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## THE SEMANTIC-STRUCTURAL NATURE OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS AND THEIR NATIONAL-CULTURAL CONTENT

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### Abstract

This article is devoted to the study of the formation, semantic, structural and functional properties of phraseological units based on linguistic, cognitive and cultural approaches. In the language system, phraseologisms, as an important semantic unit, represent national thinking, historical memory, cultural values and moral and aesthetic views of the people. The study analyzed theoretical views in Russian and Western linguistics, in particular the classifications of Vinogradov and Kunin, as well as cognitive and cultural approaches. The national and cultural content of phraseologisms, their conceptual semantics and their role in modern corpus linguistics and lexicographic research were substantiated. The results of the study reveal the linguistic and cultural dependence of phraseologisms and indicate the need for new conceptual approaches in their study.

**Keywords:** Phraseology, phraseological unit, semantic structure, national-cultural characteristic, Vinogradov classification, cognitive linguistics, conceptosphere, cultural code, metaphorical model, stable combinations, linguoculturology.

### Introduction

The phraseological structure of the language is one of the most important sources of national thought and sociocultural memory. Phraseologisms are a linguistic expression of the historical life of the people, their worldview, values, spiritual heritage and national character. In today's globalization, the scientific study of phraseological units is of particular relevance in preserving national identity.



Because as a result of their in-depth analysis, the level of figurativeness of the language, national color, cultural symbols and linguistic stereotypes are clarified. Therefore, this study is aimed at studying the formation of phraseologisms, their semantic-structural nature, national-cultural foundations and criteria for scientific interpretation.

### **Literature review**

The scientific formation of phraseology is associated with the Russian school of linguistics, where scientists such as V.V. Vinogradov, N.M. Shansky, A.V. Kunin, G.L. Permyakov substantiated the types, semantic structure and grammatical nature of phraseological units. Vinogradov divided phraseologisms into three groups semantically, while Kunin classified them morphologically and functionally. In Western linguistics, scientists such as G.F. Zeiler, H. Burger, V. Fleischer highlighted the metaphorical essence of the phraseological system, stability criteria and its connection with mental categories. In recent years, phraseology has developed on the basis of cognitive linguistics, conceptosphere theory, metaphor and cultural studies paradigms, and research on automatic recognition of phraseological units and creation of corpora has intensified in computer linguistics.

### **Method and methodology**

The study was carried out on the basis of the following methodological approaches:

| Method                        | Purpose   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Descriptive-analytical method | to describe the semantic and structural features of phraseologisms                  |
| Historical-comparative method | to study the stages of formation of phraseological theories                         |
| Cognitive-semantic analysis   | to reveal the conceptual content and metaphorical basis of phraseologisms           |
| Linguoculturological approach | to analyze the national-cultural content of phraseologisms                          |
| Lexicographical analysis      | to identify the features of the use of phraseologisms based on dictionary materials |



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The integration of these methods allowed for a comprehensive analysis of the linguistic and cultural essence of phraseology.

## **Main part**

### **Theoretical views on the history of phraseology and their study**

Phraseologisms are one of the most interesting and complex layers of the language system. They are nominal units that have been re-formed in the language, have their own semantic integrity and structural integrity. The study of phraseology in linguistics was formed as an independent direction in the second half of the 20th century. Russian linguists V.V. Vinogradov, N.M. Shansky, A.V. Kunin, G.L. Permyakov and others interpreted phraseology as a separate level of the language system and deeply analyzed their types, semantic structure and grammatical connections.

V.V. Vinogradov divided phraseological units into three types semantically - phraseological unions, phraseological units and phraseological combinations. This classification served as a theoretical basis for subsequent research. A.V. Kunin, on the other hand, defined morphological and structural-grammatical groups of phraseological units, dividing them into nominative, predicative, communicative and additional types. In Western linguistics, scientists such as G.F. Zeiler, V. Fleischer, H. Burger, K. Palm studied the degree of stability of phraseological units in the language, their metaphorical essence and connection with national thinking.

The uniqueness of phraseological units is that, although they express meaning like lexical units, they are a semantically complex layer, enhancing the imagery, emotional and stylistic coloring of speech. Therefore, their role in the language is incomparable not only semantically, but also culturally and philosophically.

