

## STRUCTURAL CLASSIFICATION OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

*Temirova Shoxsanam Komilovna.*

*Master student of SamSIFL*

Structural classification of phraseological units was introduced by Professor Smirnitkiy A. I., whose approach was based on comparing phraseological units with words. He pointed out one-top units which he compared with derived words because derived words have only one root morpheme. Also he pointed out two-top units which he compared with compound words because there are usually have two root morphemes in compound words. Among one-top units he pointed out three structural types:

a. units of the type to give up (verb + postposition type), for example: to art up, to back up, to drop out, to buy into etc.;

b. units of the type to be tired. Some of these units remind the passive voice in their structure but they have different prepositions with them, while in the passive voice we can have only prepositions “by” or “with”, for example: to be tired of to be interested in, to be surprised at etc. There are also units in this type which remind free word-groups of the type to be young, for example to be aware of etc. The difference between them is that the adjective “young” can be used as an attribute and as a predicative in the sentence, while the nominal component can act only as a predicative in such units. In these units the verb is the grammar centre and the second component is the semantic centre;

c. prepositional - nominal phraseological units. These units are equivalents of unchangeable words: prepositions, conjunctions, adverbs, that is why they have no grammar centre, their semantic centre is the nominal part, for example: on the doorstep (quite near), on the nose (exactly), in time, in the course of etc. In the course of time such units can become words, for example: tomorrow, instead of etc.

Among two-top units Smirnitkiy A.I. pointed out the following structural types:

a. attributive - nominal such as: a month of Sundays, grey matter and many others. Units of this type are noun equivalents and can be partly or perfectly idiomatic. In partly idiomatic units (phrasemes) the first component sometimes is idiomatic, for example: high road, in other cases the second component is idiomatic, for example: first night. In many cases both components are idiomatic, for example:

red tape, shot in the aim, bed of nail and many others;

b. verb - nominal phraseological units, for exam, for example to read between the lines, to sweep under the carpet etc. The grammar centre of such units is the verb, in many cases the semantic centre is the nominal component, for example: to fall in love. In some units the verb is both the grammar and the semantic centre, for example: to know the ropes. These units can be perfectly idiomatic as well, for example: to burn one’s boats, to take to the cleaners' etc. Word-groups of the type to have a glance, to have a smoke are very close to such units. These units are not idiomatic and are treated in grammar as a special syntactical combination, a kind of aspect, c. phraseological repetitions, such as: now or never, country and western etc. Such units can be built on antonyms, for example: ups and downs, back and forth', often they are formed by means of alliteration, for example: cakes and ale, as busy as a bee. In repetitions Components are joined by means of conjunctions. These units are equivalents of adverbs or adjectives and have no grammar centre. They can also be partly or perfectly idiomatic, for example: cool as a cucumber (partly), bread and butter (perfectly).

Phraseological units the same as compound words can have more than two tops (stems in compound words). For example: to take a back seat, to be a shadow of one's own self at one's own sweet will. As to our language material not all phraseological units with the verb "to take" can be classified by the structural classification of Smirnitkiy A.I.

Phraseological units can be classified as parts of speech. Syntactical classification of phraseological units was suggested by Arnold I.V.<sup>31</sup> Here she distinguished the following groups:

a. noun phraseologisms denoting an object, a person, a living being, for example: bullet train, redbrick university, Green Berets',

b. verb phraseologisms denoting an action, a state, a feeling, for example: to be on the beam, to nose out. to make headlines',

c. adjective phraseologisms denoting a quality, for example: loose as a goose, dull as lead',

d. adverb phraseological units, such as: with a bump, in the soup, like a dream, like a dog with two tails',

e. preposition phraseological units, for example: in the course of on the stroke.

f. interjection phraseological units, for example: Catch me!, Well, I never! etc.

In Arnold's I.V. classification there are also sentence equivalents, proverbs, sayings and quotations, for example: The sky is the limit. What makes him tick, I am easy, Take it easy. Proverbs are usually metaphorical, for example: Too many cooks spoil the broth, while sayings are as a rule non-metaphorical, for example: Where there is a will there is a way, Take care of pence and the pounds will take care of themselves.

It is worth mentioning that not all functional types distinguished by Arnold I.V. are reflected in our language material. Ginzburg R.S. suggests another approach to the syntactical classification of phraseological units. Structurally phraseological units may be approached in various ways. Phraseological units may be described through the order and arrangement of the component members. The word-group to take something can be classified as a verbal — nominal group, to take to something as verbal — prepositional — nominal, etc.

As both structure and meaning are parts of the phraseological unit as a linguistic unit, the interdependence of these two facets is naturally the subject matter of lexicological analysis.

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