



## DOUBLE ACTUALIZATION OF THE SEMANTICS OF THE ENGLISH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

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### ABSTRACT

*The present article is devoted to investigation of English idioms with double actualization of their semantic meaning. Special attention is paid to the binary and figurative meaning of idiomatic expressions. This process is demonstrated in the examples of idiomatic expressions.*

**KEYWORDS:** *idiomatic expression, phraseology, semantics, double actualization, binary meaning, figurative meaning.*

### INTRODUCTION

The problem of stylistic coloring of phraseological units and the phenomenon of double actualization is one of the most interesting, but not fully studied. Despite the large number of works devoted to the problems of phraseology, the question of the double actualization of phraseological units, its main techniques – extended metaphor and wordplay – remained insufficiently studied.

The article makes a clear and detailed analysis of the interpretation of the phenomenon of double actualization of phraseological units in the works of English authors. The comparative analysis of phraseological units in translation from English into Russian attracts attention. The classification of phraseological units of English and Russian linguists-phraseologists is given.

The practical value of the work consists in the opportunity to apply the results of the research and extensive language material in the practice of teaching English in language universities in English classes (analytical reading), literature of the countries of the studied language, stylistics and theory and practice of translation.

The relevance of the research problem. Phraseological phrases have attracted the attention of researchers for many years. Under various names (sayings, "winged words", aphorisms, proverbs and sayings, idioms, expressions, turns of speech, etc.), they were explained both in special collections and in explanatory dictionaries, starting from the end of the XVIII century.

The subject and tasks, scope and methods of studying it have not yet been clearly defined, have not received full coverage. Less developed than others are questions about the main features of phraseological units that distinguish them from free phrases, about the classification of phraseological units and their relationship to parts of speech, etc. Moreover, the problems of double actualization of idioms in the English language remain insufficiently studied.

The emergence of phraseology as a separate linguistic discipline with its own tasks and research methods in linguistics is attributed to the 40s of the XX century and is associated with the appearance of the works of V.V. Vinogradov, in which he posed and solved many questions of a general theoretical nature, which allowed him to create a basis for studying stable combinations of words in the language.

It was he who first proposed the synchronous classification of phraseological turns of the Russian language from the point of view of their semantic unity, ways and aspects of further study of phraseological units were outlined.

However, they lack consideration of fundamental issues in the theory of phraseology, such as scientifically based criteria for the allocation of phraseological units, the ratio of phraseological units (further PhU) and words, the consistency of phraseology, phraseological variability, phraseology, the method of studying phraseology, etc.

The objectives of the article include:



- To consider the phenomenon of double actualization on the example of English literary texts;
- Carefully study the technique of an extended metaphor that contributes to the full or partial double actualization of phraseological units;
- Explore the popular method of education of double actualization of PhU - wordplay;
- compare the phenomenon of double actualization of PhU in English and Russian fiction;
- To present the classification of phraseological units proposed by scientists in the field of phraseology and general linguistics.

The subject of the study is the most popular techniques of double actualization – extended metaphor and wordplay.

The object of the study is phraseological units of the English language subjected to the phenomenon of double actualization in literary texts.

**Research Methods.** We used various research methods: component analysis of meaning (identification of a component in the PhU that plays an important role in the phenomenon of double actualization), identification method - establishing the identities of words and syntactic constructions forming phraseological units with their free analogues; application method, which is a type of identification method; descriptive method (for describing the studied phenomena and objects); comparative analysis (comparison of the double actualization of the PhU in English and Russian).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The rapid development of phraseology, which for the first time in the world stood out as an independent branch of linguistics in the sixties of the twentieth century, urgently requires the coverage of a number of important problems, the study of which will allow to fully identify and determine all the features of the units that make up the specifics of the object of phraseology and methods of its research [2, p. 31].

In phraseology, reflecting in the semantic structure of its units the wisdom and aspirations of the people - the creator and the native speaker: cultural traditions, myths and folk legends, religious beliefs and legends, historical events - as well as the "pragmatic element": a complex range of emotions, emotional reactions, subjective assessments, ways of speech influence on the interlocutor, figurative, expressive representation of reality, the national identity of the language finds vivid expression [1, p.53].

