Lexical and Semantic Analysis of Idioms with Zoonym Components Dog-собака in English and Russian

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Abstract
The study of idioms' semantics remains important in modern linguistics. Phraseological units reflect the characteristic features of linguoculture, including nationally marked elements which are of greatest importance today. The purpose of the article is to identify the semantic features of phraseological units with zoonym component *dog-собака* in modern English and Russian. In the course of the work a thematic classification of phraseological units with zoonym components *dog-собака*, reflecting the features of human appearance, character, speech, and behavior; representing the professional specifics of professional activity; nominating the features of acquired life experience has been made. It has been established that in the English phraseological foundation, the zoonym 'dog' conveys such positive qualities as a person's leadership position in the professional field and a willingness to lead people, as well as such negative aspects of human life as excessive physical fatigue, depression, bad mood and an inability to fulfill promises. In the Russian phraseological foundation, the zoonym component собака has multifaceted semantic aspects – on the one hand, it conveys the image of a greedy, swearing and dull person; on the other hand, the dog in Russian linguoculture conveys the image of a faithful and devoted person, working and achieving results. Modern Russian is characterized by a tendency to expand the meaning of native Russian phraseological units, which is manifested in the ironic use of some phraseological units.
Key words: idioms, English, Russian, zoonym components dog-собака, lexical meaning, comparison analysis

Introduction

The study of the semantics of phraseological units reflecting the specifics of local linguistic culture continues to interest linguists amid new transformational processes. The trend towards globalization has led, on the one hand, to the functioning of universal categories in the phraseological fund of many languages; on the other hand, in modern linguistics, there is a tendency to indigenization, which manifests in the personification of local linguistic culture and is reflected in the language. In the conditions of transforming modern realities, the semantics of phraseological units either retains its original connotation, or, undergoing external transformations, tends to be modified or to be radically changed.

This article provides a comparative analysis of the phraseological stock of the English and Russian languages to determine their common and distinctive semantic nuances arising from local linguistic culture. The scientific problem is determined by the need to analyze the functioning of phraseological units based on a series languages example in the context of modern realities subject to globalization and indigenization processes.

The relevance of the research work is determined by the need to identify new features of phraseological units (or idioms) in a comparative aspect in the new socio-cultural realities. The object of the article is to identify similar and distinctive lexical and semantic features of idioms with zoonym components *dog-собака* in English and Russian, due to current trends in the development of local societies. To achieve the purpose of the research work, the following tasks were implemented:

·theoretical foundations of idioms in English, and Russian have been systematized;

·idioms with zoonymic components *dog-собака* in English and Russian languages have been identified;

·lexical and semantic features of idioms with zoonym components *dog-собака* in English and Russian languages have been established and their functional features of current language have been determined.

Research methods

The key method in the research work is the method of comparative analysis, which provides a comparison of the semantic features typical for English and Russian phraseological fund. The key lexical and semantic features of the English and Russian phraseological stock were identified based on the method of component analysis. Phraseological units including zoonyms components *(dog-собака) in English and Russian were identified, and the semantic shades of these* units in the context of linguistic culture were determined. The variation method analysis helped determine the scope of phraseological units with zoonym components, such as dog-собака, functioning in modern English and Russian. The method of quantitative analysis was used to determine the most and least frequent phraseological units with zoonym components of *dog-собака* in modern English and Russian.

The research material was the phraseological dictionaries of English (Idioms dictionary, 2020; Idioms. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004; NTC's American Idioms Dictionary, 2000), Russian (Modern explanatory dictionary of the Russian language, 2014; Phraseological dictionary of the modern Russian language, 2014; Teaching English idioms to Russian learners of English: Cognitive approach, 2003); as well as bilingual phraseological dictionaries (Tuttle English-Chinese Dictionary, 2010; Idioms: Description, comprehension, acquisition, and pedagogy, 2017).

