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PHRASEOLOGY AS AN ELEMENT OF CULTURE (Based on the Example of the Russian Language)

Abstract: The article examines phraseology as an essential component of culture, reflecting national specificity, as well as the historical and social characteristics of a people. Using the example of the Russian language, the role of fixed expressions in preserving traditions, transmitting values, and shaping the linguistic worldview is analyzed. The study is based on an analysis of linguistic sources, historical data, and examples from Russian phraseology.

Keywords:phraseology, culture, linguistic worldview, traditions, fixed expressions, Russian language.

INTRODUCTION

Phraseology is an important part of the linguistic system, reflecting the centuries-old history, mentality, and cultural characteristics of a people. Fixed expressions, proverbs, and sayings preserve traditions, values, and unique perceptions of the world. In the Russian language, phraseological units often have vivid imagery and deep meaning, making them not only a means of communication but also carriers of national consciousness.

The study of phraseology and its connection with culture has been addressed by scholars such as V. V. Vinogradov, who laid the foundation for phraseology theory, identifying the main types of phraseological units. In his works, he emphasized that phraseology represents an independent level of language that reflects the specifics of national thinking. A. V. Kunin made a significant contribution to the study of English and Russian phraseology, developing a structural-semantic classification of phraseological units. V. N. Telia considered phraseological units as cognitive-semantic entities, highlighting their role in shaping the linguistic worldview.

Researchers such as V. M. Mokienko focused on the historical and etymological aspects of phraseology, analyzing the origins and evolution of phraseological units. His Explanatory Dictionary of Russian Phraseology remains one of the key reference works on the subject. Significant contributions to the study of Russian phraseology were also made by N. M. Shansky and A. I. Molotkov, who worked on the classification and systematization of phraseological units. It is well known that a phraseological unit or phraseological turn is a general term for semantically connected word combinations and sentences that are characterized by a fixed lexical composition, grammatical structure, and a meaning known to native speakers of a given language (in most cases, a figurative or metaphorical meaning), which cannot be derived from the meanings of the individual components. Phraseological units are inherent to a specific language, forming stable expressions whose meaning is not determined by the literal meanings of the words that compose them.

The study of phraseology helps to understand which values and priorities were significant for native speakers in different historical periods. For example, the abundance of phraseological expressions related to labor («семь потов сошло», «работать спустя рукава»), nature («тише воды, ниже травы»), and food («как сыр в масле катается») indicates the importance of these spheres in Russian culture. This article analyzes the key aspects of Russian phraseology and its connection with culture.

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RESEARCH METHODS

The study employed the following methods:

- Descriptive method studying and describing phraseological units of the Russian language.
- Semantic analysis identifying the meanings and cultural connotations of fixed expressions.
- Etymological analysis examining the origins of phraseological units.
- Content analysis analyzing texts, literary works, and spoken language for the use of phraseological expressions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Russian phraseological units can be divided into several groups:

- Phraseological fusions expressions whose meanings cannot be deduced from the meanings of individual words (e.g., «точить лясы», «кот наплакал»).
- Phraseological unities word combinations where the individual components retain partial meaning («задать перцу», «держать язык за зубами»).
- Phraseological collocations fixed expressions with limited variability («играть роль», «принимать участие»).
- Phraseological expressions stable phrases entirely composed of words with figurative meanings («без лишних слов», «как ни в чём не бывало»).

Phraseological units reflect a people's worldview, their ideas about morality, labor, family, and interpersonal relationships. For example:

Diligence and effort: «Без труда не вытащишь и рыбку из пруда», «Работать спустя рукава.»

Wisdom and caution: «Семь раз отмерь – один раз отрежь», «Не плюй в колодец – пригодится воды напиться».

Russian hospitality: «душа нараспашку», «широкая душа».

Some phraseological units have historical roots linked to specific events and traditions. For example:

«Москва слезам не верит» – originated from historical realities reflecting the harsh and pragmatic nature of the capital;

«Скатертью дорога» – associated with the tradition of sending off a guest with a blessing;

«Гол как сокол» – derived from the ancient custom of stripping wrongdoers of their clothing, leaving them with nothing.

Russian phraseology emphasizes collectivism and emotionality.

