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## LINGUISTIC AND PRAGMATIC CHARACTERISTICS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

Annotation

This article aims to explore the linguopragmatic features of simple structured phraseological units, elucidating how these units' function in communication and their role in conveying meaning beyond their literal interpretation. By analyzing the semantic equivalence and pragmatic functions of these idioms, the study aims to highlight the challenges and strategies in cross-cultural translation and communication.

**Key words:** Phraseology, pragmatics, simple structured phraseological units, brevity, fixedness, idiomaticity, functionality.

## FRAZEOLIGIK BIRLIKLARNING LINGVISTIK VA PRAGMATIK XUSUSIYATLARI

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada sodda qolipli frazeologik birliklarning lingvopragmatik xususiyatlari tahlil qilinadi, ularning muloqotdagi funksiyasi va bevosita ma'nosidan tashqari ma'no yetkazishdagi roli ochib beriladi. Idiomalarning semantik ekvivalentligi va pragmatik funksiyalarini tahlil qilish orqali madaniyatlararo tarjimada uchraydigan qiyinchiliklar va ularni yengib o'tish strategiyalari yoritiladi.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Frazeologiya, pragmatika, oddiy tuzilgan frazeologik birliklar, qisqalik, barqarorlik, idiomatiklik, funksionallik.

## ЛИНГВИСТИЧЕСКИЕ И ПРАГМАТИЧЕСКИЕ ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКИ ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ ЕДИНИЦ

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматриваются лингвопрагматические особенности просто-структурированных фразеологических единиц, раскрывается их роль в коммуникации и способность передавать смысл, выходящий за рамки буквального значения. Анализируя семантическое соответствие и прагматические функции этих идиом, исследование подчеркивает трудности и стратегии межкультурного перевода и общения.

**Ключевые слова:** Фразеология, прагматика, просто структурированные фразеологизмы, краткость, устойчивость, идиоматичность, функциональность.

**Introduction.** In the contemporary globalized context, the pursuit of foreign language acquisition particularly English has become a prominent educational and cultural trend. English, as a lingua franca, is increasingly adopted as a second language in numerous countries, prompting scholars to explore effective methodologies for its instruction and acquisition. One significant area of linguistic competence involves the mastery of phraseological units, which serve not only as semantic constructs but also as tools for achieving native-like fluency in communication. These expressions provide learners with pre-fabricated lexical combinations that align with conventional patterns of usage in diverse communicative settings.

The pedagogical value of phraseological units is particularly evident in academic writing and formal discourse, where idiomatic fluency often correlates with rhetorical sophistication. Nonetheless, acquiring true proficiency in a language extends beyond lexical memorization; it necessitates a deep engagement with the idioms, proverbs, and fixed expressions that encapsulate cultural and contextual meaning. Phraseological units, in this regard, represent a core component of linguistic systems and have attracted sustained scholarly interest across multiple linguistic traditions.

Speakers universally aspire to articulate their thoughts in a manner that is vivid, emotionally nuanced, and stylistically compelling. One of the most effective strategies for achieving such expressiveness lies in the appropriate

deployment of idiomatic and figurative language—ranging from idioms and proverbs to colorful colloquialisms. Structurally, phraseological patterns typically consist of three or more lexical items and are often identified through corpus-based linguistic methodologies. In academic discourse, various terminologies have emerged to classify these recurrent lexical constructions. For example, Altenberg employed the term recurrent word combinations to denote frequently observed word groupings in conversational English. Similarly, Biber and his colleagues introduced the concept of lexical bundles in 1999 to refer to statistically significant word sequences that exhibit a tendency to co-occur in natural discourse.

**Literature review.** The foundational theory of phraseology owes much to the pioneering work of the Swiss linguist Charles Bally. Bally was among the first scholars to systematically investigate the combinatory properties of words within fixed expressions, as elaborated in his seminal works *Studies of the Stylistics* and *French Stylistics*. Although his research focused primarily on the French language, Bally's attempts at categorizing and classifying phraseological units laid the groundwork for subsequent explorations in various languages, including English. His approach inspired generations of linguists to delve deeper into the structure and function of phraseological units within natural languages.

Phraseological units, commonly understood as fixed or semi-fixed expressions, are characterized by their resistance to

modification without a consequent loss of meaning or communicative appropriateness. Earlier linguistic research concentrated largely on the syntactic and semantic dimensions of these units, investigating how their internal structure and literal meanings contribute to their overall interpretation. However, more recent scholarship has increasingly recognized the pivotal role of pragmatics—how these units function contextually in real-life communication. This pragmatic perspective sheds light on how phraseological units do not merely convey static meanings but serve dynamic communicative purposes depending on context.