Literature review

The research work is based on a broad understanding of phraseology, in which phraseological units include stable phrases and sentences, as well as proverbs and sayings, the semantics of which is not determined by the sum of the meaning of all components, but is taken by culturally marked and historically determined elements (Baghana et al, 2018). The specific meaning of phraseological units is dictated by ethnic and/or national culture, which is transmitted as knowledge from one generation to another and determines the value system of a particular linguistic culture (Baghana et al., 2023).

Phraseological units of any language represent a special layer of vocabulary that requires a qualitative analysis of origin the specifics. The study of idioms peculiarities in various languages was taken in the works of N. Zavyalova (Zavyalova, 2012).

The specifics of the semantics of phraseological units in a comparative analysis of two languages is an urgent topic in the works of many linguists. Thus, the study of phraseological units using the example of Thai and Chinese is carried out in the works of D. Bunkrong, T. Klaokliang, W. Wei, Y. Yue (Bunkrong et al, 2024); the analysis of Chinese and Spanish phraseological units was studied in the works of C. Lei, P. Antonio (Lei, Antonio, 2019). Chinese and Russian phraseological units were the subject of analysis in the works of M. Gamsa (Gamsa, 2017); C. Tang (Tang, 2007); Y. Wang (Wang, 2021); S. Wenjuan, J. Yuhong (Wenjuan, Yuhong, 2015); C. Yang (Yang, 2019); A. Sboev (Sboev, 2023). The work "Idioms in intercultural communication: A cognitive and pragmatic perspective" emphasizes the importance of studying the specifics of phraseological units for the implementation of

intercultural interaction (Senkbeil, 2020). The influence of the English language on the specifics of phraseological units in English variants, namely on the development of the Nigerian English, and the displacement of native languages role in Nigeria due to globalization is indicated in the works of T. Voloshina (Voloshina et al, 2019) and J. Baghana (Baghana, 2021). In the works of N. Aqromi the features of proverbs in English and Indonesian English are examined (Aqromi, 2019).

Finding and discussion

The specifics of idioms with the zoonym components *dog – собака* were studied by using the material of English and Russian languages. In the course of the analysis, three thematic groups of idioms with zoonym components *dog – собака* were identified, representing features of culture, including "Appearance, character, features of human speech and behaviour", "Human life experience", and "Human labour and professional activity".

The specifics of idioms with zoonym component dog in English linguoculture

The English phraseological foundation is characterized by the transmission of both positive and negative connotations through the zoonymic component 'dog'. It is noted that the studied component in the idioms of the English language translates a different range of semantic shades, to a greater extent illustrating the negative image of a dog, whose qualities pass on to a person and his life. Let's take a closer look at the semantic specifics of idioms with zoonym component *dog* in the English linguoculture of the identified thematic groups.

Based on the method of quantitative analysis, it was found that the English phraseological stock is dominated by idioms with zoonym component *dog*, nominating the specifics of a person's work (54%); idioms with zoonym component *dog* reflecting the features of a person's appearance, character, behaviour and speech (24%) are less frequent; dog idioms also represent a person's life experience in English culture (22%).

Idioms with zoonym component dog of the thematic group "Labor and Professional activity" in English

For the English language, this thematic group is the most frequent, since professional success for English culture is a marker of a high degree of social prestige, which is expressed, among other things, by means of phraseological units with zoonym component *dog*.

The semantics of idioms in this thematic group reflect the high degree of social prestige of the position held by a person; the complexity of the work process; working conditions such as a high degree of competitiveness and the need to overcome difficulties in order to achieve professional success, etc., for example:

Top dog – the idiom describes *a successful person who occupies an important social position* (Idioms dictionary, 2020: 109).

In English culture, *'top dog' is the term for a person in* a senior position. This idiom often describes the head of a department, or the head of a small firm. The idiom is based on the association of a dog pack, which necessarily needs a leader who controls the rest.

Dog eat dog - world is a tough competition (Siefring, 2004: 26).

