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СУМСЬКИЙ ДЕРЖАВНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ
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ЛІНГВІСТИЧНИЙ НАВЧАЛЬНО-МЕТОДИЧНИЙ ЦЕНТР

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THE COMPARATIVE PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS AND THEIR STYLISTIC CLASSIFICATION

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The main aim of the work is to select the comparative phraseological units and to give their classification. According to V.L. Arkhangel'sky phraseological microsystem is the traditional unity of the systematic relations between the components of the phraseological units and between the phraseological units themselves on the basis of their structural-semantic peculiarities. So, the phraseological microsystem consists of 2 mutually connected subsystems: a system of relations and a system of constructions. It has the systematic character.

Phraseological unit is a stable combination of words with partly or fully changed meaning. The body of a phraseological unit is a composite sentence. We came to a conclusion that a phraseological unit is a combination of words with a low combinatoric index, which is conditioned by peculiar systematic features of the components or by special character of relation to the combination of words to reality.

Comparative phraseological constitute a great part of English phraseologisms. They can be divided according to 2 principles:

1. On the basis of the emotional force;
2. On the basis of the sphere of usage.

Depending on the emotional force they produce phraseologisms can be grouped into:

1. positively, negatively, neutrally coloured
2. image-bearing and characterising
3. expressive-emotional
4. intensive-characterising

Depending on the sphere of usage they are classified into:

1. Colloquial and bookish;
2. Situational.

Here are some examples of English comparative phraseologisms of the above given classification: *to fight like a lion, as fair as a lily, as busy as a bee*; speaking about a clumsy, awkward man we can characterize him as *a hog on ice*. Image-bearing phraseologisms can contain negative estimation. *As changeable as the moon* means that the person often takes different view of things and can hardly be relied upon. *Behave like a dog* stresses an impudent, incorrect behaviour. Intensive-characterizing phrasal units help to intensify an emotional-expressive effect upon a reader: *as black as hell, as red as a cherry* (is not only red, but speaks about an unusually strong health), *packed like herrings, as thick as thieves, as tall as a maypole, as white as chalk*. Situational are comparative phraseological units which describe the behaviour of people in definite situations (in a condition of fear, terror, panic, merriment, etc.): *as scared as a rabbit, like an aspen leaf, to laugh like a hyena*.

So a comparative phraseological unit is a grammatically formed figure of language which is based on a comparison of two objects or phenomena. The division of comparative phraseological units is conventional. A comparative phraseological unit is an effective means of creating a vivid artistic image, with its help an author gives the psychological analysis of his personages, their actions, portrait characteristics thus portraying a person many-sided. It assists an author in revealing his subjective estimation relation towards the facts of reality.