However, despite the great importance of studying the content side of linguistic units and the desire for its in-depth study as a linguistic science, as well as numerous attempts to theoretically comprehend the semasiological problems of lexical semantics and especially phraseology, it still remains

the least studied problem in linguistics. But while linguists intensively study the semantic structure of words by modern methods of linguistic analysis, only the first steps are being taken in the study of the uniqueness of the meaning of PhU [5, p. 33].

Meanwhile, the study of the semantics of vocabulary and phraseology will contribute to solving cardinal problems not only of semasiology, phraseology, linguistics, linguistics of the text, but also of the whole science of language as a whole, including applied linguistic disciplines such as lexicology and phraseography, translation and methods of teaching language, native and foreign. Without a "comprehensive interpretation" of the category of meaning, the science of language can neither exist nor advance [3, p. 40-41].

It should always be remembered that it is precisely because of the meaning - the ideal, inner side of linguistic units as a result of reflection of the objective world - that language is the immediate reality of thought and "the most important means of human communication." Because of this, without a comprehensive study of the problem of meaning, it is impossible to create an adequate theory of language [6, p. 19-20].

It is known that phraseology is considered as a science that studies the meaning, form and use of permanent combinations of verbal signs that exist in a given language and function in the speech of its speakers, as well as limitations in the compatibility of words and verbal meanings that create these combinations.

And the "winged words", Proverbs and sayings, fabulous formulas, historical aphorisms and other diverse creative works, only decomposing into the elements without structural characteristics of the genre, resembling the structural phraseological units, become the property of the phraseology of the language [4, p. 61].

In many works on phraseology, the important role of the internal form in the semantic structure of phraseological units is noted. The inner form is also the center of the image, one of its features, prevailing over all others. The internal form as a component of the semantic structure of the PhU is not always neutral with respect to this structure as a whole. Being a dynamic component of meaning, the internal form in some cases comes to the fore and determines the semantics of PhU [6, p. 44].

The internal form of the PhU is much more stable than the internal form of the word, which is explained by the reinterpreted nature of the phraseological meaning, the separateness of phraseological units and the specifics of the prototypes of the PhU. All PhU go back to potential phraseological units [2, p. 33], which denote objects of non-linguistic reality known by man. But this does not mean that all PhU go through the same path of



development, since they are based on different prototypes.

There are four types of prototypes – speech, language, extra-linguistic and mixed, and internal forms – simple and complex. This classification is based on a single principle, since the material on the basis of which the phraseology arose is taken into account. Speech and language prototypes correspond to a simple or complex internal form, and extra-linguistic ones - only a complex one.

The phrases that go back to speech prototypes include phrases with a transparent internal form: *burn one's fingers* – "burn yourself on something"; *the cat among the pigeons* – "making a commotion"; *flog a dead horse* – "doing useless business".

The internal form is peculiar not only to PhU with the structure of the phrase, but also with the structure of the sentence, going back to variable phrases [3, p. 78]. So, the meaning of the playful idiom *the old woman is picking her geese* – "it's snowing" is the image of an old woman plucking geese.

The PhU *this cock won't fight* - "this number won't pass" is based on the image of a rooster who does not want to fight. The internal form of the PhU *doctors differ (disagree)* – "the opinions of the authors differ" is based on a figurative rethinking of the situation in which doctors could not come to a consensus.

Language prototypes include PhU, from which other PhU are formed. So, idiom *the last straw* – "the last drop (overflows the cup) comes from the proverb *it is the last straw that breaks the camel's back* – "the last drop overflows the cup".

Thus, the internal form of the last straw is complicated, as it arises as a result of the interaction of explicit, i.e. mediated by the proverb, elements of the last straw and implicit elements of breaks the camel's back. A similar phenomenon is observed in the PhU *make hay* – "to use a convenient moment" (part of the proverb *make hay while the sun shines* = "braid the braid while the dew is"; *an old bird* – "old sparrow" (part of the proverb *old birds are not to be caught with chaff* – "you can't hold an old sparrow on chaff), etc. The internal form in the above idiom is multicomponent.