Noteworthy contributions in this domain have been made by scholars such as Moon (1998) and Burger (2007), who emphasized the importance of phraseology in expressing idiomatic meanings that often transcend their literal components. Despite these advances, there remains a significant gap in the literature concerning the linguopragmatic characteristics of simple structured phraseological units—those idioms composed of relatively few words yet rich in pragmatic potential.

English Idiom	Meaning	Uzbek Equivalent
All ears	Listening attentively	Jon qulog'i bilan tinglamoq
Music to one's ears	Pleasing information	Qulog'iga moydek yoqmoq
Go in one ear and out the other	Heard and forgotten	U qulog'idan kirib bu qulog'idan chiqmoq

Conversely, certain idioms differ significantly in their cultural or structural composition, despite conveying similar pragmatic meanings. Such differences highlight the complex interplay between language, culture, and cognition.

English Idiom	Meaning	Uzbek Equivalent
Coming out of one's ears	Excessive quantity	Boshidan oshiq
Wet behind the ears	Inexperienced or naive	Ona suti og'zidan ketmagan
Walls have ears	Be cautious; others may be listening	Devorning ham qulog'i bor

#### Pragmatic Relevance of Simple Structured Phraseological Units

Simple structured phraseological units such as “kick the bucket” or “break the ice” play an indispensable role in everyday conversational discourse. These idioms encapsulate culturally nuanced meanings and social dynamics, reflecting not only linguistic conventions but also the interpersonal relationships among speakers. Understanding their pragmatic functions enables a richer appreciation of language use in context.

To analyze the communicative roles of these phraseological units, this research adopts established pragmatic frameworks, including Austin's Speech Act Theory (1962), Searle's classification of speech acts (1969), and Grice's Maxims of Conversation (1975). These theories provide valuable tools for dissecting how idiomatic expressions function interactively revealing speaker intentions and guiding listener interpretations in various discourse situations.

**Research Methodology.** The present research holds considerable significance due to its potential contributions across multiple academic domains, including English language and literature, general linguistics, and language pedagogy. By focusing on the pragmatics of phraseological units, this study aims to deepen the understanding of language not merely as an abstract system but as a dynamic social practice embedded within cultural and communicative contexts. Such insights are expected to be valuable not only for linguists and literary analysts but also for educators striving to enhance the efficacy of language instruction. Moreover, uncovering the cultural underpinnings and pragmatic functions of idiomatic expressions may inform more nuanced teaching methodologies that move beyond traditional vocabulary learning to include culturally and contextually rich language use.

Simple structured phraseological units are defined as fixed or semi-fixed expressions composed of a limited number

Among the influential figures advancing the study of phraseology are Russian linguists V.V. Vinogradov, A.I. Smidnitsky, and H.N. Asomova, whose theoretical and empirical works have deepened the understanding of phraseological phenomena. Similarly, Uzbek scholars such as Sh. Rahmatullayev, A.E. Mamatov and B. Yo'ldoshev have made notable contributions, particularly in bridging comparative phraseology between Uzbek and other languages. A.B. Pittman's definition of idioms as “a group of words in a fixed order that differs in meaning from the individual words taken separately” succinctly encapsulates the essence of idiomaticity and fixedness that typify these expressions.

Comparative Analysis of Idioms with the Component “Ear”

This study also examines idioms containing the lexical component “ear” by comparing their English and Uzbek counterparts. Many idioms have direct equivalents in both languages that share analogous meanings and metaphorical imagery, facilitating straightforward translation and cross-cultural understanding.

of words, which together convey a meaning that often exceeds the sum of the individual lexical items. These units are fundamental elements of language as they enable efficient and effective communication without resorting to lengthy or syntactically complex sentences. Their distinctive features can be summarized as follows:

**Conciseness and Memorability:** Typically formed of only a few words, these phraseological units are easy to internalize and reproduce in speech or writing.

**Fixedness:** Many such units demonstrate a high degree of lexical stability, wherein alterations to one or more components tend to distort or obliterate the intended meaning.

**Idiomaticity:** The meaning of these phrases frequently cannot be deduced directly from the meanings of the constituent words, reflecting their idiomatic nature.

**Functional Diversity:** They serve a range of communicative purposes, including the expression of emotions, conveying requests, offering advice, or emphasizing particular points.

Examples of Simple Structured Phraseological Units:

Common Expressions:

Break the ice – To initiate conversation or ease social tension.

Hit the books – To begin intensive studying.

Under the weather – Experiencing poor health or malaise.

Proverbs and Sayings:

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush – It is preferable to appreciate what one has rather than risk it for uncertain gain.

Actions speak louder than words – Deeds are more significant than mere talk.

Everyday Phrases:

Call it a day – To conclude work or an activity.

Piece of cake – Something that is very easy to accomplish.