The analyzed idiom describes the order of fierce and ruthless competition in modern professional conditions, when people are ready to step over moral values for their own benefit. It should be noted that within the framework of British linguistic culture, the idiom has a positive connotation, emphasizing the need to overcome

difficulties in a highly competitive environment. Moreover, to achieve social success, as emphasized in British culture, it is necessary to compromise principles and act without paying attention to questions of conscience. Achieving financial success is at the forefront of British culture, no matter what means a person uses.

Throw someone to the dogs – is used in the professional environment in the sense of *sacrificing someone or something to save the cause* (Spears, 2000: 202). The idiom illustrates the need to make professional decisions with a cold mind, even if they require humiliating or destroying employees, thereby implying ruthless betrayal.

Barking up the wrong tree – making a mistake (The Oxford dictionary of idioms, 2020: 21).

Initially, the idiom was used in relation to erroneous human actions in any activity. Currently, this idiom reflects the process of making mistakes in a professional environment.

Let sleeping dogs lie - don't raise issues that will lead to even more trouble by themselves (Liu, 2017: 209).

The idiom illustrates the British wisdom of solving problems as they come. Haste is not welcome in British culture, including professional activities, so there is no need to cause additional trouble by speeding up the process. To the Brits, rushing means making mistakes, and it can lead to financial losses in a professional environment.

In the doghouse – to get into a difficult situation (at work), to get reprimanded (Siefring, 2004: 87).

The analyzed idiom describes the negative experience of an employee who was either reprimanded by his employer or got into a bad situation. The idiom is based on the principle of comparing a difficult financial or work situation with a doghouse in which there is little room (a person cannot find a way out).

Work like a dog – too much work (Spears, 2000: 309).

In this case, the idiom conveys the image of a person who works extremely hard and a lot. Often in this mode, a person has an overloaded schedule that lasts for long hours, and the person does not have rest. The idiom is based on the image of sled dogs who work a lot in a team, while the lead dog does the most part of the work, it is she or he (the boss) who is responsible for the other dogs in the team.

A dog-and-pony show – distraction matters in a professional environment (The Oxford dictionary of idioms, 2020: 16).

The idiom describes a carefully planned presentation, the purpose of which is to distract attention. This question involves a deliberately vivid visual concept that uses emotional impact to distract attention from the true problem.

Idioms with zoonym component dog of the thematic group "Life Experience" in English

Phraseological units with zoonym component *dog* reflect a person's life lesson, which forms an important part of the experience, and also illustrates lucky moments from a person's life, for example:

Every dog has its day – every person has a chance to succeed (Siefring, 2004: 67).

The analyzed idiom is a proverb that conveys the idea that everyone can become happy and successful.

Lucky dog is a lucky person – a lucky person (Spears, 2000: 109).

This idiom describes a person who is constantly lucky, while a person may not deserve such luck. It should be noted that in modern English, this idiom carries a tinge of envy on the part of other people towards someone who is constantly lucky. In

this case, it should be said that zoonym component *dog* conveys a negative connotation (Levanova, 2003).

The complexity of the life path is referred to in the idiom *dog's life* (Idioms dictionary, 2020: 101).

Teach an old dog new tricks – is used in the meaning *it is impossible to change a person's nature*. The idiom is based on the image of an old dog that cannot be retrained. In English, this idiom reflects the difficulty of changing established stereotypes, and it is often used to describe the lives of older people who do not want to change their established lifestyle (Siefring, 2004).

Idioms with zoonym component dog of the thematic group "Features of human appearance, character, behavior and speech" in English

Go to the dogs - depressed human condition (Idioms dictionary, 2020: 45).

The idiom is based on a comparison of a dog pack and a person's environment, nominating the physical depression and decadent mood of a person who finds himself in a difficult situation. The phraseology *dog tired* also indicates *extreme physical fatigue of a person.*

*Dog and pony show – show off, talk too muc*h (Spears, 2000: 31). This idiom is applied to the speech of a person who promises a lot.

Like a dog with a bone – an extremely persistent person (The Oxford dictionary of idioms, 2020: 109). This idiom describes a character trait such as perseverance and not wanting to give up anything. In a figurative sense, it means *to feel dissatisfaction*.

