

## PECULIARITIES OF ENGLISH PROVERBS WITH COMPONENTS 'CAT' AND 'DOG'

*V.P. Tibets, 1–st year of studies*

*Scientific supervisor – Y.N. Rusina, Candidate of Sciences (Philology)*

*Polessky State University*

Proverbs play an important role in learning English because we are often faced with expressions the meaning of which is very difficult to understand even if we know the translation of separate words.

We think it will be very interesting to trace differences between English and Russian proverbs and find peculiarities of their translation from English into Russian.

So, the aim of this scientific work is to identify the specific features of some English proverbs and analyze the peculiarities of their translation into Russian.

The object of our study is 54 proverbs with components 'dog' and 'cat'. All the proverbs have been selected from one main source [2]. It is known that words denoting animals are very common components of phraseological units in any language, and according to A.V.Koonin, proverbs are kinds of communicative phraseological units which are sentences from the point of view of their grammatical structure [1, p.339].

English proverbs are very diverse in terms of contents and cover all aspects of people's life. Human features of character are often given to animals.

For example:

*Barking dogs seldom bite. = Кто много грозит, тот мало вредит.*

*The cat shuts its eyes when stealing cream. = В чужом глазу и соринку видим, а в своём и бревна не замечаем.*

*Dog does not eat dog. = Вор вора покрывает.*

*Curiosity killed the cat. = Любопытной Варваре нос оторвали.*

Our analysis has shown that from the point of view of their grammatical structure 45 proverbs are declarative sentences and 9 proverbs are imperative sentences.

Proverbs with the structure of imperative sentences give commands or advice:

*Beware of a silent dog and still water.*

*Don't teach the dog to bark.*

*Let sleeping dogs lie.*

Declarative sentences are divided into simple (39 proverbs) and complex or compound (15 proverbs) sentences. Simple sentences can be affirmative (34) and negative (5):

*Care killed the cat.*

*A bitten child dreads the dog.*

*Scornful dogs eat dirty puddings.*  
*Quarrelling dogs come halting home.*  
*A cat in gloves catches no mice.*  
*Dog does not eat dog.*

The examples of proverbs with the structure of a complex sentence (which can also be affirmative (11) and negative (4)) are the following:

*Dogs bark as they are bred.*  
*Dogs that put up many hares kill none.*  
*When candles are out, all cats are grey.*  
*All are not thieves that dogs bark at.*  
*Don't make yourself a mouse, or the cat will eat you.*

As for the expressive means used in English proverbs, the most important of them are repetitions, contrasts and rhyme [1, p.351]. As a result of our research, we have found out the following expressive means in the proverbs with components 'cat' and 'dog':

- contrasts (11): *Better be the head of a dog than the tail of lion.* // *A blate cat makes a proud mouse.*
- repetitions (5): *As a wolf is like a dog, so a flatterer is like a friend.* // *Know thy breed, know thy dog.*
- rhyme (2): *When the cat is away, the mice will play.* // *Like a dog in a fair: here, there and everywhere.*

As for the peculiarities of the translation, some proverbs can be translated word for word, others have a completely different translation. Our analysis has shown that only 7 English proverbs with components 'dog' and 'cat' have full (or very close to full variants) Russian equivalents:

*The old dog barks not in vain.* = *Старый пёс на ветер не лает.*  
*All cats are grey in the dark.* = *Ночью все кошки серы.*  
*Barking dogs seldom bite.* = *Собака, что лает, редко кусает.*  
*Beware of a silent dog and still water.* = *Берегись тихой собаки, да тихой воды.*  
*Love me, love my dog.* = *Любишь меня, так люби и собачку мою.*  
*The old dog barks not in vain.* = *Старый пёс на ветер не лает.*  
*A stick is quickly found to beat a dog with.* = *Коли быть собаке битой, найдётся и палка.*  
All the other selected proverbs have only partial equivalents. The examples are the following:  
*A living dog is better than a dead lion.* = *Лучше дурак с кротостью, чем умный с гордостью.*  
*The scalded cat fears cold water.* = *Обжёгшись на молоке, дуют на воду.*

There are 20 English proverbs with components 'dog' and 'cat' whose Russian equivalents contain the same components or names of other animals, for example:

*The cat would eat fish and would not wet her feet.* = *Лакома кошка до рыбки, да в воду лезть не хочется.*

*Dog does not eat dog.* = *Ворон ворону глаза не выклюет.*  
*Don't teach the dog to bark.* = *Не учи козу – сама стянет с возу.*  
*Every dog is a lion at home.* = *Всяк кулик на своём болоте велик.*  
*It is enough to make a cat laugh.* = *Это курам на смех.*  
*Like a dog in a fair: here, there and everywhere.* = *Волка ноги кормят.*

There are 27 proverbs which have Russian equivalents without names of animals at all, for example:

*Hungry dogs will eat dirty puddings.* = *Голод не тётка.*  
*The cat shuts its eyes when stealing cream.* = *В чужом глазу и соринку видим, а в своём и бревна не замечаем.*

*A cat has nine lives.* = *До свадьбы заживёт.*

So, as our analysis has shown, English proverbs with components 'dog' and 'cat' are rather common in the language, most of them have the structure of a simple sentence and they have mainly partial equivalents in Russian.

## References

1. Кунин, А.В. Курс фразеологии современного английского языка: учеб. для ин-тов и фак. иностр. яз. / А.В. Кунин. – 2-е изд., перераб. – М.: Высш. шк., Дубна: Феникс, 1996. – 381 с.

2. Кусковская, С.Ф. Русские пословицы и поговорки с соответствиями в английском языке / С. Ф. Кусковская. – Мн.: Выш. шк., 1992. – 222 с.