

THE NOMINATION OF HUMAN INTELLECTUAL ABILITIES IN SOMATIC PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS OF DIFFERENT STRUCTURE LANGUAGES

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Abstract

The phraseological fund of any language is national cultural heritage and it represents the indisputable treasure of people, which contains centuries-old experience of their labor and spiritual activity. Human intelligence is not considered out of language and its ability as ability to generation and perception of speech. In the anthropocentric paradigm the principle of language comprehension in the close connection with person's life prevails, and a person is put first, but language is its main defining and composing characteristic. According to it a main objective of comparative linguistics becomes relevant, namely determination of language regularities and identification of ethnic specificity of phraseological units of different languages.

The article is devoted to the study of semantic features of the phraseological units containing the somatic lexeme голова / вуй / head of the Russian, Mari and English languages. The contrastive analysis of the composition of somatic phraseological units is allowed to reveal complete similarities and differences at the semantic level among phraseological units of the languages of different structure. The object of this study is the phraseological units of the Russian, Mari and English languages with meaning of positive evaluation of personal mental abilities. The goal of the study is to carry out the structural and typological analysis of the phraseological units with the component голова of the Russian language in comparison to the phraseological units containing components вуй / head of the Mari and English languages through the prism of positive connotation. The achievement of the aim is carried out by the solution of certain tasks among which there is a determination of semantic equivalence of the compared phraseological units of the different structure languages, the identification of various degree of their structural and typological similarity.

The modelling of phraseological units on the basis of the inner form has universal character as it can be observed equally in different languages. Considering the degree of similarity of the phraseological image and meaning, stylistic colour, lexical and grammatical organization, it is possible to classify several variants of interlingual phraseological equivalents: 1) complete equivalents coinciding in the meanings at the lexical and grammatical levels; 2) incomplete equivalents which are characterized by a lack of complete similarity of grammatical structure; 3) incomplete equivalents which do not have similarity of lexical components; 4) equivalents with complete difference at the lexical and grammatical levels.

Keywords: phraseological unit; component; the Russian language; the Mari language; the English language; semantics

1. INTRODUCTION

Researches of various levels of a language system taking into account national and specific features are characteristic of modern linguistics. The issue of what in each language emphasizes community of all mankind and connects with the unique image of these people has become relevant more than ever, but what identifies its unique experience and represents reflection of national creativity.

The present stage of linguistics development is characterized by enhanced action of comparative researches, which national languages are involved, including the Mari language in the field of stylistics (Sokolova, Kolyago, Fokina, 2018 a, b), cultural linguistics (Sokolova, 2015), phraseology (Fokina, 2016).

Phraseological units reflect “long development of people’s culture in the semantics, fix and transfer cultural attitudes and stereotypes from generation to generation”, and phraseological units are bright expression of spirit and nation originality (Maslova, 2004). A comparative research of phraseological units of the different structure languages on the basis of semantic modelling of thematic groups with the same type component allows to reveal general regularities and specifics of processes of phrasal formation and also to define a circle of phraseological images reflecting features of national world outlook.

2. OPINION AND DISCUSSION

The group studied in this research is represented by phraseological units of the Russian, Mari and English languages, in which the somatic component голова / вуй/ head symbolizes the tool of intellectual activity and expresses a positive assessment of this activity, showing the presence of certain abilities of a person. The basis of phraseological units is a set of characteristic features that indicate the level of intellectual development and, as a result of this, the possession of certain properties by a person: intelligence, wisdom, ability to think logically.

According to A. N. Baranov and D. O. Dobrovolsky, it is necessary to analyze the phraseological system of the language using the method of factor analysis, which involves the study of parameters affecting various aspects of the structure and functioning, namely the current meaning, internal form, syntax and style. One of the important places is given to the internal form in the center of these factors (Baranov, Dobrovolsky, 2009).

Yu.P. Solodub (Solodub, 2003) notes the universal nature of modeling of phraseological units based on the internal form in the consideration of interlanguage phraseological equivalents and correspondences. Interlingual phraseological equivalents having full correspondences are characterized by the coincidence of their meanings, phraseological images and stylistic coloring.

Considering phraseological units with a positive assessment of intellectual abilities, it is necessary to note the presence of phraseological units in all three languages. These phraseological units coincide in their meanings and reflect the full conformity of the imaginative organization. The adjectives светлая / волгыдо / clear are used as a component in the phraseological units of the Russian language clever head (Molotkov, 1986), the Mari language– волгыды вуй (уш) кӧн; волгыдо вуюн (ушан) кӧн (literally bright head) (Gracheva, 1989), English - a clear head (literally. bright head) (Kunin, 1984). Their value is associated with light, energy, which is vital for living organisms. Component голова / вуй / head plays a significant role in the formation of phraseological units, pointing to the person as the owner of positive characteristics, namely, clear mind and logical thinking. It is especially emphasized by the positive connotation of the used adjective.

