HOUSEHOLD GOODS IDIDOMS IN ENGLISH AND THEIR EQUIVALENTS IN RUSSIAN

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The respective work aims at the linguistic study of household goods idioms and a qualitative and quantitative analysis in terms of the semantic, syntactical, structural, pragmatic and functional peculiarities. The novelty of this research is determined by the fact that little attention was paid to idioms containing household goods, especially to their Russian equivalents. The practical value of this work consists in the realization of five classifications of household goods idioms, their analysis, and the assembling of a dictionary of such idioms that would comprise 300 examples and contain definitions, Russian equivalents, and examples of usage in the context.

This research is aimed at the linguistic study of *household goods idioms* and a qualitative and quantitative analysis in terms of the semantic, syntactical, structural, pragmatic and functional peculiarities. The novelty of this research is determined by the fact that little attention was paid to idioms containing household goods, especially to their Russian equivalents. The purpose of this work is to identify the structural, pragmatic, syntactical, functional and semantic peculiarities of household goods idioms, and to assemble a dictionary of such idioms that would contain definitions, Russian equivalents and examples of usage in the context.

We have decided to make the research, analyzing idioms containing household goods, as we consider them the best to show the contrast of the change of meaning when used in idioms. The main research methods employed in the work are qualitative and quantitative analyses and synthesis.

Given the data gathered during the research it can be seen that there is no conflict between the before mentioned definitions of idiom which is regarded as a group of words carrying a whole meaning which is different from the meaning of the separately considered components. Furthermore, most of the linguists relate idioms to the concept of phraseological units or multi-word units, which both have different ways of classification. The information presented in the research shows that according to the semantic features idioms can be motivated, partially – motivated and non –motivated. Similarly, linguists classify various idioms according to the "transparency" of the meaning, considering the degree of interpretability of idioms. Unfortunately, this criterion may be regarded subjectively, which results in overlapping categories. Idiomatic expressions can also convey positive, neutral, or negative meanings.

Professor A.I. Smirnitsky's structural classification is based on comparison of phraseological units with independent words. Idioms can also be perceived as parts of speech, as an idiom is a set –expression, in which one cannot make any changes without losing the idiomatic meaning; therefore, various syntactic patterns of idioms are presented by I.V. Arnold, A.P. Cowie and others. Another criterion for classification of idioms is their function in communication, for they are not used simply to substitute the literal expression, rather to emphasize stylistically some particularities of situations. Finally, idioms can perform various functions in a discourse, depending on the specific situation.

Below are given some *household goods idioms* analyzed according to the five taxonomies presented in the research: according to the structure (as suggested by linguist A.I. Smirnitsky); according to pragmatic function in communication (after linguist R.J. Alexander); according to function (offered by R.Moon); according to semantic feature (also by R.Moon); according to syntactic feature (suggested by I.V. Arnold).

Fine Kettle of Fish

According to the structural classification the idiom belongs to the category of units with more than two tops, while functionally it conveys an evaluation of the state of being of the speaker. From the syntactic point of view this idiom is a nominal phrase and is a tournure idiom, regarding the pragmatic function in communication. Semantically it belongs to the opaque idioms, as the literal meaning of the idiom sounds absurd and would cause problems in understanding for those who study English as a second language.

It may be based on an allusion to the confusion of bones, head and skin that is left after the fish has been eaten. The absurd combination creates the stylistic emphasis. The Russian equivalent would be the phrase *ну и дела*.

Memory like a Sieve

From the point of view of structure, this idiom is related to the category of two-top units, attributive-nominal. In the classification of pragmatic function in communication the respective idiom belongs to the idiomatic similes, while the functional classification suggests that it conveys evaluation of someone's state of memory. Being a nominal phrase according to the syntactical taxonomy, semantically, this idiom represents the category of transparent metaphor, as the logical meaning of the idiom is quite perceivable, because of the simile it is based on. The substance will go right through the little holes and will not stay in the sieve. The same idea is taken to the state of memory – when one has a very bad memory; the information one gets does not stay in mind and seems to leak. The Russian equivalent *куриная память* conveys the same negative connotation, but is based on the comparison with a chicken, rather than a utensil.

To Cut a Rug

According to the structural classification, this idiom is related to the two-top, verb-nominal phraseological units: the verb *to cut* represents the grammatical centre of the idiom, while the *rug* is the nominal one. In relation to pragmatic function in communication, it belongs to the category of tournure idioms, and conveys the function of informing. Meanwhile, according to the syntactical taxonomy it is a verbal phrase. Semantically, the idiom is opaque, as its literal meaning, to dance, cannot be interpreted from the context. The idiom conveys a positive connotation. The Russian equivalent *от хвоста грудинку отрывать* is very little known and was quite difficult to find, as mostly the slang term *отплясывать* is used instead.

It may be concluded that the most frequently encountered idioms are composed of two or more elements, which might occur due to the fact that idioms are used as a stylistically colorful way of expressing common things; and the longer an idiom is, the more stylistic devices it may contain. As it may be also noticed, most of the idioms are created with the help of allusion, metonymy and metaphor, which in some way or the other help determine the meaning of the idiom. Those idioms denoting actions, and a little less – denoting objects, prevail in the overall number of the found idioms. Furthermore, not all of the examples given have idiomatic equivalents in Russian language and only few contain the same household item as used in the English idiom. The practical value of the research consists in the realization of five classifications of household goods idioms, their analysis and the appendix, which represents an assembled dictionary that comprises

300 examples of household goods idioms, gathered from two dictionaries, with definitions, Russian equivalents and examples.

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Recomandat
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