

SEMANTIC PECULIARITIES OF THE PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH NUMERATIVE COMPONENTS “THREE” AND “FOUR” IN ENGLISH AND UZBEK LANGUAGES

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ANNOTATION

This article is devoted to the study of the semantic peculiarities of the phraseological units with numerative components “three” and “four” in English and Uzbek languages. Language is an important element of the culture of any nation, including the fact that the language reflects the culture, the history of the nation and the ideology and world view of the nation. Many units of the language can be such a mirror, but there are some language units, which by their very nature can be the better mirror of the culture, history and world view of the nation. One of these language units is a phraseological unit.

KEYWORDS: *vocabulary, language, phraseology, study, stylistic, phraseological units, word-group, style, origin, idiom, stability, phraseological fusions, phraseological unities, phraseological collocations.*

Introduction

A concept is a unit of collective knowledge / consciousness (sending to the highest spiritual values), which has a linguistic expression and is marked by linguistic and cultural specifics. This is a Phraseology is a popular field of diverse philological investigations. Nowadays a number of scholars turn their attention to the science of phraseology. One of the ideas is connected with the understanding of phraseological units as phenomena of culture and therefore the function is investigated in cultural context. Thus phraseology has entered the sphere of sociolinguists. One of the best definitions of phraseological units is as follows: it is a stable, coherent combination of words with partially or fully figurative meaning.

Phraseological units are word-groups that cannot be made in the process of speech; they exist in the language as ready-made units. They are compiled in special dictionaries. The same as words phraseological units express a single notion and are used in a sentence as one part of it. American and British lexicographers call such units «idioms». We can mention such dictionaries as: L. Smith «Words and Idioms», V. Collins «A Book of English Idioms» etc. In these dictionaries we can find words, peculiar in their semantics (idiomatic), side by side with word-groups and sentences. In these dictionaries they are arranged, as a rule, into different semantic groups. Phraseological units can be classified according to the ways they are formed, according to the degree of the motivation of their meaning, according to their structure and according to their part-of-speech meaning.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We used a complex method of analysis, including:

- 1) method of semantic analysis involves the analysis of cultural values of the numbers;
- 2) descriptive method comprises monitoring and classification of the material;

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3) comparative analysis identifies the universal and distinctive features of numerals in unrelated languages;

4) method of sampling from different phraseological, defining, bilingual dictionaries by the criterion of existence of the numeral component in the linguistic unit.

For the first time, the concept of phraseological unit was formulated by the linguist S. Balli, a representative of the French school of linguistics. He called the phraseological unit as ‘combinations that have firmly entered the language’ [4, 380].

the important task for all the linguists working in this linguistic field is joining of efforts and the pooling of interests in revealing the etymological source of phraseological unit more profoundly. The works by L.P.Smith, A.V.Kunin, B.A. Larin, L.P. Postushenko and others revealed many interesting facts concerning the sources and origin of phraseological units. Only in the beginning of the 20th century preconditions for phraseology allocation in an independent linguistic discipline have been created. In this process researches of many linguists have played the important role, such as J. Seide, Ch.Bally, I.I. Sreznevskiy, E.D. Polivanov, L.V. Shcherba, A.V. Kunin, V.V.Vinogradov, B.A.Larin and others.

The sources and origin of modern English phraseological units appear to be very diverse have great history around the world. Conventionally, all the phraseological units can be divided into the following groups: indigenously English and borrowed phraseological units. The sources and origin of phraseological units in Modern English and Russian languages can be similar. The main sources of phraseological units over the centuries Bible was a widely read and quoted book in England. Number of scriptural constructions and expressions are so high that it is not an easy task to collect and to count them.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Numbers have entered our lives so long ago that we do not even pay attention to it. They surround us everywhere, but it's just information that conveys to our consciousness some kind of messages.

The numeral “three” has its own specifics, which is connected to the major role this numeral plays in numerology and folklore. According to Emory B. Lease, from time to time of history of the world various numbers, chiefly those from 1 to 12, have been regarded as possessing mystical significance, but there can be no doubt that in extent, variety and frequency of its use the number 3 surpasses all the rest.