These phraseological units occur across spoken and written genres, serving to enhance clarity, expressiveness, and stylistic color. Their prevalence in everyday conversation underscores their role as essential building blocks for conveying complex ideas succinctly. Furthermore, they enrich literary works, speeches, and informal discourse by adding layers of meaning and cultural resonance.

#### Pragmatic Function of Phraseological Units

The foremost role of phraseological units lies within the pragmatic domain—they are instrumental in achieving specific communicative objectives and shaping the listener's response. Drawing on Charles Morris's triadic semiotic model and the foundational concepts of Speech Act Theory developed by J.L. Austin, phraseological units are not simply linguistic entities but pragmatic tools employed to express attitudes, emotions, and social intentions within particular contexts.

Idioms are typically imbued with:

**Expressiveness:** For example, the idiom "grin from ear to ear" vividly conveys an intense feeling of happiness or satisfaction.

**Judgmental Nuance:** Expressions like "wet behind the ears" subtly imply immaturity or inexperience.

**Stylistic Tone:** Depending on the communicative situation, idioms may adopt formal, humorous, ironic, or critical tones.

Illustrative examples include:

"On the rocks" (meaning financial difficulties) often evokes sympathy from listeners.

"Play to the gallery" (seeking popularity through superficial means) tends to carry a negative or critical connotation.

"Short fuse" (a quick temper) commonly implies disapproval.

Specialized idioms found in professional jargons, such as "taken on the gun" in military discourse or "a star of the first magnitude" in astronomy, also carry evaluative meanings that vary depending on context, reflecting either positive or negative attitudes.

#### Implications for Translation and Teaching

A significant challenge in translating idiomatic expressions arises from the frequent incongruence between literal word-for-word translations and intended meanings. Literal translations often result in misunderstanding or loss of the idiomatic nuance. Therefore, locating culturally and functionally equivalent expressions is crucial for preserving both meaning and pragmatic force.

In language education, it is imperative to present idioms within their authentic contextual frameworks rather than in isolation. Teachers should integrate pragmatic information alongside linguistic content to facilitate learners' comprehensive understanding and accurate usage of phraseological units. This approach promotes not only linguistic competence but also intercultural awareness, enabling learners to navigate the subtle social dimensions embedded within idiomatic language.

**Analysis and results.** A comprehensive understanding and proficient use of simple structured phraseological units

significantly enhance communicative competence in both oral and written forms. These units provide speakers and writers with tools to convey complex thoughts succinctly and vividly, enriching the texture and emotional tone of language. By broadening one's familiarity with such expressions, individuals can achieve greater clarity, expressiveness, and persuasiveness in diverse communicative situations. The incorporation of these idiomatic phrases often results in more natural, engaging, and culturally resonant communication, which is essential in both everyday interactions and academic discourse.

Contemporary linguistic theory is deeply influenced by the anthropocentric paradigm, which foregrounds the "human factor" in the analysis of language phenomena. This paradigm marks a shift from purely structural or formalist approaches towards more holistic studies that account for cognitive, cultural, personal, and pragmatic dimensions of language use. Within this framework, new interdisciplinary fields have emerged, including cognitive linguistics, text linguistics, linguoculturology, linguopersonology, and linguopragmatics, each addressing different facets of language as a human-centered activity.

Particularly, the pragmatic aspect of meaning is recognized as equally vital as semantic content in overcoming potential failures in communication. Pragmatic failures arise when interlocutors misinterpret intended meanings or social cues, which is a frequent challenge in second language acquisition and cross-cultural communication. Thus, the study of phraseological units from a pragmalinguistic perspective is indispensable for understanding how speakers use idioms and fixed expressions effectively in real-life contexts, ensuring both clarity and appropriateness.

**Conclusion.** Phraseological units, especially those containing the lexical component "ear," serve as vivid illustrations of the intricate relationship between language and culture. Their usage encapsulates not only semantic meaning but also pragmatic functions that reflect social attitudes, emotions, and cultural norms. Successful interpretation and translation of these idiomatic expressions demand a dual awareness: one must grasp their literal semantic content as well as their contextual and pragmatic significance.

Through comparative study of idioms across languages, researchers and language practitioners can foster greater precision in translation and more nuanced intercultural communication. Phraseological units represent a fundamental element in linguistic studies and language teaching, due to their pervasive presence and communicative power. For translators and interpreters, idioms offer both a challenge and an opportunity while literal translation often leads to distortion or loss of meaning, identifying culturally and pragmatically equivalent expressions facilitates faithful and effective communication.

In sum, phraseological units are indispensable components of language that reflect the richness and diversity of human expression. Their careful study, especially in multilingual contexts, contributes significantly to advancing linguistic knowledge and improving practical language skills in translation and communication.

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