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ENGLISH PROVERBS REFLECTING POSITIVE CONNOTATIONS

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The research of English proverbs that reflect positive connotations is dealt with in this paper. The principal aim of the investigation is to reveal examples of modified English proverbs with the lexeme Good and its allonyms. The data obtained enable us to determine the nature of proverbs and their usage in literary discourse. Our findings prove evidence for prevailing positive connotations over negative ones.

Keywords: English proverbs, literary discourse, modification, positive connotation.

The comprehensive study of English literary texts enabled us to identify the actualization of nomination Good in modified proverbs, analyze the frequency of the words- allonyms, and their influence on the structure and semantics of modified proverbs. A well-known proverb *It is a good horse that never stumbles* [1, p. 552], expanded its semantic content and meaning by adding lexical units: *He said, "A good horse never stumbles; a good pope never grumbles; and a good pickpocket never fumbles"* [3, p. 139]. The author emphasizes the dominance of positive connotations in the proverb, which stimulate good deeds and actions.

The proverb *Bad news travels fast* [1, p. 60] transformed into *Good news travels fast, but bad news travels faster. Average news does not get off the ground* [4, p. 265]. This example is characterized by adding negation to amplify the proverb's rheme and the qualitative replacement of lexical units (*bad* → *good*) in the first block of the proverb. The second part of the proverb contrasts with the first one as it focuses on the fact that the public knows terrible news more quickly than good ones.

The traditional proverb *A deaf husband and a blind wife are always a happy couple* was modified into *A **good marriage would be between a blind wife and a deaf husband*** [5, p. 231]. The renewed version demonstrates the change in the grammatical form of expression that makes predictive and recommendation character. Also, the changed proverb is characterized by introducing the lexical unit **good** that intensifies the positive connotation of the maxim.

Proverb's semantic block intensification is represented in the following construction: *Best defense is a **good offense*** [1, p. 121] → ***In law, as in sports, the best defense is often a good offense. Hence the title of my book*** [6, p. 14]. The transformed proverb is marked by specification of the space-time (*in law, in sports*), the use of the comparison (*in law, as in sports*). The addition of the adverb *often* demonstrates the author's manner of writing and provides inside as to the book's title (*The Best Defense*).

1) *Forget injuries, never forget **good*** → ***"You're wrong, Johnny. You did a good thing that day whether you like it or not. 'Confucius said, Forget injuries, never forget kindness.' I'm trying to forget my past injuries, but I will never forget the kindness you showed me"*** [7, p. 32];

2) *Smooth seas do not make **good** sailors* → *Smooth seas do not make **skillful** sailors* [8, p. 69]. These examples show replacing of the unit **good** → *kindness* (1), **good** → *skillful* (2). This type of substitution does not affect the proverb semantic and reflects the author's intention.

Let us consider some examples of the use of allonym **gain**:

1) *Nothing venture, nothing **gain*** [1, p. 701] → ***"Nothing venture, nothing gain" is not the same vibration as "no pain, no gain. It is simply the belief that in order to get something, we must venture out. Now, I used to look at this phrase at think it meant, "You've got to take the risk"*** [9, p. 20]. The use of proverbs in the literary text is regarded as a comparison. In another well-known proverb, *No pains, no gains* [1, p. 696], we can notice the way of transferring the hero's thoughts using laconicism and imagery.

2) *ELEONORA. In the eyes of the world I am dead, for I have done something wicked.*

BENJAMIN. You?

*ELEONORA. Yes, I embezzled trust funds – Of course that doesn't matter very much – for **ill-gotten gains never prosper**. But my old father was blamed for it and put in prison, and that, you see, can never be forgiven.*

BENJAMIN. How strangely and beautifully you speak. It never occurred to me that my inheritance might have been ill-gotten [10, p. 299].

The presented fragment is aimed at achieving the author's intention - the creation of an emotional effect. The appropriate use of proverb in the dialogue by Eleanor caused surprise and admiration in her interlocutor Benjamin. The lexical unit **gain** does not give the positive or negative connotations of the dialogue but is most likely supposed to be a part of the proverbial construction.

3) Another example of using the proverb *One lie leads to another* [1, p. 723] is characterized by the use of it in a new confirming meaning of the fact that one deception leads to the following deliberate deception in order to achieve a person's own benefit: *A lie is a negative gesture that only results in harm either to the one told the lie or the teller of the lie or both. It's no wonder **one lie leads to another** as a person purposely and willfully distorts the truth for their own personal **gain*** [11, c. 59]. As shown in the extract, the lexical unit **gain** does not have a positive connotation and is interpreted as an expression of negative meaning. Nevertheless, we can notice the didactic nature of the proverb, its moralistic spirit to improve human actions for the better.

4) Let's consider the next fragment: *She rolled over and mused about how she had been betrayed, until her growling stomach grew her attention. There was, she realized, a small recompense for the broken heart in the fact that she had lost ten pounds within a month of Howard's departure. Well, actually, a largish recompense in that, she decided. **No great loss without small gain**, she thought, remembering one of her mother's homespun expressions. No, in this case, a great loss and a great loss. Hey, that was pretty good. She could tell her mom that. She tossed cats*

and covers off her slender frame and smiled down at her concave stomach and her delicate, tiny wrists [12, p. 7].

The given situation is about the main character's reflection on the departure of her lover. Her thoughts diversified by the proverb *No great loss without small gain*. The usage of this maxim states that it is one of the everyday expressions in this family (*one of her mother's homespun expressions*). This is an indicator of awareness of the English-speaking population of the cultural level of the language and identifies people who use them as lover of traditional expressions. Then the proverb is supplemented by the following sentence: *No, in this case, a great loss and a great loss*, which becomes a manifestation of girl's feelings about the absence of Howard. The emotional flame is amplified by the refinement phrase *no, in this case*, and the repetition of negative combinations *a great loss and a great loss*.

The main conclusion that can be drawn is that the elaborated examples reflect the use of the studied nominations (good, gain) in a somewhat narrowed aspect since they were analyzed only within the structure of modified proverbs. In turn, it provides a good starting point for discussion and further research. Forthcoming studies should be devoted to analyzing nomination Good by identifying its allonyms, elaborating more dictionaries, and demonstrating cases of their actualization, both in traditional and modified proverbs.

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