

LEXICAL-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF TRANSLATING IDIOMS

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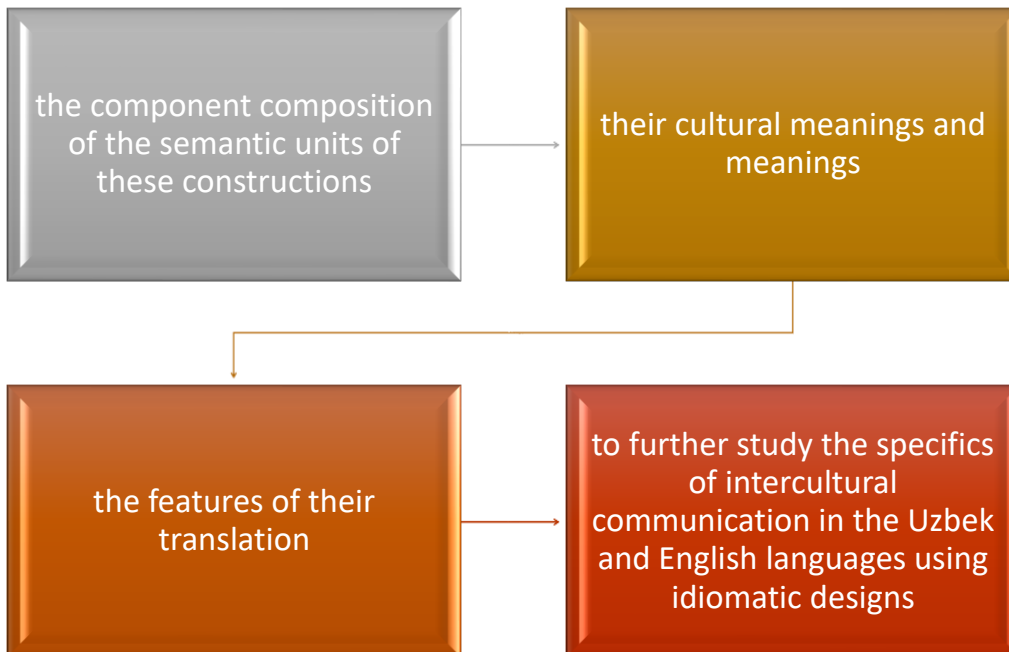
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Abstract. The article examines the lexical and semantic features of the translation of idioms and provides a generalized description of those available in science according to their classifications. The author reveals the content of the concept of idioms; the analysis of idiomatic expressions often used in everyday life was carried out taking into account the classification, the basis of which is the function of idioms in communication, determined by their structural and semantic characteristics.

Keywords: idiom, lexical-semantic meaning, linguistic unit, concept, translation.

In modern English, idioms have become widespread due to the fact that a “living” language cannot help but grow with new units of vocabulary, not only due to the increasingly complex nature of the language system, but also, above all, due to the more diverse world that the language is designed to serve. Oral speech, replete with expressions of an emotional nature, plays the role of the main catalyst-source, which replenishes the vocabulary of the language with units of idiomatic properties. It is difficult to imagine the speech of a modern person without bright, catchy and colorful phrases that make it rich in content and aimed at a specific object. In addition, idioms perform a rather pragmatic task in the process of human communication: they significantly speed up the understanding of communicants among themselves. Idioms that are meaningful and capacious in their semantic content make it possible to achieve a “grasp” of the situation in a shorter way. An idiom is a figure of speech (from the Greek “own”, “proper”), the meaning of which is not determined by the individual meanings of the words it contains. Dahl's explanatory dictionary adds to what has been said - local dialect, patois. Thus, we are dealing with the figurative meaning of the word, which is widely used in the so-called “colloquial” version of everyday speech.

The relevance of the work is explained by the presence of extensive practical material, which requires painstaking analysis and finding ways to translate idiomatic constructions taking into account existing features. Based on the purpose of the study, tasks are set to analyze:



English idioms have been sufficiently well studied in the lexicography of the language and do not require additional study in terms of their characteristics and determination of their place in the language system. It should only be added that even among experts there is still no complete clarity on the issue of how to clearly draw the line between idioms, phrasal verbs, proverbs and sayings and other similar structures. For example, to blow off and to blow away belong to phrasal verbs, but one of them has the characteristics of an idiomatic utterance in the appropriate context, and the other is closely related to the base verb from which it is derived, the translation of which easily guessed by its basic meaning. The task of dividing idioms, proverbs and sayings into different categories of the language system seems even more difficult, since in many proverbs the meaning is absolutely unclear if they are translated word for word, that is, literally, and not based on some very characteristic phenomenon of life, tradition or historical reminiscence.