This very word itself shows a threefold use: one definite, its actual intrinsic value; another, symbolic, mystic, esoteric; the third is indefinite, of an indeterminate number of times, even in the sense of many. There is even a special term — a triple deity (sometimes referred to as threefold, tripled, triplicate, tripartite, triune or triadic, or as a trinity), which is a deity associated with the number three. Such deities are common throughout world mythology.

The Collins English Dictionary gives us such a description of this numeral. The cardinal number that is the sum of two and one and is a prime number. A numeral, 3, III, (iii), representing this number the amount or quantity that is one greater than two something representing, represented by, or consisting of three units such as a playing card with three symbols on it.

And according to the Online Etymology dictionary this word derives from Old English *þreo*, fem. and neuter (masc. *þri*, *þrie*), from Proto-Germanic *thrijiz* (cognates: Old Saxon *thria*, Old Frisian *thre*, Middle Dutch and Dutch *drie*, Old High German *dri*, German *drei*, Old Norse *þri*, Danish *tre*),

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from nominative plural of PIE root *trei*— "three".

So this numeral has several basic meanings: "greater than two", "sum of two and one", "sum of the three units". The concept of quantitative superiority ("greater than two") reflects in the phraseological units becoming universal concept of the "indefinite large number": *fish and guests stink after three days — no host can be hospitable enough to prevent a friend who has descended on him from becoming tiresome after three days*. Meaning close to this one we also can see in the idiom: *three's a crowd — a third person spoils the ideal combination of a couple*. This expression, alluding to a third person spoiling the privacy of a pair of lovers.

There is a longer version of the phraseological unit, which is more proverb than phraseological unit: *Two is company, (but) three's a crowd — a way of asking a third person to leave because you want to be alone with someone*. (Often implies that you want to be alone with the person because you are romantically interested in him or her. We should point out that here we can see the meaning of redundancy, which derives from the idea of a couple + one. The couple, the pair, "duality" seems to be a complete unit, and this "plus one" is something that breaks its integrity. So this meaning refers to the meaning of the numeral "two" as a unity, something that consists of two parts and still can be the "one". Or another example: *Moving three times is as bad as a fire — it means that if you move your household three times, you will lose or damage as many things as a fire in your house would have destroyed or damaged*. Here "three" adds the meaning "too much" and negative connotation of redundancy.

Also the concept of a "large number" can be represented in the metaphorical way and to be close to the meaning a "high level expression of a certain trait". For example, in the phraseological unit: *three dogs' night — A very cold night*. Back in pre-central heating days, on nights when a thick quilt wasn't available or didn't provide enough heat, rural dwellers might take a dog into bed to provide additional warmth. Chilly weather called for one dog, even colder for two, but when it was cold enough to freeze a brass monkey, you'd make room for three dogs. Here we can see that the number "three" corresponds with the adjective "cold". An example in Uzbek: *bir bulduruq uch qorga tatiydi*.

At the same time, the active component is sometimes used in a numerical value as the "small amount": *the three tailors of Tooley Street — a small group of people who consider themselves to be representatives of the whole people; didn't exchange more than three words with someone — to say hardly anything to someone*.

Also in this phraseological unit the number may vary, that is here the number "three" represents the meaning of the "small amount" in the purest way and it does not have here any of its folklore or mystical additional meanings. The concept of the "small amount" can be intertwined with the concept of "easiness". There is a phraseological unit, which has not a very long history. It derives from literature: *three pipe problem* — according to Sherlock Holmes, it is an easy problem, which has rather obvious solution. To smoke three pipes does not take a lot of time. There is comparatively large amount of the phraseological unit, containing this numeral, which are built upon the same scheme. For example: *a three-alarm fire (also a five-alarm fire) — someone or something very exciting; a three-ring circus — a lot of noisy or confused activity. give three cheers — compare: to express approval, salute somebody/something in the formula "Hip, hip" (by a cheer-leader) and "Hurray" (by all), shouted three times*.

