

THEORETICAL FEATURES AND USAGE OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT:

This article outlines the features of the use of figurative expressions while learning English. Onwards, there will be illustrated the followings: definitions, categories of phraseological units, and their constituent parts, which are the most complex in meaning of language units.

KEYWORDS: phraseological units, idioms, a similar expression, idiomatic, proverb, image-display function, word semantics.

INTRODUCTION:

Phraseological units – it is a reproducible meaningful unit of language, consisting of two or more impact components. Phraseological units are not created in the process of communication, but are reproduced as complete units. Speech is the main way people interact. It helps to make the speech brighter, convey the meaning of the conversation topic, and convey the mood,

attitude to these or those circumstances, also facilitates quotations, which are relevant to a particular situation, proverbs, sayings and phraseological units. The use of figurative expressions in language learning gives you the opportunity to replenish your vocabulary, and to master the skills of handling the idiomatic structures. In order to speak and interpret correctly the words of the interlocutor, it is necessary to know the English phraseological units.

Phraseology is called a special phrase, constant combination of words that is not taken literally and not always has a literal translation. [1; 66-68p.]

The fact that some phraseological units cannot be translated literally, there often happen difficulties in translation and understanding. On the other hand idioms give the language a bright emotional colour.

Example: “*It is not my cup of tea*” literally translated as «It's not my tea», but the

figurative meaning of the expression – «It's not for me, not to my taste» (something unacceptable or inappropriate). [2; 53-57p.]

English phraseological units are not easy, but very interesting. There are several categories of phraseological units:

- * Phraseological units (idioms);
- * Phraseological combinations;
- * Phraseological expressions.

Phraseological units – it's a speech expression (phrase), the meaning of which doesn't match in any way the meaning of the words used.

For example, the expression **"A bull in China shops"** – an elephant in the China shop – in a context it characterizes a clumsy person. Here are some more examples.

- A piece of cake – a trifling matter
- A heart-to heart talk – informal conversation
- A flight of fancy –flight of fantasy/ imagination
- A penny for your thoughts – favorite entertainment
- Hungry as a hunter – means that someone is very hungry
- Open hearted – frank, sincere
- A hard nut to crack – a difficult task
- Neither here nor there – It's irrelevant/ it has nothing to do with it
- Dumb as an oyster – ability to know how to keep one's mouth shut
- Thin as a rake – to be slim
- A knowing old bird – to be acquainted with somebody
- A crying shame – blatant ugliness [3; 24-28p.]

Phraseological combinations – here one word can be used free, and the second one is necessarily associated with the first. For example, in phraseological combination "A bosom friend", the word "friend" is widely used, while the word "bosom", i.e. "sworn" is used only in conjunction with it. Here are some more examples:

- Black frost – frosty weather/ frost without snow
- To pay through the nose – to pay the exorbitant prices
- To talk through one's hat – talk nonsense
- The last straw – last drop/ it breaks the camel's back
- (to have) a narrow escape – escape by a miracle
- Rack one's brains – to bother one's head

Phraseological expressions are ready-made speech patterns, consisting of words with free meaning; they are almost not like phraseologies. At the same time, like the previous categories of idioms, they are always used accurately, without the use of any synonyms. For example: "Live and learn".

- Better untaught than ill;
- Many men, many mind;
- Easier said than done;
- Nothing is possible to a willing heart;
- To promise the moon (to promise something impossible);
- Just what the doctor ordered (that is what you need);
- Butter the boss up (to lick the boots);
- Have a frog in the throat (it is impossible to speak because of the excitement)

Translating phraseological units from Russian language into English or vice-versa is not an easy task. First of all, it is necessary to highlight the idiom in the text and distinguish a stable combination from variable ones. [4; 54-58p.]

In translation, it is important to convey the meaning of the idiom and display its imagery, picking up a similar expression in Russian language and preserving the stylistic function of phraseology.

Many English stable expressions have similar analogues in Russian; their translation

is direct, simple and understandable. For example:

- Bite your tongue – прикуси язык
- It takes two to tango – для танго нужны двое (в значении – за то или иное событие ответственное двое)
- To bear one's cross – нести свой крест
- To build on (the) sand – строить на песке
- A dark house – «темная лошадка»
- Above all – прежде всего
- All the same – все равно
- Every other - каждый второй
- For short – для краткости
- From time to time – время от времени
- It speaks for itself – говорит само за себя, очевидно
- There is no knowing - неизвестно

Some phraseological units of English language changes dramatically when they are translated into Russian but they keep the same meaning.

- Buy a pig in a poke – (купить поросенка в мешке) в русском языке мы говорим «купить кошку в мешке» в смысле купить что-то, ничего не зная о товаре
 - To have rats in the attic – быть не в своем уме
 - To step on smb's toes - оскорбить
 - To talk turkey - говорить откровенно
 - To throw together – сделать что-то на скорую руку
 - To turn tail – сбежать, исчезнуть
 - To walk on air - радоваться
 - Wait and see – поживем-увидим
 - With young - беременная
 - Elvis has left the building – конец чему-то
 - Miss the boat – упустить шанс
- There are also commonly used phraseological units in modern English.

- Take the bull by the horns – взять быка за рога
- A piece of cake – пару пустяков, легкое дело

- Dig deep your pocket – раскошелиться, вывернуть карманы
- Have one's finger in every pie – быть замешанным в каком-либо деле, приложить руку к чему-либо
- Don't look a gift horse in the mouth – даренному коню в зубы не смотрят
- Tie the knot – выйти замуж, жениться
- When pigs fly – никогда, когда рак на горе свиснет
- Give someone the cold shoulder – игнорировать, оказывать холодный прием
- Adding salt to the wound – сыпать соль на рану
- Once in a blue moon – в кои-то веки, очень редко
- On the go – быть занятыми, в движении
- Read between the lines – читать между строк

It is well known that the phraseological units of language reflect in its most comprehensive way a vast historical experience of people. It is accumulated, preserved accordingly and processed the richest information about human activity in all the complexity of its implementation. [5; 35-46p.]

There is a special significance – in addition to the semantic-nominative potential it has evaluability of any phraseological notation.

Man accumulates his own phraseological units of his own language, which were acquired while in communication. [6; 44p.]

Universal law of development of all means of language nomination, including not least phraseological, or phraseology of language - especially its idiomatic variety, i.e. nuclear phraseological seam - often distinguished by complex semantics - figurative non-regulatory value, modally - expressive and emotional coloration, quite high derivative and

textual activity, large communicative -
pragmatic potential, enduring social -
psychological significance and cultural -
historical specificity. Moreover, its figurative
display function of phraseology, starting with
the idiomatic nucleus that is extremely
important.

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