For example:

Expressions about shared labor and life: «один в поле не воин», «рука об руку», «за одного битого двух небитых дают».

Openness and emotionality: «что на уме, то и на языке», «сердце кровью обливается».

Inclination toward philosophical reflection: «Чем дальше в лес, тем больше дров», «все дороги ведут в Рим».

Phraseological units are widely used in various spheres of life, emphasizing the specifics of national thinking and adding expressiveness to speech.

Everyday communication. In daily conversations, phraseological units help concisely convey emotions and attitudes toward a situation. For example:

«Ни пуха ни пера!» – a wish of good luck;

«Дело в шляпе» – a successfully completed matter;

«Как об стенку горох» – futile efforts.

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Mass media. Journalists actively use phraseological expressions to create expressive headlines and texts:

«Политики развели бурю в стакане воды» – about exaggerating minor issues;

«Экономика на волоске от кризиса» – about an unstable economic situation;

«Туризм бьет ключом» – about the booming tourism industry.

Business and negotiations. In business and management, phraseological units help express ideas figuratively:

«Выжать максимум» – to use resources to the fullest;

«Зарыть талант в землю» – to fail to realize one's potential;

«Играть на опережение» – to act proactively.

Legal and official language. Phraseological units are used in judicial practice and legislation:

«Буква закона» – strict adherence to the law;

«Рука закона» – the power of law enforcement;

«Отмывание денег» – illegal money laundering.

Literature. The works of Russian literary classics are rich in phraseological expressions:

N. V. Gogol: «Чудеса в решете» – about absurd and ridiculous events;

F. M. Dostoevsky: «Ни жив ни мёртв» – about extreme fear;

A. P. Chekhov: «Кот наплакал» – about a very small quantity.

Sports. In sports, phraseological units help vividly describe situations:

«На пределе возможностей» – at the limit of physical endurance;

«Выйти сухим из воды» – to escape defeat;

«Играть на чужом поле» – to compete in unfavorable conditions.

Internet and social media. Modern users actively incorporate phraseological expressions in digital communication:

«Кликбейт на грани фола» – eye-catching but misleading headlines;

«Запостить в два клика» – to publish content quickly;

«Вирусный эффект» – the rapid spread of content.

Phraseological units related to education are frequently used to describe the learning process, knowledge acquisition, and attitudes toward education. Some examples include:

«Грызть гранит науки» – to study diligently, overcoming difficulties;

«Светлая голова» – an intelligent, capable person;

«Учёный муж» – a highly knowledgeable scholar;

«Туп как пробка» – about a person who struggles with learning;

«Школа жизни» – life experience as a source of learning.

MAIN FUNCTIONS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

- 1. Expressiveness and imagery of speech. Phraseological units make speech vivid and colorful. For example, the expression «как с гуся вода» conveys indifference, while «ни пуха ни пера» is a wish for good luck.
- 2. Economy of linguistic resources. Instead of lengthy explanations, a fixed expression can be used. For example, «пройти огонь, воду и медные трубы» means to go through many trials.
- 3. Emotionality and expressiveness. Phraseological units allow speakers to convey emotions and attitudes toward a situation. For instance, «работать засучив рукава» emphasizes diligence, while «водить за нос» implies deception.
- 4. Connection to culture and history. Many phraseological units reflect traditions, everyday life, mythology, and historical events. For example, the expression «кануть в Лету» originates from ancient Greek mythology, while «точить лясы» is linked to an old craft tradition.

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5. A means of artistic expression. In literature, phraseological units help create artistic imagery and characters. They are frequently used in the works of Pushkin, Gogol, and Dostoevsky.

CONCLUSION

The phraseology of the Russian language is an integral part of national culture, reflecting the historical, social, and mental characteristics of the people.

Phraseological units play a crucial role in Russian, making it more expressive, figurative, and emotionally rich. They help conserve linguistic resources, convey cultural and historical nuances, and add individuality to speech. Thanks to phraseological expressions, the language remains vivid and dynamic, preserving folk wisdom and traditions.

The study of phraseological units allows for a deeper understanding of the worldview and traditions of the Russian-speaking community. In modern conditions, phraseological expressions continue to remain relevant, adapting to new realities while still serving as an essential means of cultural identification.

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