

## Definition of phraseological units, their semantic features, history of the study of phraseological units

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### ABSTRACT

This article informs us about one of the linguistics branch which study the main source of language such as word combinations, linguistic units, phraseological expressions. Also in this paper, we can look back to the history of phraseology, the achievements of science and future practice on this issue. The ideas in the article are not only written or informed but also proven by concrete facts and examples.

**Keywords:** types of phraseology, volumes, combinations, folklore, expressions.

Phraseology is a branch of the science of language, the object of study of which is stable combinations of words - phraseological units (PU). The founder of the theory of phraseology is Charles Bally, a Swiss linguist of French origin. He understood this science as "studying connected combinations". Also Ch. Bally gave the following definition of a phraseological unit: "combinations that have become part of the language are called phraseological phrases" [Kunin 1996: 5]. In the book "Essays on Stylistics" Ch. Bally identified four types of phrases: 1) free phrases; 2) familiar combinations; 3) phraseological series; 4) phraseological unity. Later, in the book "French stylistics", he indicated two groups of combinations: free combinations and

phraseological unity. The work done by him contributed to the further development of phraseological research.

In the English and American linguistic literature, works devoted to the theory of phraseology are few. Therefore, in the English language there is no generally accepted term for this discipline.

English and American linguists who study stable word combinations use the term "idiom" to denote phraseological units. The term "idiom" was first introduced by the English linguist L.P. Smith. In his work "Phraseology of the English language" he used the word "idiom" to denote such features of the language that are speech anomalies that violate either the rules of grammar or the laws of logic. He referred to idioms: phraseological combinations, grammatical phenomena - "double" expression of comparative and superlative degree (more better), double negation, persistent repetitions of the same words (by and by, again and again, neck and neck) [Smith 1998].

The most common definition of an idiom belongs to W. McMordie and J. Seidl. They understand an idiom as "a series of words that invent meaning other than those of its components" [Seidl 1978: 4].

At the moment, linguists disagree on the definition of phraseological unit and the volume of phraseology. But, despite the divergence of opinions on the definition of phraseology, it was

the Soviet linguists who defined and introduced the term “phraseological unit”, denoting a special group of phrases. Currently, the issue of the volume of phraseology has not yet been resolved. “In modern philological science, a situation has been established in which the concept of phraseology is expanding. The volume of phraseology includes words, idioms, and compound terms, all kinds of stable syntactic constructions, proverbs, sayings, winged words and numerous stamps of oral and written speech” [Zalyaleeva 2003: 4].

According to A.V. Kunin's phraseological unit includes all “stable combinations of words with complicated semantics” from “two-conditional formations” to complex sentences, proverbs [Kunin 1996: 31]. E.V. Ivanova believes that, considering the issue of the boundaries of the phraseological fund, proverbs and phrasal verbs should be mentioned [Ivanova 2011]. However, A.I. Alekhina believes that phraseology includes stable verbal complexes of phraseological and non-phraseological nature [cit. by Zagryadskaya 2003].

So, from all of the above, it is obvious that there are differences of opinion on the concept of “phraseological unit”. In this work, we will adhere to the definition of A.V. Kunin: “A phraseological unit is a stable combination of words with a fully or partially rethought meaning” [Kunin 1996: 210].

Due to the fact that domestic linguists disagree on the definition of phraseological units and the volume of phraseology, a narrow and broad approach is traditionally distinguished in phraseology. The supporters of the narrow approach are representatives of the St. Petersburg and Novgorod schools of linguistics. With this approach, phraseology includes only stable word combinations equivalent to a word. This point of view is shared by S.I. Ozhegov, V.V. Vinogradov,

N.N. Amosova, A.I. Molotkov. A broad approach to understanding phraseological units is presented by such authors as N.M. Shansky, V.N. Telia, A.V. Kunin. The authors of this approach include in the phraseology not only phrases, but also sentences, proverbs and sayings [Kunin 1996: 31].

