



ON THE QUESTION OF THE RESEARCH OF IDIOMS AND IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS IN RUSSIAN LINGUISTICS: A SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

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ANNOTATION

This article provides an overview of scientific and theoretical works devoted to the study of the features of idioms and idiomatic expressions in Russian linguistics. It is noted that the units in question are an integral part of the language and have important scientific and methodological significance in terms of mastering language skills. An own classification of idiomatic expressions is given according to the function they perform in a communicative situation. It is indicated that there are a number of unstudied aspects in Russian linguistics, which proves the promising orientation of conducting more large-scale studies of their functioning in the language.

KEY WORDS: *idiom, idiomatic expression, Russian language, phraseological unit, cultural, pragmatic, communicative, perspective.*

INTRODUCTION

Idioms and idiomatic expressions are an integral part of any language. They are phrases or expressions whose meaning cannot be determined from the meanings of their individual components. Learning and understanding these expressions is important for full language mastery and effective communication.

An idiom or idiomatic expression is a fixed phrase that has a meaning different from the meanings of its individual components [6, p. 15]. The study and translation of idiomatic expressions is of interest in terms of their reflection of the unique syntactic and semantic properties of the language [3, p. 160]. However, translating idioms into another language is accompanied by certain difficulties: on the one hand, the translation must be understandable to modern readers, and on the other hand, it must convey the correct meaning of the idiom. In addition, it is necessary to take into account the era in which the translation takes place, since outdated units may be incomprehensible to modern readers.

Investigating the question of the peculiarities of idioms in a language, some linguists do not discover their fundamental differences from phraseological units. Note that in the idiom, words completely lose their original meaning. For example, in Russian the expression “thing is in the bag” (a job started) has nothing to do with the hat. It is for this reason that idioms are difficult to explain to foreigners, because comedians, taking advantage of the subtlety of their semantics, give them a comic effect as a result of their literal translation into a particular language. In turn, the concept of phraseological units is more extensive compared to idioms. They are more like proverbs and sayings, and the components of phraseological units often retain their original meaning [12]. In addition, the structure of a phraseological unit can be changed without losing its meaning. Consequently, every idiom is a phraseological unit, but not every phraseological unit can be qualified as an idiom.

The units in question play an important role in the culture and identity of a society. They are often associated with specific customs, historical events, or cultural nuances of a particular country or region. The study of these expressions helps to better understand and appreciate the cultural characteristics and mentality of the people speaking a given language.

METHODS

When writing this work, which is of a review nature, we were mainly limited to the use of a descriptive method, a classification method, and component analysis.



It should also be noted that the involvement of the following methods in the study of the issue as part of larger studies can provide more valuable results:

- lexicographic analysis (the use of lexicographic resources to collect and systematize idioms and their meanings, which will help create a database for further analysis);
- corpus analysis (the use of text corpora, that is, large collections of written and oral works, to identify the prevalence and use of idioms and their contextual features);
- cognitive analysis (the study of metaphorical and metonymic mechanisms that underlie the formation of the meaning of idioms, which allows us to understand how semantic conceptualization affects the use of idioms in speech);
- contrastive analysis (comparing idioms and their translated equivalents in different languages in order to identify similarities, differences and difficulties in translation);
- psycholinguistic analysis (the use of psychological techniques and tests to study the perception and understanding of idioms and idiomatic expressions among native speakers, which allows us to identify the specifics of the interpretation of individual speaker idioms);

Combining different methods allows you to gain a more complete understanding of idioms and idiomatic expressions, their meaning and use in speech. In addition, the use of modern corpus and computer technologies and analytical programs can facilitate the analysis of large amounts of data and provide more accurate research results.

RESULTS

Several prominent linguists have been interested in this phenomenon in various languages, contributing to the field of study of phraseology and idioms, as well as the development of specific research approaches.

M. Everaert, E. van der Linden and others are leading researchers of idioms in the English language. They take into account sociocultural, historical and linguistic aspects in their research. Their work “Idioms: Structural and Psychological Perspectives” [1] describes an analysis of the structural and psychological features of idioms.

The works of K. Kato are interesting because they explore the aspect of the relationship between idioms and metaphors. In particular, her work “Metaphor and Idiom in English and Russian Discourse” compares idioms and metaphorical expressions in English and Russian and describes the features of their use in discourse.

I.V. Arnold focuses on idiomatic expressions in the English language and their features of representation in the Russian language [2].

The study of idiomatic expressions in Russian linguistics has a long history of development. Since the emergence of linguistics in Russia, this phenomenon has been the object of study by many outstanding linguists. In particular, in the 19th century, A. Veselovsky studied the semantics of idiomatic expressions and phraseological units in his work “Course on the History of the Russian Language.” He viewed them as a special category of vocabulary with a non-standard meaning. V. Dahl, in his famous dictionary-encyclopedia “Explanatory Dictionary of the Living Great Russian Language,” paid attention to phraseological units, providing their interpretations and explanations.