Phraseological units of the English language wise head (literally wise head) (Kunin, 1984) and phraseological units of the Russian language clever head (Tikhonov, 2004) reflect an easily reinterpreted image in which the intellectual space of human consciousness corresponds to the direct meaning of adjectives intelligent, wise. These phraseological units are characterized by full correspondence with the meaning and image. Stylistic colouring was the result of metonymic reinterpretation of phrases.

The correspondence between the grammatical structure and the figurative organization with minor lexical discrepancies was revealed in the phraseological units of the Russian language with the meaning “intelligent, sensible”: have a head on the shoulders; with a head (Molotkov, 1986); head on whose shoulders (Molotkov, 1986) and phraseological units of the English language to have a head (or a good head) on one’s shoulders; have the head or have a good head on the shoulders or have the head screwed to the right or on the right way ‘have a head on the shoulders, be smart, quick-witted’ (Kunin, 1984); (literally have an old head on young shoulders) ‘being smart beyond years’(Kunin, 1984). As we see, in the previous phraseological units the component head has the meaning “mind, intelligence, human brain” and it symbolizes the instrument of mental activity, something without which it is impossible for a person to do. The head is a part of the body and it is in a position according to the structure of the organism. For phraseological units of the English

language, there is the tendency of using the adjective good, indicating the stylistic coloring of the phraseological unit. In addition, the phraseological unit of the English language have an old head on young shoulders is made on the opposition of differential semantic features which are interdependent: with the growth of one feature a decrease of another one is observed. The phraseological unit with the head of the Russian language is truncated.

Phraseological units of the Russian language whose head (bowler) cooks (Molotkov, 1986) with the meaning "quick-witted" and in the Mari language вуй олмеш (олмышто) комдо (кӱршӱк) огыл кӱн; вуй (вӱреш) комды (корцак) агыл кӱн (literally not a basket (not a pot) at the place of the head) 'somebody is smart enough, thoughtful, reasonable'(Gracheva, 1989) they are partly rethought phrases and differ in lexical divergences in component composition. In the Russian phraseological unit, the component bowler is active in use, which is associated with the head, and in the Mari language, the components комдо 'basket' / кӱршӱк 'pot'. The analyzed phraseological units are incomplete equivalents, as they have no similarity of lexical components.

During comparing the phraseological units of the three languages, it turned out that the phraseological units with the component tsar having the meaning "clever, quick-witted" were revealed only in the Russian language: with the tsar in the head; the tsar in whose head (Molotkov, 1986). In a thematic group with positive connotation of such kind of the phraseological units, marked by the ethnocultural component tsar, are the personification of intelligence, rationality, and the mind of a person. The image of phraseological units is created by an anthropomorphic metaphor, in which the mind, as an intellectual priority, is likened to a tsar as the supreme ruler, whose presence symbolizes the supreme power in the state. Phraseological units with the component tsar convey vividly the moral foundations of the Russian people and reflect their historical heritage.

In the phraseological units of the Russian language a head and shoulders above; with head taller than anyone (Molotkov, 1986) with the meaning "much smarter, more experienced" 'about the superiority of anyone in any respect' and the English phraseological unit head and shoulders above sb (literally head and shoulders above somebody) (Kunin, 1984) 'much more, above head of someone' the lexeme head is used in its literal meaning. To be someone head and shoulders higher on a physiological basis always means to be stronger, older. The expressive component of these phraseological units is the lexeme higher, which expresses the greater degree of the feature "much smarter, more experienced, more knowledgeable" than the norm. With the complete identity of the semantics of the phraseological units of the Russian and English languages, there is a lack of complete similarity at the lexical and grammatical levels.

3. CONCLUSION

Studying of images of phraseological units is directly connected with component structure of idiomatic units. Being basic material of phraseological unit in the structural relation, lexemes directly or indirectly define its semantics. It can be used conceptually marked and unmarked vocabulary in the composition of idiomatic phraseological units. According to authors' opinion, the phraseological image always is connected with a word as a component of a phraseological unit. The considered parallels of phraseological units of the different structure languages demonstrate that semantic subgroups are based on several structural-semantic models typical for all considered languages with similarity and difference of functioning of various components. We have noted cases of coincidence of figurativeness of phraseological units in the Russian and English languages and also in the Russian and Mari languages. Positive connotative evaluation of the person as clever and smart meets in phraseology of all considered languages. The characteristic of a person as ingenious and quick-witted is found only in the Russian language.

Frequency of coincidence in phraseological meanings and images demonstrate considerable similarity of world outlook and cultures of the Russian, Mari and English people. The existence of incomplete equivalents, which is expressed in the lack of complete similarity of grammatical structure or lexical components, testifies about the obvious national originality and mentality peculiar to each people.

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