In Russian phraseology V.V. Vinogradov singled out phraseological fusions, phraseological unity, phraseological combinations, phraseological expressions. When creating a classification, V.V. Vinogradov was based on the criterion of interdependence, since a characteristic feature of each phraseological turnover is its semantic unity, however, the degree of dependence of the meaning of a phraseological unit as a whole and the values of its components may be different.

#### • **Phraseological fusions**

Phraseological fusion (idiom) is a semantically indivisible turnover, the general meaning of which is not motivated by the meaning of the constituent elements. The words that make up the fusion have completely lost their semantic independence and, therefore, do not explain the meaning of the entire turnover in their meanings.

For example: “A skeleton in the cupboard” is a family secret; a nuisance hidden from strangers.

#### • **Phraseological unity**

Phraseological unity is a stable turnover in which the signs of the semantic separation of components are clearly preserved. For phraseological unity, imagery is characteristic. Together, the words acquire a figurative meaning. Usually phraseological units of this type are tropes with metaphorical meaning.

For example: “go to with the flow”, “to pour oil on the flame (s)” - add oil to the fire.

Like idioms, phraseological units are semantically indivisible, their syntactic structure and grammatical forms are strictly defined. Replacing a word as part of a phraseological unity or substituting a synonym leads to the destruction

of the metaphor or a change in the expressive meaning.

However, in phraseological units, it is possible to insert words between parts.

For example: "bring (yourself, her, someone) to white heat."

- **Phraseological combinations**

A phraseological combination is a stable turnover, which includes words both with a free meaning and phraseologically connected, not free (used only in this combination). Phraseological combinations are stable turns, but their integral meaning follows from the meanings of the constituents from individual words.

Unlike phraseological mergers and unities, phraseological combinations are semantically divisible - their composition allows for a limited replacement of individual words or synonymous substitution, while one of the members of the phraseological combination is constant, while the others are variables.

For example: in the phrases "burn out with - love, impatience, shame, hatred" a permanent member is the word "burn up" with a phraseologically related meaning.

- **Phraseological expressions (PE)**

Phraseological expressions that are stable in their composition and use, which are semantically segmented and consist entirely of words with a free nominative meaning. Their peculiarity is that they are used as ready-made speech units with a constant lexical composition and certain semantics, and the fact that they are perceived by members of society in the same way, without which communication would be impossible.

For example: "to have a smoke".

Often a phraseological expression is a complete sentence with a statement, edification or conclusion. The sources of such PE are proverbs and aphorisms. If there are elements of understatement in the PE, then the sources are

sayings or catch phrases. Another source of PE is professional speech. Also, phraseological expressions are speech stamps, that is. Stable formulas, such as: "all the best", "see you soon" [Shansky 1958, Vinogradov 1977].

Many linguists do not attribute phraseological expressions to phraseological units, since they are devoid of the main features of phraseological units.

N.N. Amosova considered phraseological units from the point of view of context, or rather, a constant context. Since phraseological units are recognized as units of constant context, where the meaning of a word is phraseologically related. Units of constant context (PU) according to N.N. Amosova are subdivided into: phrasemes and idioms [Amosova 1963].

1. Phrasemes - are units of constant context in which the indicative minimum required to actualize a given meaning of a semantically realizable word is the only possible, constant one.

For example: "beef tea" - *крепкий мясной бульон*;

"husband's tea" - *слабо заваренный чай*.

Here the second component is the minimum for the first.

2. Idioms, in contrast to phrasemes, are units of a constant context, in which the indicative minimum and the semantically realizable element constitute an identity, and both are represented by the general lexical composition of the phrase.

For example: "red tape" - bureaucracy;

"Red herring" is a trick;

"Mare's nest" is nonsense;

"Dark horse" is a person with an unclear reputation.

The value of an integer cannot be inferred from the sum of the values of the idiom elements.

N.N. Amosova said that an idiom is a phraseological unit with a holistic meaning.

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