Put on the dog – behave defiantly (Spears, 2000: 267). The idiom has a negative connotation and describes a person who is literally showing off or behaving in a highly demonstrative manner.

Dogged determination – persistent determination (Siefring, 2004: 35). It should be noted that the meaning of this idiom is determined from the context of usage. A quality such as determination is positively valued in British linguistic culture; however, an excessive degree of determination can also be seen as an unnecessary action that can lead to a negative result.

His bark is worse than his bite – harsh words frighten more than real actions. In this case, the quality of the dog's barking is transferred to human speech (Liu, 2017: 202).

The specifics of idioms with zoonym component собака in Russian linguoculture

English phraseological units with zoonym component *dog* are characterized to a greater extent by the transmission of negative symbols of zoonym component *dog;* in the Russian phraseological foundation, the functioning of idioms with zoonym component *собака* is the mixture of positive and negative connotations, reflecting a wide range of semantic aspects.

It was found that the Russian language is characterized by the predominance of phraseological units in which zoonym component *собака* nominates a person's rich life experience (55%); external, internal human qualities, features of human speech and behavior (42%); low-frequency phraseological units with zoonym component *собака* reflecting the specifics of a person's professional activity (3%).

Idioms with zoonym component собака of the thematic group "Features of human appearance, character, behavior and speech" in Russian

There are many idioms in the Russian language that represent the specifics of a person's character, for example:

Как собака на сене (Kuznetsov, 2014: 46) – *a greedy, nasty person*.

The etymology of this idiom is connected to the plot of the fable "Dogs in a manger" by Aesop, which describes a dog literally sitting on a haystack and not letting anyone near him.

Как кошка с собакой (Levanova, 2003: 109) – *to quarrel*.

The idiom is used ironically regarding quarrels between close people and is based on the juxtaposition of cats and dogs, they often cannot get along under the same roof.

It should be noted that in the Russian language there is a large number of proverbs with zoonym component *собака*, representing swearing, quarrels and gossip, for example:

Собака лает, от собаки слышит (Vasiliev, 2011: 209) – *swearing, a loud manner of speaking that brings discomfort to the listening people.*

It should be noted that barking is a natural way for dogs to communicate; however, when a person becomes like a dog, it has a negative effect on others.

Добрый пес на ветер не лает (Kuznetsov, 2014: 32) – *a man who threatens another*.

Вольно собаке и на владыку брехать (Levanova, (2003: 19) – *to lie about a stupid, stupid person.*

Often the image of a dog in the phraseological fund of the Russian language is presented as an obedient, submissive and obsequious animal, for example, *была бы собака, а камень найдется; за собакой палка не пропадет; смирную собаку и кочет бьет* (Vasiliev, 2011). All these idioms depict such a feature as obedience.

Idioms with zoonym component собака of the thematic group "Human labour and professional activity" in Russian

Собаку съел (Kuznetsov, 2014: 109) – *a professional person*.

The idiom characterizes a person's skill level in any business, as they say about a person who has a wealth of experience and has succeeded in a certain professional activity precisely because of valuable experience.

The etymology of the idiom does not have one clear version; however, linguists agree that this idiom is an ellipsis from the Russian proverb *собаку съел, да хвостом подавился*, which gradually took the form of "I ate a dog! The idiom has not changed its original meaning and is still used to refer to *a person who was able to do something difficult and achieved results through his experience and hard work*.

Idioms with zoonym component собака of the thematic group "Life experience" in Russian

Как собаке пятая нога (Larionova, 2014: 89) – *something unnecessary*, the idea is emphasized – it is necessary to get rid of an unnecessary thing or person.

The history of the origin of this idiom is connected with two versions. According to the first version, the idiom was introduced by A. I. Kuprin, then it became part of Russian culture and was widely used in the informal communication of ordinary people. According to the second version, the analyzed idiom is an adaptation in Russian linguoculture of the foreign proverb "Don't look for a fifth leg from a cat" (it simply doesn't exist) (Levanova, 2003).

