CLASSIFICATION FEATURES OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH COLOURS

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Classification of phraseological units is one of the acute issues of phraseology. According to Vinogradov's classification all phraseological units are divided into phraseological fusions, phraseological unities and phraseological combinations.

a) Phraseological fusion is a semantically indivisible phraseological unit whose meaning is never influenced by the meanings of its components. It means that phraseological fusion represents the highest stage of blending together. The meaning of components is completely absorbed by the meaning of the whole, by its expressiveness and emotional properties. Thus, the degree of motivation of such unities is very low, we cannot guess the meaning of the whole from the meaning of its components. Phraseological fusions are specific for everyday language and do not lend themselves to literal translation into other language [1, p.244].

e.g: to show the white feather – to show cowardice [2];

b) Phraseological unity is a semantically indivisible phraseological unit, the whole meaning of which is motivated by the meanings of its components. In general, phraseological unities are the phrases where the meaning of the whole unity is not the sum of the meanings of its components but is based upon them and may be understood from the components. Due to these the meaning of these unities can be guessed but anyway they are transferred metaphorically. So, these unities are numerous and they are clearly motivated [1, p.245].

e.g: to paint the devil blacker than he is – to exaggerate [2].

c) Phraseological combination (collocation) is a construction or an expression in which every word has absolutely clear independent meaning while one of the components has a bound meaning.

They are characterized by semantic decomposability, approximation to free combinations. Thus, phraseological combinations are not only motivated but contain one component used in direct meaning while the other is used figuratively.

e.g: the golden rule - an important rule [2];

to be born in the purple – born into a reigning family or privileged class [2].

The similar, but a little wider classification was later introduced by A. Makkai. He divides phraseological unities into two big groups and grounds his division on the basis of semantical motivation as V.V. Vinogradov does. A.Makkai distinguishes the following types of phraseological units:

a) Decoding – these are such phrases that "display constructional homonymity with their literal counterparts". These refer to those nonidentifiable and misleading lexical expressions whose interpretation could not be figured out by using only independently learned linguistic conventions.

e.g: red herring a dried smoked herring [3];

b) Encoding – these unities on contrary do not show the homonymity with their literal counterparts. They represent the irregularities (or as Makkai calls them idiosyncrasies) of the language). They have transparent meanings and are identifiable [4].

e.g: as red as a cherry – extremely flushed and red in the face [2].

In the research of H. Burger there is also a similar classification of phraseological units to theVinogradov's classification. This scientist examines phraseological units in the aspect of their motivation and distinguishes their three types:

1) the frozen idioms – fully unmotivated phraseological units which meaning cannot be derived from the meaning of their components (an equivalent of phraseological fusions);

2) the motivated idioms which have a "living" inner form, i.e. the image structure plays an important role in the comprehension of phraseological units (an equivalent of phraseological unities);

3) the restricted collocations which meaning is easily derived from the meaning of their components (an equivalent of phraseological collocations) [5, p.714].

We can also distinguish another semantic classification provided by Western linguist Gläser. He classified idioms into three different classes:

1. Unilateral idioms, which are made up of one self-explanatory constituent. [6, p.111]

e.g. cold war, black market [2].

2. Bilateral idioms, which are made up of two constituents having both transferred meaning, so that the meaning of the idiom cannot be derived from the meanings of its constituents [2].

e.g. early bird, white lie [6, p.121].

3. Multilateral idioms, which cover such nominations and propositions as: once in a blue moon, a bird in the hand or beggars cannot be choosers [6, p. 71].

It should be noted that only few scientists, such as O.V. Kunin, A.G. Nazarian and E.M. Soloduho investigate such an interesting phenomenon but the problem of borrowed phraseological units is still unstudied in details.

- *the golden rule* – is the principle of treating others as you want to be treated. It is a maxim that is found in many religions and cultures.

The idea dates at least to the early Confucian times (551-479 BC), according to Rushworth Kidder, who identifies that this concept appears prominently in Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and "the rest of the world's major religions" [2].

- *paint the town red* – means to go out and have a lively good time, to go on a drinking spree and visit many bars and nightclubs, to be boisterous and wild. The Bloomsbury Dictionary of Idioms gives a quite unlikely account, claiming that this idiom possibly started life with a gun-toting cowboy in the old West who would threaten to "paint the town red" with the blood of anyone who dared to interfere with the "macho or drunken revelers enjoying themselves" [7].

- *Golden Age* – comes from Greek mythology, particularly the *Works and Days* of Hesiod, and is part of the description of temporal decline of the state of peoples through five Ages, Gold being the first and the one during which the Golden Race of humanity lived [2].

Some, phraseological units are borrowed from the other variants of English language: American, Australian, Canadian etc.

- *a green light* – borrowed from American English means a permission or authorization to proceed with some undertaking, as a project to make a film from a proposed script [2].

It is important to mention that phraseological units with colors connotation which came into English from the literature of Ancient

Greece and Ancient Rome, endowed with extraordinary beauty and expressiveness, and this explains their prevalence in not only English but also other languages of the world.

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