### **Semantic and structural integrity of phraseological units**

The main feature of phraseological units is a strong syntactic and semantic connection between their components. Each phraseologism expands the scope of meaning in the language, creates a new layer of meaning and embodies the national images of the language.

N.M. Shansky semantically divided phraseological units into nominative and communicative groups. Nominative phraseologisms name an object or



phenomenon (“like a mountain of hearts”, “to bring to mind”), while communicative types express a certain part of a sentence (“shut up”, “don’t twist the sentence”).

Linguist L.R. Zinder emphasizes that phraseologisms arise semantically not as a result of a change in the meaning of individual parts of word combinations, but by creating a new expressive layer on the basis of the whole combination. This indicates the need to study phraseologisms not only as grammatical units, but also as a form of cultural and spiritual code in the language.

In conclusion, the semantic structure of phraseologisms is the main feature that distinguishes them from lexical units. They are a linguistic manifestation that summarizes the national spirit, thinking, and life experience of the people.

The formation of phraseology in Western and Russian linguistics

The scientific study of phraseology is closely related to the activities of the Russian linguistic school. In particular, the research of such scientists as Vinogradov, Smirnitsky, Arkhangelsky, Babkin, Zhukov, Telia initiated a new theoretical stage in this direction. As a result of their work, phraseology was formed as an independent science that studies stable combinations in the language.

Western European linguists, in particular German scientists G.F. Seiler, W. Fleischer, H. Günter, K. Palm and H. Burger, made a great contribution to the semantic-structural analysis of phraseology, their origin and lexicographic development.

In the late 1980s, international scientific conferences on phraseology were held in Germany, as a result of which the “European Phraseological Society” was established in 1999. This society allowed researchers to study phraseologisms in different languages on a comparative basis. Also, the manual “Phrasology”, published in 2006 under the leadership of H. Burger, initiated a new stage in this field.

National-cultural characteristics of phraseologisms and modern research directions

Phraseologisms are considered a component of national culture as an expression of national thought, traditions, historical memory and social values through language. They transfer symbols, images, norms and values in the thinking of the



people into language. In this regard, phraseologisms are evaluated as a “cultural code” expressing the landscape of national thought.

In modern linguistics, phraseological units are studied on the basis of a cognitive approach, the theory of the concept sphere and the paradigm of cultural studies. This approach interprets phraseologisms not only as stable expressions in the language, but also as a figurative product of human thinking.

Today, in the study of phraseology, analytical methods based on new scientific concepts such as semantic field, prototypical model, metaphorical concepts are used. At the same time, the creation of phraseological dictionaries, the compilation of international phraseological corpora, and the development of automatic phraseological recognition systems in computer linguistics have become a priority area of modern research.

In-depth study of phraseology is of great importance not only from a linguistic, but also from a cultural, psychological, and cognitive perspective. They increase the level of figurativeness of the language, express national identity, and reflect the spirit of the people. Therefore, phraseology, as a living organism of the language, is constantly changing and enriching.

## **Conclusion**

Phraseology is the most complex and at the same time the most figurative layer of the language. They are a product of folk thinking, embodying the national mentality, historical experience, cultural values, and emotional-aesthetic relationships. According to the results of the study:

- phraseological units have semantic integrity and structural integrity;
- they reflect the spiritual world of the people as a national-cultural code;
- modern phraseology is being reinterpreted in a new way within the cognitive approach and linguocultural paradigm;
- the study of phraseologisms in the lexicographic and corpus framework is relevant.

Thus, phraseology is an important area of linguistics that expresses national identity, and its in-depth study is of great importance in shedding light on the semantic, cultural and conceptual nature of the language.



The results of the study show that phraseologisms are one of the oldest, but most active layers in the language. They serve as the main indicator of imagery, emotionality, expressiveness and nationality in the language. The phraseology of each people expresses its worldview, spiritual values and philosophy of life. Systematic study of phraseologisms reveals their semantic, grammatical and structural regularities, and allows for a deeper understanding of the language. At the same time, in modern linguistics, phraseology has reached a new level as a unique linguistic expression of folk culture, serving as an important methodological basis for studying the relationship between language, thought, and culture.

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