In all three cases the meaning is connected to the idea of the excitement and noisiness and through it to the idea of the "large amount" (of noise or feelings). The other phraseological unit which

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is built upon the same scheme has a very different meaning. It is rather modern and it derives from the intricacies of using the PCs: *a three-finger salute* — *The keyboard keys Control, Alternate, Delete pressed at the same time when a program fails under the Windows operating system*. Here the meaning of the “three” directs on the real number (of finger). It has a close connection to the modern-day life.

Here we can see that the larger the numeral becomes, the more specific meaning it has. The numeral “four” is a very good example of this principle. The main meanings of this word are: the cardinal number that is the sum of three and one a numeral, 4, IV, and others, representing this number something representing, represented by, or consisting of four units, such as a playing card with four symbols on it.

The other meanings are terminological and do not have any wide usage, but we can notice that most of them are figurative and derived due to metaphorical or metonymical shift of the meaning. This numeral derives from Old English *feower* “four; four times”. Besides, the Online Etymology Dictionary shows us, that the phraseological units with this numeral have a rather long history. To be on all fours is known from 1719; earlier on all four. Four-letter word as a euphemism for one of the short words generally regarded as offensive or objectionable is attested from 1923; four-letter man is recorded from 1920 (apparently as a euphemism for a shit). Compare Latin *homo trium litterarum*, literally “three-letter man,” a euphemism for *fur* “a thief.”

A four-in-hand was a carriage drawn by four horses driven by one person; in the sense of “loosely tied necktie” it is attested from 1892. To study *The History of the Four Kings* contains an old euphemistic slang phrase for “a pack of cards,” from the time when card-playing was considered a wicked pastime for students. Slang 4-1-1 “essential information” is from the telephone number called to get customer information. The four-color problem so called from 1879.

The numeral “four” basically states the actual number of objects or phenomena: *the four corners of the earth* — *the regions of the world distant from the centre (from primitive conceptions of a flat or table-shaped world); to the four winds* — if a group of things or people are scattered to the four winds, they are sent to different places which are far away from each other; on all fours — on one’s hands and knees, with both hands and both knees on the ground; within these four walls — something that should be kept secret. The meaning “secrecy” in the last phraseological unit can be underlined adding more components to this idiom: between you, me and these four walls. Due to the image of the room or the house, this numeral gets the additional meaning of safety or closeness. But several idioms, which contain the numeral “four”, can have a meaning “large number” (as the idioms with “two” or “three”) or even redundancy. For example: *four sheets in the wind* — *drunk or intoxicated (=drink too much)*.

Besides, we should point out, that due to the image of any four-wheeled vehicle or more ancient images of a square, meaning of this numeral can add the concept of the “completeness” or “fullness”. Square is one the most widespread geometrical figures and also one of the most well-known geometrical symbols. The number “four” has many symbolical meanings and one of them is “completeness”, which corresponds with the square as one of the most complete and perfect geometrical figures. Some examples in Uzbek: “*To’rt xotin bir bo’lsa, Kasbi – o’lan aytish*”, “*Poraxo’rning ko’zi beshta – qo’li to’rtta*”.

If we compare the two phraseological unit: the four wheels — a car; transportation; two is company, (but) three’s a crowd. We can notice that they are both contain this concept of a “completeness” (broken or not). And when we speak about the number “two”, we conclude that the

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concept of the “completeness” here is connected to the image of any pair, any couple “two as one”, however when we speak about this concept in connection with the numeral “four” we can conclude that it derives from several ideas (house having four walls, chair having four legs, etc.).

CONCLUSION

So, numbers are known to be an integral part of the ethnic culture of Uzbek and English languages, their relation in social interaction depicted by special and ‘traditional’ numbers by rendering cumulative function. Thus, every language has its numbers with their specific meaning and quality. Whatever language is Uzbek West countries, all of them are greatly interested in the analysis of their specific features and usage areas. They are able to employ phrases in reference to their aims and meanings. Every digit has its educating significance and special place. Every number in Uzbek language which is known to be bears educative meaning in additional to its main function. To conclude the article, it can be reviewed that by taking into consideration the degree of idiomaticity phraseological units are classified into three groups such as phraseological fusions, phraseological unities and phraseological collocations. They are differentiated according to their idiomaticity and they are proven with the examples.

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