

РОМАНСЬКІ, ГЕРМАНСЬКІ ТА ІНШІ МОВИ

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IDEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS OF THE PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH THANATOLOGICAL MEANING

Phraseology is the projection of the world in the linguistic consciousness, “which forms in each language its language picture of the world” and is a system-based constituent of the general system. It reveals the ethno-cultural specifics of the nation, the social system, the subjective relationship with the world as the most important condition of human existence, which is important to take into consideration during the studying the linguistic picture of the world [2]. In modern linguistics there is a strong interest in the systematic study of the phraseological level of the language. Not only the study of synonymous or antonymic relations of phraseological units attracts the attention of researchers, but also such systemic phenomena as thematic phraseological semantic fields. According to V.S Kalashnikov, the study of the phrase-semantic fields gives the opportunity to obtain the necessary quantitative data, as well as to get an idea of the conceptual sphere of Ukrainian phraseology – an integral part of the achievements of folk linguistics [3]. “The most common in modern linguistics”, notes Y.F. Pradid, “is the understanding of the system as an association of interconnected elements, distinguished by general parameters, and structures – as a certain organization of these elements. It is important to remember that the phenomenon that is seen as an element, that is, as something indissoluble, in one system, in another approach, can turn out to be a complex system having its own elements” [5]. That is why in the scientific literature a number of works were devoted to the elucidation of the structure of the ideographic organization of both lexical and phraseological systems of language.

In recent years there have been a series of dissertations devoted to the study of ideographic groups of phraseological units on the material of Ukrainian and other languages: N.F. Grozyan (about phraseological microsystem “human behavior”), I.E. Kolesnikova (a comparative analysis of English and Ukrainian phraseological microsystem denoting “features of the person’s character”), L.Sh. Kubedinova (about phraseological microsystem “broadcasting” on the material of the Russian, Crimean Tatar and English languages), etc. However, the diversity of phraseological units leads to the possibility and necessity for further studying of this problem.

The purpose of the article is to find out the peculiarities of the internal organization of phraseology of the English language in the phraseological semantic field with thanatological meaning.

It is generally accepted that phraseological units represent the national-cultural specifics of world perception, focusing on individual fragments of culture, ethnography, material condition, etc. Therefore, the interest in culturological information, encoded in phraseological units, has long been associated with the ideographic aspect of the study and description of phraseological units. In the opinion of O. Birich, the reflection of the historical and cultural experience of the linguistic group associated with its cultural traditions is realized through the imaginary representations that exist in the basis of the internal form of phraseologisms. The description of the internal form of stable units allows you to highlight domestic and ethno-cultural stereotypes and standards that reflect the vision of the world of certain people [1]. As V.M. Teliya notes, “only on the large ideographic (or thematic) massifs the obvious connection of the figurative basis of idioms or phraseological connections with the cultural-national worldview we can observe the value-oriented mentality of the nation – the bearer of the language” [6]. V.M. Mokienko believes that “the ideological representation of phraseological units in all Slavic languages reflects its semantic specifics. The specificity of phraseological ideology consists in concentrating on those semantic fields which characterize the person and his (or her) activity in a meaningful and expressive way” [4]. In addition, the specificity of the meaning of phraseologisms is the ability to denote close, but still different parts of the conceptual sphere, and sometimes different branches of extra-curricular reality, which, for example, involve the introduction of a phraseologism in two thematic-ideographic groups at the same time, since semantics gives a characteristic of two (or three) different concepts.

Analyzing the English phraseological units with the thanatological meaning we have marked out phraseological units with the dominating seme “death”. The combination of phraseologisms in the phrase-semantic group “death” was based on the following criteria: categorical correlation with the verb; availability of the common seme of “death” in the semantic structure of all the components of the group. Since death, like life, is determined by various features, then phraseologisms within the phrase-semantic group of “death” have been divided into a phrase-synonym rows: 1) “**To die**”, 2) “**To kill someone /to be killed**”, 3) with the word “dead” in idioms which are not connected with death.

These groups include:

1) someone is very close to death: **at death’s door** (e.g. He’s at death’s door; we should go and say our last goodbyes to him.); **one foot in the grave** (e.g. I wasn’t really surprised to hear that our neighbour had passed away; he’d had one foot in the grave for years); **on their last legs** (e.g. Paul’s grandfather looks like he’s on his last legs.); **fading away** (e.g. I can see Grandma fading away day by day); **a brush with death** (e.g. Paulo had a brush with death when he drove his car off the side of the road.); **breathe your last breath** (e.g. Julie breathed her last breath at 3:10pm on Monday, April 12th.); **passed away** (e.g. he passed away at the age of ninety); **bite the big one** (e.g. the Premier bit the big one, supposedly an automobile accident); **fall off one’s perch** (e.g. He fell off the perch years ago); **free one’s horses**; **give up the ghost**; **gone to a better place**; **meet one’s Maker**; **take the last train to glory**; **to join the whisperers**;

2) someone was killed: **bite the dust**; **kill with kindness**; **didn’t make it**; **go west**; **send one to Eternity or to the Promised Land**;

3) other meanings: **over my dead body** means “I will do everything I can to prevent it” (e.g. James says he’s going to buy a motorbike. – Over my dead body!); **drop-dead gorgeous** means “very attractive” (e.g. I only asked you out because you’re drop-dead gorgeous.); **dead easy** means “very easy” (e.g. This whole thing is dead easy.); **dead to the world** means “sleeping deeply or very drunk” (e.g. She’s dead to the world, and I can’t wake her up.); **a dead ringer for** means “looks very similar to” (e.g. Wow, that guy’s a dead ringer for Elvis Presley!).

All in all, in the English language, the phrase-semantic field “death” is represented by three substantive phrase-semantic groups (“to die”, “to be killed”, and other meanings). The component composition of the

phraseologisms of the row is very diverse; therefore the phraseological units are organized in phraseological series with word-components denoting names of objects, things, names of parts of the body, etc. There is a variant of the lexical filling of phraseologisms denoting various states that testifies the transformational potentials of the linguistic material, motivated by active functioning of phraseological units and the dynamism of the criteria of death, and that determines the direction of further study of the outline of the phraseologism body.

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