Non-linguistic prototypes include various extralinguistic factors with which they are connected by derivational relations. These factors prior to idiom, are the legends, superstitions, traditions of the English people, etc.

Here is an example: *be born within the sound of Bow bells* – "born in London" (in the center of London is famous for its ringing at St. Mary-le-Bow); *have kissed the Blarney stone* – to be a smoothie (as is tradition, every, whoever kisses the

stone in Blarney castle in Ireland and received the gift of smooth talk).

Mixed prototypes, i.e. intrastructural and interstructural, include PhU, ascending to a particular text, from which other PhU are formed by updating phraseological derivation.

So, PhU *a girl Friday* – "assistant", "reliable employee", "right hand" (special. about the secretary girl) is formed by analogy with *a man Friday* – "Friday", "faithful servant" (after the name of the faithful servant in D. Defoe's novel "Robinson Crusoe").

Thus, in the sphere of phraseology, the internal form is inherent only in motivated phraseological units and is no longer felt in phraseological mergers.

The motivation of the phraseological meaning is understood as its synchronous connection with the semantics of the prototype. The disappearance of one or another reality, situation violates the derivational connection between the PhU and its prototype, which denoted this reality, which leads to the oblivion of the inner form, i.e. to its demotivation.

An example is the interjection phraseology *Swop me bob!* - "*God knows!*", in which the words swop and bob are distorted.

Although the internal form is a component of the semantic structure of phraseology, the above analysis shows the close interaction of the internal form with various prototypes of phraseological units both within the semantic structure of phraseology and beyond.

The internal form is the motivating imagery of a linguistic unit based on the derivational connections of its meaning with the meaning of the prototype. The internal form can be alive, i.e. be realized at the present stage of language development; dead, which was once alive, i.e. characteristic of phraseology in diachronic terms.

Binary complex of the meaning of PhU

Binary complex is a set of meanings of lexemes, the compound meaning of lexemes and the relations between the meanings of lexemes, the literal component of the semantic structure of the idiom.

The establishment of such a representation allows for (further more fractional) structuring, taking into account another parallel component of the semantic structure of the PhU - complex of figurative meaning [4, p.15].

Binary complex of the meaning of idiom is often considered as if outside the phraseological meaning, meanwhile, it is an integral part of the semantic structure of PhU. One of the reasons for this is probably the lack of elaboration of the question of the meaning of idiom and its structure.

An organizationally literal complex consists of several linearly arranged lexemes, which, if they



were not part of the idiom, could hypothetically form a free or stable combination.

Binary complex of such phrases as *bell the cat*, *spick and span*, *tit for tat* "to beat the bucket", "to give an oak", "to live in a big way" is actually an unmarked phrase from the point of view of the current state of the language. In accordance with such a linear organization, the literal complex can be further structured. At the same time, lexemes of the binary complex, based on their meaning, can be conveniently represented as semantic multipliers: English: cut + the Gordian + knot.

Awareness of the binary complex as an integral part of the meaning of the PhU when speaking-writing and reading-listening creates the effect of a conventional metaphor, i.e. the figurative and artistic impact and perception that gives the meaning of the FE when "superimposing" and simultaneously "triggering" two complexes of phraseological meaning: literal and figurative. For example: "*an ass with two panniers*" (joke) – a man walking with two women; "*beauty and the beast*" (joke) - an interesting woman and an ugly man; "*blue blood*" (iron.) – aristocratic origin, etc.

#### The figurative complex of the meaning of PhU

The complex of the figurative meaning of idiom at the first (surface) stage of division is distinguished simultaneously with the establishment of the fact of the presence of a literal complex. At the same time:

1) is usually described in a dictionary entry of a monolingual or bilingual dictionary and is a separate dictionary definition;

2) is a complex component of the semantic structure of the PhU; it includes the integral main meaning of this PhU, other possible meanings (if it is a polysemantic unit), any elements of detailed semantic division established during subsequent discrete analysis, and the relationship between them;

3) can't be expressed through the "yourself", i.e., in the form of free or sustainable phrase like structures, but only through a dictionary definition: *drop the pilot* - abandon a trusty advisor; as for figurative complex, it is located in the lower part of the semantic "fraction", i.e. in the so-called "denominator":

*stand in one's own light* – hinder in one's own progress;

4) can enter into relations of correlation with lexical units: with free phrases, stable phrases and one-word verbs. The correlation in such cases is established on the basis of similar monosemes after a component analysis of the values of the compared PhU and its possible one-word equivalent:

*fly a flint* – be excessively mean in one's dealings (= scrape).

