CLASSIFICATIONS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

Anastasia IUTINA, studentă

CZU: 81`25:811.111`373.7   *19990526@list.ru*

Un număr mare de lingvişti s-au interesat de clasificarea unităţilor frazeologice, motiv pentru care există atât de multe clasificări bazate pe particularităţi semantice, gramaticale, structurale ale unităţilor frazeologice. Acest articol abordează problema dificultăţilor care pot fi întâlnite în procesul de traducere a unităţilor frazeologice.

A large number of linguists have been interested in the problem of categorizing phraseological units, which is why there are so many classifications based on semantic, grammatical, structural, and other peculiarities of phraseological units.

The Swiss linguist Charles Bally was the first to propose his classification [1, p. 8]. He divided the phraseological units into the following groups:

– free phrases that do not have stability;

– familiar combinations that have a relatively free connection between components;

– phraseological series in which two logically interrelated concepts merge into one. They allow for the rearrangement of the constituent components;

– phraseological unities that express an integral concept, since their components have lost their direct meaning. In such phrases, the rearrangement of components is not allowed

This concept contributed to further research in the field of phraseology, including the well-known concept of V.V. Vinogradov, who distinguished phraseological fusions, unities and collocations [2, p. 140]:

Phraseological fusions or idioms are semantically indivisible expressions, where the components' semantic independence is completely lost. For example, "once in a blue moon" – "very seldom". In this case, it is difficult to determine the meaning of a phrase based only on the semantics of individual components. Most often, idioms are not determined by the realities of the modern language. That is

why fusions are sometimes called lexico-grammatical archaisms, and their meaning can be understood only by studying the etymology of expressions, their history. For instance, "red tape". The etymology of the phrase dates back to the 16th century, when legal or official documents were tied with a red ribbon. Often, it was quite difficult to open them.

So, phraseological fusions have a number of peculiarities:
– the fusions are syntactically indivisible;
– most often it is impossible to change the word order;
– they may include archaisms.

As mentioned earlier, words that are part of phraseological fusions lose their independent meaning. They become part of a complex lexical unit, so most often phraseological fusions are synonymous to a single word. For instance, "to kick the bucket" – "to die". But we must remember that somehow phraseological units and words have many differences and they are not the same in linguistics.

Phraseological unities are such stable combinations of words in which, in the presence of a common figurative meaning, the signs of semantic separateness of the components are clearly preserved.

Phraseological unities are metaphorical, as are phraseological fusions. But unlike the previous group, phraseological unities do not contain archaisms and are understandable to a modern native speaker. To understand the phraseological unity, it is necessary to perceive its components in a figurative sense. For instance, the meaning of the expression "make a mountain out of a molehill" is "to greatly exaggerate something". The meaning of this expression is revealed only if the word "molehill" is considered as something insignificant, small, and the word "mountain" – something very large.

Features of phraseological unities:
– vividly expressed metaphoricity;
– the semantics of the individual components are preserved;
– the inability to replace some components with others.

Phraseological collocations are stable phrases, which include words with both free and figurative meanings: "to attain success" "to break a promise". In the first case, the verb "to attain" has a figurative connotation, while the word "success" retains its original meaning. In

the second case, the verb "break" is also metaphorical in its meaning, since it is impossible to literally break a promise with your hands. The word "combination" itself emphasizes that words are combined, and do not merge into a single whole and do not form a semantic monolith.

Many scientists have criticized the classification of V.V. Vinogradov, pointing out the lack of a single principle in this theory, for example, that fusions and unities differ on the basis of motivation, and phraseological collocations differ in terms of limited compatibility [2, p. 3]. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that V.V. Vinogradov's classification was a significant step in the development of phraseology of various languages, including English.

In contrast to V. Vinogradov, A. Kunin classified phraseological units not only by semantic feature, but also by structural one. He divided the phraseological units into the following four groups [3, p. 250].

Nominative phraseological units are stable expressions that define things, phenomena. Their main function is that they call certain things or processes. In turn, this group is divided into:

– **substantival** – phrases that are used to denote objects, phenomena, states, qualities, etc: "a bull in a China shop" – "a clumsy person";

– **adjectival** – phrases that have the meaning of a qualitative characteristic: "poor as a church mouse" – "to be very poor";

– **adverbial and prepositional** – phrases that characterize the quality of the action: "under the rose" – "in secret, privately", "by leaps and bounds" – "very quickly".

The group of **nominative-communicative expressions** includes verbal phraseological units that perform the function of a predicate and are able to coordinate, manage and be controlled in combination with other words. For example, "to keep one's head above water" – "to just be able to manage, especially when you have financial difficulties", "to be born in the purple" – "to be born into royalty".

Interjective phraseological units are such phrases that can not be attributed to either nominative or communicative groups, since they include interjections that represent a person's emotional reaction to certain events: "hold your horses!" – "wait before doing something".

Communicative phraseological units include phraseological units that are sentences, namely proverbs and sayings.

According to Kunin, proverbs are aphoristically compressed and rhythmically organized statements with an instructive meaning [3, p. 339]. For example, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating" – "everything is learned in practice".

Sayings is a short folk sentence that does not make up a whole proverb, but also contains a teaching**:** "not worth a red cent" – "worthless".

In that way, there are a large number of classifications of phraseological units based on the structural, semantic, or structural-semantic features of these stable expressions. Each of them in its own way reveals certain unique peculiarities inherent in phraseological units.

References:

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