This work touches on particular issues of translation, as well as the semantic content of idiomatic phrases. At the same time, in order to correctly translate an idiomatic unit, it is necessary to remember with which language phenomena idioms are closely intertwined in oral speech. In this regard, the pragmatic view in English lexicography on the use of slang, proverbs, fixed expressions in English speech, including idioms, which are conventionally combined into so-called speech formulas, seems interesting. But speaking about speech formulas, to which some authors sometimes classify idioms, we should also mention prepositional groups (in no time; the apple of my eye; out of hell; off the record; as a rule; ahead of time); proverbs and sayings (actions speak louder than words; if you live by the sword, you die by the sword; it rains cats and dogs; a fool at forty is a forever fool; a penny saved is a penny earned; a rolling stone gathers no moss); aphorisms (Murphy's Law; break a leg; close, but no cigar; to chase fool's gold; to cut to the chase; double whammy); phrasal verbs (to mouth off; to turn in; to kick out; to pipe down); collocations, colloquial clichés (it's an act of God; to pull the wool over one's eyes; to work around the clock; as cold as an ice; to put a sock in).



In different combinations, idioms intersect with each of the named groups, and sometimes it is impossible to clearly “separate” them. It can be difficult to separate idioms themselves due to the fact that idioms, like everything in colloquial literary discourse, are not a “fossilized language”, but a completely living phenomenon that tends to appear, spread in speech, and then, perhaps, with fade into oblivion over time, and in some cases remain in the language for a long time, sometimes even for a foreseeably long period, that is, relatively speaking, for centuries (alter ego; Achilles' heel; the Good Samaritan; armed to the teeth; all roads lead to Rome).

The number of idioms that have a stylistic connotation cannot be counted; they are often used in informal speech, which is typical for certain social and age groups. One way or another, 5782 dictionary entries are recorded in the Cambridge International Dictionary of Idioms, M. McCarthy, 1998. However, even such a specific figure cannot give an accurate idea of how widely idioms have penetrated the vocabulary of modern English. At the same time, idiomatic constructions are not something frozen forever, designed only to decorate a person’s speech and give it a certain special style, and allow the speaker to express himself in a special way; idioms are quite realistically woven into the fabric of speech textually and convey a certain figurative thinking, a unique view of world.

There is still ongoing debate about whether it is worth distinguishing idiomatic language as an integral phenomenon. Moreover, there is no clear answer as to what definition should be used to describe the so-called “formular” language, if we follow this formulation of the question in the English tradition. In the specialized literature, as a working version, there is a definition that roughly boils down to the following: a series of words combined into a single ready-made form and forming a certain expression that becomes current in the language, is stored and retrieved from memory and, as necessary, is used in speech in an unchanged form. Moreover, the construction is not always consistent with grammar in its traditional sense and is difficult to analyze.

Considering the characteristics of idioms and other speech formulas, it is important to continue their empirical study, since only in this way can we establish how “frozen” they are used in speech situations and whether they always appear to us in the form of “ossified” metaphors. Here a wide field of research opens up not only within the framework of cognitive linguistics, but also the practice of translation, if they are studied in comparative terms with other languages, in particular the Russian language. The parallels that arise during such an analysis give us the opportunity to penetrate into idiomatic constructions and not only feel their internal structure, but also question their fixed, once and for all established character.

In order to understand the connections that are formed between the elements of an idiomatic utterance and the transformation of the original meaning of a word in a specific example in a comparative sense with the Russian language, we will analyze a group of idioms united by thematic basis, as they are sometimes given in reference books intended for practical purposes or textbooks. To do this, we will use the method of contextual analysis.

The adjective high in English means far from what we mean in Uzbek and Russian when it occurs in idiomatic figures of speech. Let's look at specific examples: *She is on a high at the moment because everything is going her way* [Она сейчас на высоте, поскольку все получается так, как она задумала; U hozir cho'qida, chunki hammasi u rejalashtirganidek ketmoqda]. In this example, the semantic commonality in the three languages is preserved, but this does not always happen. In the following example, the English adjective high in the



Russian and Uzbek versions is replaced by the adjective big, that is, there is a slight shift in the understanding of dimension in the three languages.

