

## ENGLISH PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH COMPONENTS "GRASS" AND "FLOWERS": THE ETYMOLOGY AND SEMANTICS

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Following a steady growth of scholarly interest and activity over the last thirty years, phraseology has become a major field of pure and applied research. As happens to many other issues in contemporary linguistic theory, the analysis of phraseology can prove more fruitful when linked to other important phenomena. Thus, when carrying out a study of phraseological units, it is tempting to adopt a grand, overarching strategy so as to attain sweeping generalisations. On the contrary, the more fields considered, the greater the risk of increasing the number of variables unnecessarily.

**The aim of this study** is to analyze the etymology and semantics of English phraseological units with components "grass" and "flowers". To achieve this we needed to collect the idioms of the English language, which include the names of different herbs and flowers, and to analyse their etymology and semantics.

We studied the works of several scientists, in particular, N. N. Amosova, A. V. Kunin, V. V. Vinogradov, F. F. Fortunatov, A. A. Shakhmatov, I. A. Melchuk, devoted to methods and approaches to the study of phraseology.

As to phraseological units they have the definite program of functioning which is predetermined by their essence itself as A.V. Kunin puts it. Some functions are constant, i.e. inherent in all phraseological units in any conditions of their realization, other functions are variable, peculiar only to some classes of phraseological units. Communicative, cognitive and nominative functions refer to the constant functions. The communicative function of phraseological units is their ability to serve as communicative or message means. Communication presupposes a mutual exchange of statements, and message presupposes the transfer of information without a feedback with the reader or the listener [1, p. 47]. The nominative function of phraseological units is their relation to objects of the real world, including situations, and also replacement of these objects in speech activity by their phraseological denominations. The filling of lacunas in the lexical system of the language is characteristic of the nominative function of phraseological units. This function is peculiar to the overwhelming majority of phraseological units, as they do not have lexical synonyms. The sub-kinds of the nominative function are neutrally-nominal and nominal functions.

According to this classification, there are four types of expressions – fusions, unities, combinations and expressions.

We collected material of English phraseological units with components "grass" and "flowers", which were divided into four groups – Indo-European, Germanic, native English and borrowed phraseological units. We analyzed about one hundred expressions with components of "grass" and "flowers", and possible reasons for the presence of these idioms in the English language and the presence of phraseological units are similar to in other Germanic and Indo-European languages.

Indo-European phraseological units associated with the ancient culture, mythology. Expressions *to gain (win) laurels*, associated with the special symbols of this plant, which were attributed to him in ancient times: *a Laurel wreath and branch of Laurel*, from the time of Greco-Roman antiquity is the symbol of glory and victory [2]. Expressions with the component "*Laurel*" is widely used in the modern English language, for example: *Labour must not rest on any local election laurels. All three major parties should keep in mind that a good local election result does not lay a path to general election victory* [3, p. 187].

Expressions of this group and class of the common German idioms are also characterized by relation with the Christian tradition: for example, the common German expression *a thorn in smb.'s flesh (side)* first found in the Second Epistle to the Corinthians [3, p. 319]. Moreover, these two groups include phraseological units, having a sufficiently obvious imagery, clear to the representatives of many nations.

Actually in English there are expressions with a particular relevance to the realities of life and culture of English-speaking countries: the expression *to be (live) in clover, to live like a bee in clover* have the meaning '*to live in luxury, happily ever after*'; their existence may be linked to well-known belief that four-leaf clover brings good luck [2]. The study of borrowed phraseological units provides an opportunity to study the influence on English of other cultures, particularly ancient and Arabic.

The phraseological unit *the last straw that breaks the camel's back* came into English from Arabic, and later formed a short version of this expression is *the last (final) straw*. Stable expression under the rose '*secretly, secretly*' came into the English language from Latin, where there was a *sub rosa* idiom with the same meaning [3, p. 218]. *Rose* was of great importance as a symbol of silence in Ancient Rome, *a rose* was often hung over the room during feasts. In the Middle ages, it is for the same purpose depicted on the grille of a Catholic confessional and on the ceiling of the rooms, where he held important talks and meetings.

The greatest number of analyzed phraseological units belong to different groups, contains a component, *rose, thorn, straw, grass* [4]. The presence of phraseological units in the names of the first two plants indicates their important symbolic value in many cultures and the use of sustainable in terms of the components of the *straw* and *grass* is due to the frequency with these plants occur and a wide range of meanings and values that can be passed through them.

*Rose* is perceived as the epitome of beauty, youth; in general, it is associated with something pleasant, easy and beautiful, and proof of this can serve as expressions such as *to come up roses, come up smelling of roses*: *Everything's coming up roses this summer, says Colin, August rain can be great for the garden* [4]; *No matter the problem, he manages to wriggle out of it and come up smelling of roses* [2].

In many phraseological units with the component *thorn*, for example, *a bed of thorns* 'the thorny path of life, and the flour' is a plant understood as the embodiment of hardship and suffering. Proverbs *truths*

*and roses have thorns about them and wherever a man dwells he shall be sure to have a thorn bush near his door* argue the inevitability of obstacles in life [3, p. 318].

In conclusion we can say that phraseological units are habitually defined as non-motivated word-groups that cannot be freely made up in speech but are reproduced as ready-made units; the other essential feature of phraseological units is stability of the lexical components and grammatical structure.

Phraseological units may be defined as specific word-groups functioning as word-equivalents; they are equivalent to definite classes of words. The part-of-speech meaning of phraseological units is felt as belonging to the word-group as a whole irrespective of the part-of-speech meaning of component words. Comparing a free word-group, e.g. a long day and a phraseological unit, e.g. in the long run, we observe that in the free word-group the noun day and the adjective long preserve the part-of-speech meaning proper to these words taken in isolation. In the phraseological unit in the long run the part-of-speech meaning belongs to the group as a single whole. In the long run is grammatically equivalent to single adverbs, e.g. finally, firstly, etc.

## References

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