Due to its structure, the figurative complex often correlates not with one one-word equivalent,

but with several - two or three, which together more fully reveal its complex figurative content and, ultimately, the meaning of the whole PhU:

*cut off one's nose*

*to spite one's face* – do something to one's damage, injure.

Indeed, the meaning of the figurative complex, as a rule, is so voluminous, multidimensional that one equivalent correlated with the PhU cannot fully convey the original phraseological image. Several different equivalents express it more fully.

The monosemal composition of the figurative complex is not homogeneous and has a number of features arising from its multiple nature and information-semantic saturation [1, p. 96].

It is possible that here, too, the hierarchy of the semantic structure of the figuratively saturated meaning of idiom naturally manifests itself. Cf. its more detailed seminal structuring:

1. Pursue, act (the course of conduct, in such a way);
2. (Have) the course of conduct, (act) in such a way;
3. (Act) in such a way, (have) the course of conduct;
4. be likely to;
5. Prepare, cause;
6. Injure (oneself), trouble (oneself);
7. (Do for) oneself; 8.(make) for future.

Monosemes of the figurative complex No. 1,4,5,6 can be correlated with one-word verbs and are actually expressed by them. Monosemes No. 2,3,7,8 do not correlate with verbs and are "nominal" in nature. These monosemes in the structure of the figurative complex of the verbal PhU are on the periphery. Monosemes 2 and 3 according to the presupposition indicate that the subject (agent) behaves in a certain way, has a line of nominative-communicative behavior. Monoseme-7 means that the action is directed at the subject, since the result of the action will have consequences directly for the subject himself. Monoseme-8 indicates a temporary relationship. Monoseme-6 is the center of the entire semantic system. If this monoseme is represented as a one-word correlated verb, then such a one-word equivalent of a monoseme can, of course, with certain losses allow the substitution of this idiom in the context of a typical implementation.

According to the role of this idiom performed in the semantic series, monosemes are divided into invariant and variant. For the central monoseme, such a subdivision is not relevant, since it is always invariant.

Double actualization is one of the most effective types of occasional speech transformation of PhU. It can be said that in the hierarchy of stylistic techniques based on speech transformations of phraseological units, occupies one of the leading places. This is explained by its complex semantic mechanism, the presence of a series of models of



structural transformations and its stylistic functions in the text [2, p. 12].

In the course of the study, several types of denotative correlation of the components of phraseology with double actualization were identified.

*California: California University Press, 1994. – 318 p.*

## CONCLUSION

The complexity of updating the semantics of phraseological units lies in the dual nature, binary structure. Binary - composed of two parts, having two components; proceeding from binomiality as a mandatory property of the linguistic object being studied and, consequently, the methodological basis for its research and description.

Binary complex is a set of meanings of lexemes, the compound meaning of lexemes and the relations between the meanings of lexemes, the literal component of the semantic structure of the PhU.

The complex of the figurative meaning of PhU at the first (surface) stage of division is distinguished simultaneously with the establishment of the fact of the presence of a literal complex. At the same time: 1) it is usually described in a dictionary entry of a monolingual or bilingual dictionary and represents a separate dictionary definition; 2) it is a complex component of the semantic structure of the FE; it includes the integral basic meaning of this FE, other possible meanings (if it is a polysemantic unit), any elements of a detailed semantic division established during subsequent discrete analysis, and the relationships between them; 3) cannot be expressed through "itself", i.e. in the form of a free or stable phrase of a similar structure, but only through a dictionary definition, as for the figurative complex, it is in the lower part of the semantic "fraction", i.e. in the so-called "denominator": 4) can enter into relations of correlation with lexical units: with free phrases, stable phrases and one-word verbs.

Thus, the integral meaning of PhU depends on the relationship between its constituent components, i.e. the relationship between the literal and figurative complexes.

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