In the twentieth century, I. Shmelev and L. Shcherba conducted research on the semantic and syntactic features of idioms. They also believed that idioms are the result of the development of the Russian language and have their own history, reflecting the mentality and culture of the people, especially exploring the semantic structure and functioning of idioms.

The peculiarity of approaches in the study of idioms is that modern linguists use a combination of methods, including lexical-grammatical, semantic and syntactic analysis of idiomatic expressions, and also focus on the issue of representation of units in a particular language. Particular attention should be paid to the works of P.L. Korobka [8], L.A. Ulitina [10], Yu.L. Baskulina [4], A.V. Kalinina [7] and others.

It is also worth noting the development of a functional approach to idioms, when their meaning is associated not only with the figurative use of words, but also with complex communicative situations in which they are used. As a result of the further development of this problem in modern Russian, attempts were made to classify idioms according to the functions they perform. Note that idioms in the Russian language perform several different



functions, among which cultural, pragmatic and communicative ones should be especially noted. In addition, N.A. Emelyanova also highlights the “function of generalizing knowledge about the world” [5, p. 1205-1212].

The cultural function of idioms is that they reflect and represent certain aspects of the culture, history and mentality of the people, because they are often associated with specific customs, traditions or historical events and can convey cultural values, images and symbols, and help preserve and transmit cultural heritage from generation to generation.

The pragmatic function of idiomatic expressions is mainly associated with their use in a specific communicative situation, serving as a means that can influence the course of a conversation, create a special effect, or emphasize certain emotional nuances. They can be used to add a humorous touch to a unit, to express an ironic or sarcastic effect, and to establish intimacy and trust in communication. The use of idioms also allows the speaker to demonstrate his mastery of language and culture, often expressing his attitude towards his native language.

The ability to facilitate understanding and convey information in an accessible form is performed by the *communicative function*. Idioms allow you to express complex concepts and ideas in a concise and expressive way. In most cases, the use of the units in question can be an effective means of improving communication skills and establishing connections between speakers.

The study of idioms and idiomatic expressions in linguistics allows us to develop and expand our knowledge of the grammar and semantics of the language, because they often represent unusual combinations of words or form new meanings based on symbolic or metaphorical meaning. The study of the phenomenon under consideration helps to identify the peculiarities of the functioning of language at the level of phraseology and the use of metaphors, and can also be useful for the development of language teaching methods and the creation of educational materials. Understanding the essence of idioms and idiomatic expressions allows us to develop effective training programs, assignments and exercises that will help students better understand and use these units in speech.

Indeed, the study of idioms and idiomatic expressions in linguistics is of particular relevance because it contributes to a better understanding and use of language, expanding knowledge about culture and the development of teaching methods. In addition, it is of particular interest to study the conceptualization of idiomatic expressions, which, in turn, allows us to understand what cognitive processes formed the basis for the formation of idiomatic meaning, as well as how idioms reflect the peculiarities of thinking and culture of a particular people.

DISCUSSION

In the study of idioms and idiomatic expressions in Russian linguistics, the following problems have not yet found their unambiguous solution:

1. Development of a generally accepted classification and systematization of idioms and idiomatic expressions. There may be additional categories or subgroups that have not yet been identified.
2. Functional features and use of idioms in various contexts, studying their influence on the formation of the general meaning of the statement.
3. Linguistic and cultural realities in the structure of idiomatic expressions that convey the identity of the Russian people, their classification in cultural and historical aspects.
4. The main metaphorical mechanisms “used” to form the meaning of the idiom.
5. The peculiarity of the transformation of the semantics of idioms in the process of their use in modern speech.

The solution to these issues may be of interest for subsequent research in Russian linguistics.

CONCLUSIONS

Idioms and idiomatic expressions are an integral part of language, playing an important role in communication and full mastery of language skills.

The conceptualization of idioms in the Russian language is based on the mechanisms of metaphorization, determining the unique meanings of idioms.

Idioms and phraseological units have differences in the degree to which the original meaning of the components is preserved and the structure is changeable, which makes each idiom a phraseological unit, but not vice versa.



Idioms in the Russian language not only reflect the national identity of the Russian language, but also perform cultural, pragmatic and communicative functions.

The study of idioms and idiomatic expressions allows us to deepen our knowledge of the grammar and semantics of a language, develop effective teaching methods and create educational materials for their more effective use and understanding.

Thus, the combination of various research methods allows us to examine in detail the features of idioms and idiomatic expressions, allowing us to reveal their meanings and methods of use in speech. It should be added that at present the issue of introducing modern corpus and computer technologies and analytical programs into the study of the units under consideration is particularly relevant.

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