

СЕКЦІЯ ГЕРМАНСЬКОЇ ФІЛОЛОГІЇ
CONCEPTUAL SPACE OF THE ZOOMORPHIC
PHRAZEOLOGICAL UNITS IN THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE

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Phraseological units are one of the best means of speech and thoughts conveying. Thus modern researches turn to the subject of conceptual space of phraseological units.

The problem of zoomorphic phraseological units conceptual space is one of the most topical aspect within the field in question. The topicality of this study lies down in the necessity of the zoomorphic phraseological units pragmatic aspects research in general and in the English language in particular.

Phraseological units and idiomatic expressions are “an inexhaustible spring”, the treasure of customs and traditions, knowledge and skills, which are the characteristic of the certain language group.

The system of values, social morality and treatment towards the whole world, people and other nations are remained in the idiomatics of the language that is defined as nationally specific. Idiomatic expressions vividly display the way of life, geographical position, history and traditions of the society with a common culture.

The names of animals were the object of studies for many researches. Phraseological units with the animals' names are the bearers of the certain determined national associative stereotypes.

We deem, that the main criterion for the sphere restriction of phraseological units that refers to the animal world images, is the image and inner form presence within the idiomatic expressions, which is based on the conception about some plants or animals. These conceptions are figurative-motivating basis of phraseological unit knowledge.

We include the following phraseological units to the sphere of idiomatic expression that belong to the animal world:

1. Phraseological units, metaphorical part of which is based on inner lexical component that include the name of an animal or the adjective, derived from the noun with the animal name. There are also phraseological units with the verbal component, derived from the noun with the animal name.
2. Phraseological units that don't contain the names of animals, but have in their structure the metaphoric-linking traits of character, peculiarities of

human appearance, defined features of unanimated objects and phenomena with the habits, behavior and appearance of animals.

Typologically identic zoomorphic phraseological units are deemed to be interlingual phraseological equivalents – the phraseological units with the animal component, the semantic identity of which is characterized by the figurative-associative relations of the same type, which are the basis of the semantic transformation in question. As the conformity of the lexical and grammatical level units is an optional factor for the interlingual phraseological equivalents, we can distinguish 3 types of their conformity:

1. the interlingual phraseological equivalents with the full monosemantic conformity of the lexical and grammatical levels:

to take smb under one's wing;

2. the interlingual phraseological equivalents without the monosemantic conformity of the lexical level units:

to catch old birds with chaff;

3. the interlingual phraseological equivalents without the monosemantic conformity of the grammatical level units:

cat may look at a king;

Thus, the typological identity of zoomorphic phraseological units of the English language is the result of the conformity of the logical and figurative-associative thinking processes of different nations, and the result of the cultural-historic relations between them.

The peculiarities of lexical- semantic and grammatical systems of every certain language are reflected in the various forms and types of identical zoomorphic phraseological units similarity. Semantic and figurative identity of zoomorphic phraseological units in the English language is not violated at the cost of the specific character of the lexical and structural-grammatical organization of the zoomorphic phraseological units in question.

Different researches have devoted a lot of their works to research this problem. It should be mentioned, that in the field of context interpretation there are four types of context: consequent, culturological, psycholinguistic and purely linguistic. Despite the fact, that there are a lot of different approaches to research the conceptual space of the zoomorphic phraseological units, most scientists agree that the national world's pattern plays a very important roll here.

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