Вот где собака зарыта (Vasiliev, 2011: 31) – *that's the crux of the matter.*

The etymology of the idiom is related to the real events of the Middle Ages, namely the personality of Sigismund Franz of Austria, who was fond of his dogs. One

day, his beloved dog saved his life. In memory of this event, when the dog died, he created a special burial place, which was later discovered by tourists.

Заживет как на собаке (Kuznetsov, 2014: 44) – *very fast, without complications*.

In this case, the idiom has a positive connotation and is based on the good health nature of a dog, which literally heals wounds quickly. If the action is described by this phraseological unit, it means that it will quickly come to an end.

There are many proverbs in the Russian language that literally give advice on how to behave in difficult life situations, for example:

Не будите спящую собаку – don't annoy the person, don't ask for trouble. The analyzed idiom is used in speech as advice – no need to provoke trouble;

Собака лает, ветер носит – no need to pay attention to gossip;

Свои собаки грызутся, чужая не приставай – you don't need to interfere in your own business (Vasiliev, 2011).

In these proverbs the image of a dog appears as something worthless, insignificant. In the proverbs, the image of a dog appears as something worthless:

Собачий нюх - a strong sense of intuition. The idiom is based on the association of a dog's excellent nose and a developed human intuition;

С лихой (паршивой) собаки хоть шерсти клок – the opportunity to snatch at least something, to get a little from a person (Kuznetsov, 2014).

Conclusion

Thus, the phraseological fund of any language reflects the peculiarities of linguistic culture, representing significant aspects that have historically developed and culturally adapted to the modern realities of local society. An analysis of the phraseological stock of the English and Russian languages has shown that the zoonym components dog-собака have different negative connotations in the two studied linguistic cultures, which are dictated by historical factors: a dog serving a human as a helper in English and Russian cultures. The identified phraseological units with zoonym components *dog-собака* were divided into thematic groups reflecting the features of human appearance, character and behavior; representing the life experience of a person; aspects of work.

The zoonym 'dog' in the English phraseological foundation has both positive and negative connotations. In the English phraseological foundation, the dominance of phraseological units is noted, reflecting aspects of a person's professional activity, which nominates the primary role of career for the British. The zoonym component 'dog' in English phraseological units reflects a quality such as helpfulness, which in modern realities is viewed positively. Also, the component *dog* conveys the complexity of the workflow, the high level of competitiveness in modern society, and the need to overcome difficulties to achieve professional success. In the English phraseological foundation a dog is equated with a leader who works hard.

Phraseological units with zoonym component *dog* in English linguoculture reflect a person's life lessons as well. However, unlike the Chinese linguistic culture, which has a negative connotation in the majority of cases, in the English phraseological foundation, the zoonym component 'dog' conveys lucky moments in a person's life experience. Zoonym component *dog* of English phraseological units also nominates such features as physical fatigue, depression, bad mood, and useless promises that a person does not fulfill.

As for Russian linguistic culture, it contains phraseological units with the zoonym *собака*, reflecting various semantic shades, both positive and negative. It was proved that the dominant thematic group of phraseological units is one in which the component dog reflects a person's rich life experience and represents the external and internal qualities of a person, as well as the peculiarities of human speech and

behavior. Isolated cases of usage make up phraseological units with zoonym component *собака* reflecting the specifics of a person's professional activity.

The image of a dog in Russian linguoculture is often presented as a dull and submissive creature. A greedy and abusive person is often compared to a dog in Russian. Modern Russian is experiencing a shift in the meaning of native Russian proverbs, including the zoonym component собака, toward an ironic effect. It is important to note that the phraseological unit with the zoonym component *собака* reflects the specifics of a person's professional activity and life experience. Moreover, it has a more positive connotation, reflecting a person's significant social status, emphasizing his hard work and willingness to overcome life difficulties.

The prospects for further research are related to the expansion of idioms analysis with various zoonym components in Chinese, English and Russian. We assume that zoonym components are capable of acquiring new semantic shades in the conditions of a transforming reality in the global space.

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