The following sentence requires a complete overhaul in Uzbek and Russian, since the literal translation does not say anything and needs additional context in order to understand what the sentence is talking about. And what we are actually talking about is that you need to get up early in the morning:

He left the safe door unlocked last night so I reckon he 'll be for the high jump in the morning [Ibidem] / Вчера вечером он оставил дверь сейфа незапертой, полагаю, для того, чтобы проснуться рано утром/ Kecha kechasi u seyf eshigini ochiq qoldirganligi uchun, o'ylashimcha, u erta tongda uyg'ondi.

Certain idioms in the English language, when translated into Uzbek and Russian, require a more thoughtful analysis with an excursion into the history of the subject, which explains the origin of this or that idiomatic construction.

The idiomatic expression add insult to injury refers us to Antiquity, to those distant times when the famous fable “The Bald Man and the Fly by Phaedrus” was written by the Roman poet and fabulist Phaedrus. In hindsight, we realize that the use of this idiom tends to convey causing someone more pain to the pain they already have. Thus, through the method of analyzing cultural meanings, we come to the conclusion that, perhaps, the situation can be conveyed by the idiom of adding fuel to the fire, but it is best to pour salt into the wound.

If we take the English idiomatic expression back to the drawing board, then we are forced to return to the times of World War II, when there was a humorous expression in the United States that the plan had failed and we needed to start from the very beginning. Using the method of researching cultural communication, we find that the most preferred phrase in Uzbek and Russian for this idiom is to start all over again.

Events of the more recent past can also play a role in the translation of individual English idioms into Uzbek and Russian, which explain the traditions accepted in the English-speaking world. The idiomatic expression at the drop of a hat takes us back to the reference to the fact that a race or competition in earlier times began with a peculiar gesture - the drop of a hat. Using the method of analyzing cultural meanings and meanings, we choose the next option for translation into Uzbek and Russian - on a signal, better - without delay.

Ways of thinking often diverge across languages, and this observation is confirmed by the use of different idiomatic constructions in Uzbek and Russian and English. To make this more convincing, let us turn to a group of idioms united by the thematic characteristic of color. The same colors are associated differently in these languages, although coincidences cannot be ruled out.

In general, the method of component determination of text meanings leads us to the idea that idiomatic language most clearly conveys the originality of thinking of a certain community of people speaking one language, and this originality is not always confirmed in the linguistic means used in other ethnic groups speaking a different language. When translating idiomatic statements, a reconstruction of the entire phrase is required, which shows whether we should proceed from the analysis of individual elements of the structure or look for phrases in the target language that are similar in semantic content. As a rule, the final strategy when choosing a translation option is determined by the context in which the idiomatic expression was heard. Very often, when translating, you have to choose the most accurate phrase in terms of semantic content from a number of structures that are similar in meaning. For example, the idioms add insult to injury and fuel the fire can both be translated as adding fuel to the fire. However, the



mentioned Russian and Uzbek idiom is more suitable for the second phrase, so the first case, as said earlier, is best suited to the phrase rub salt in the wound.

Idiomatic constitute a kind of living fabric of the literary and colloquial style of communication, therefore the use of idiomatic language in direct speech not only characterizes the stylistically colored speech of a native speaker, but also indicates the development of linguistic means of expression of a particular language system. This requires the translator to have perfect knowledge of the intricacies of the target language, since in the process of translation, especially oral, it is not always possible to find the correct correspondence, and then the method of interpreting a particular lexical unit by available means comes to the rescue, which, of course, reduces the effect of the statement made and ultimately affects the quality of the translation. Nevertheless, we still have to state that the most accessible method of translation remains the search for an appropriate equivalent in the target language, which to one degree or another reflects the linguistic situation that characterizes the idiomatic utterance in its modern understanding.

Analysis of the component composition of idiomatic constructions allows us to talk about the complexity of this phenomenon and the ambiguity of the units included in its construction, which makes it difficult to find ready-made formulas for conveying the meaning inherent in such a construction.

Determining cultural meanings and meanings is a key point in translating idiomatic constructions, which requires the translator to have extensive background knowledge and a lot of analytical work to identify the implicit meaning contained in the analyzed construction.

Studying the features of the translation of idiomatic constructions based on the associative-cognitive approach allows us to say that the description of the methods of their translation is of paramount importance for their actual interpretation and use in a variety of discourse, taking into account the veiled meaning inherent in them, as well as an understanding of the realities of the language systems of Russian and English languages through idiomatic constructions.

The conducted research can be continued due to the presence of enormous empirical material that requires a detailed description and comparative analysis in these languages and determination of its place in intercultural communication in the broadest context. The prospect of such a study can be specified depending on the goals pursued by the author.

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