeons* – making a commotion; *flog a dead horse* – doing useless business.

The internal form is peculiar not only to PhUs with the structure of phrase, but also with the structure of sentence, going back to variable phrases. For example, in the semantics of the humorous phraseological unit *the old woman is picking her geese* – there is an image of an old woman who is picking her geese, but the transferred meaning of this expression is “it is snowing”.

In the semantics of the phraseological unit *that cock won't fight* – «this way of doing smth will not work» there is the image of a cock which is not going to fight.

Language prototypes are ones which are formed from another phraseological units or proverbs. For example, PhU *the last straw* – «the last something becomes unbearable» is derived from the proverb *it is the last straw that breaks the camel's back*.

Thus, the internal form of *the last straw* is complicated, as it is formed as a result of the interaction of explicit, i.e. mediated by the proverb.

A similar phenomenon is observed in the PhU *make hay* – “to use a convenient moment” is also a part of the proverb *Make hay while the sun shines* – Do something in the moment, don't delay.

Non-linguistic prototypes include various extralinguistic factors with which they are connected by derivational relations. Such factors preceding the appearance of the PhUs include legends, beliefs, traditions of the English people, etc.

Let's give an example: *be born within the sound of Bow bells* – “to be born in London” (St. Mary-le-Bow church is famous for its bell ringing, located in the center of London); *have kissed the Blarney stone* – to be a flatterer (according to tradition, everyone who kissed a stone located in Blarney Castle in Ireland received the gift of flattering speech).

Mixed prototypes include PhUs, ascending to a particular text, from which other phraseological units are formed by updating phraseological derivation.

So, PhUs *a girl Friday* – “assistant”, “reliable employee” (special. about the secretary girl) is formed by analogy with *a man Friday* – “faithful servant” (after the name of the faithful servant in D. Defoe's novel “Robinson Crusoe”).

Thus, in the sphere of phraseology, the internal form is inherent only in motivated phraseological units. The motivation of the phraseological meaning is understood as its synchronous connection with the semantics of the prototype. The disappearance of one or another reality, situation violates the derivational connection between PhU and its prototype, which denoted this reality, which leads to the oblivion of the inner form, i.e. to its demotivation.

Another example is *to put smb. in the cart* – “to put someone in a difficult position”. This PhU is unmotivated in modern English. The phraseology is based on the image of a criminal who is being taken in a cart to the place of execution or driven around the city in disgrace. Distortion of the components of PhU leads to oblivion of the inner form.

Another example is the interjection phraseology *Swop me bob!* – “God knows!”, in which the words *swop* and *bob* are distorted.

Although the internal form is a component of the semantic structure of phraseology, the above analysis shows the close interaction of the internal form with various prototypes of phraseological units both within the semantic structure of phraseology and beyond.

The internal form is the motivating imagery of a linguistic unit based on the derivational connections of its meaning with the meaning of the prototype. The internal form can be alive, i.e. be realized at the present stage of language development, i.e. characteristic of phraseology in diachronic terms.

A characteristic feature of the development of linguistics in the late XX - early XXI century is the study of language units in real speech use. The study of the functioning of linguistic units in the context attracts many researchers, including foreign.

Conclusion

The complex of the figurative meaning of phraseological unit is distinguished simultaneously with the presence of the complex of word-for-word meaning (direct) and transferred (metaphorical) meaning. At the same time:

- 1) is usually described in a dictionary entry of a monolingual or bilingual dictionary and in dictionaries of definition;
- 2) is a complex component of the semantic structure of phraseological unit, which includes the integral main meaning of this phraseological unit and other possible meanings (if it is a polysemantic unit), so any elements of detailed semantic division established during subsequent discrete analysis reveals contextual changes of its dictionary meaning;
- 3) it cannot be expressed through “itself”, i.e. in the form of a free or stable phrase of a similar structure, but only through a dictionary definition, as for the figurative complex;
- 4) can enter into relations of correlation with other lexical units: with free phrases, stable phrases and one-word verbs. The correlation in such cases is established on the basis of contextual analysis.

Thus, the whole semantic meaning of phraseological unit depends on the relationship between its constituent components and units of the surrounded context.

Bibliography:

1. Anipkina L.N. Evaluating expressions in pragmatic aspect // *Philological sciences*. – Moscow, 2000. - №2. – P. 58-65.
2. Bushuy T.A. Phraseological Equivalentation as a Problem of Contrastive Lexicography // *Contrastive Linguistics*. – Sofia, 1996. - №1. - P. 30-35.

3. Kunin A.V. Phraseology of the modern English language. – Moscow: International relations, 2002. – 183 p.
4. Seidl J., McMordie W. English Idioms and how to use them. – Moscow: High school, 2003. – 422 p.
5. Nasrullaeva, N. (2016). THE CONCEPTS “MAN” AND “WOMAN” IN THE ENGLISH PHRASEOLOGY. *Scientific enquiry in the contemporary world: theoretical basics and innovative approach*, 74.
6. Nasrullaeva, N. (2016). THE CONCEPTS “MAN” AND “WOMAN” IN THE ENGLISH PHRASEOLOGY. *Scientific enquiry in the contemporary world: theoretical basics and innovative approach*, 74.