



PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS RELATED TO INTELLECT IN 19TH-CENTURY ENGLISH LITERATURE

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Annotation: This study explores phraseological units associated with the concept of intellect in 19th-century English literature from a linguocognitive and stylistic perspective. Phraseological expressions, as stable combinations of words with figurative meanings, play a significant role in conveying cultural attitudes toward intelligence, reasoning, and mental abilities. The 19th century, characterized by profound social, philosophical, and literary transformations, provides a rich context for examining how intellectual qualities were conceptualized and expressed through language.

Keywords: Phraseological units, intellect, cognitive linguistics, 19th-century English literature, linguocultural analysis.

Introduction

Phraseological units represent one of the most expressive layers of language, reflecting not only linguistic structure but also cultural values, cognitive patterns, and historical experience. In modern linguistics, phraseology is increasingly studied within the frameworks of cognitive linguistics and linguoculturology, where it is viewed as a means of encoding collective knowledge and worldview. Scholars emphasize that stable expressions often preserve cultural attitudes and conceptual models that are deeply rooted in a particular linguistic community.

Uzbek scholars, including Z. Narimonova, highlight that phraseological expressions carry both semantic and cultural meanings, often requiring comparative analysis to reveal their equivalents in different languages. Similarly, foreign researchers argue that phraseology is closely connected with conceptual systems and cognitive processes, as it encodes metaphorical thinking and cultural stereotypes. These perspectives justify the relevance of studying phraseological units related to intellect within a linguocognitive framework.

Literature Review

The study of phraseological units has been widely developed in both international and Uzbek linguistics. One of the foundational approaches is associated with A. V. Kunin, who defines phraseological units as stable



combinations characterized by semantic integrity and figurative meaning. According to Kunin, such units function as ready-made language elements that convey complex meanings beyond the sum of their components [1, 120].

From a cognitive perspective, scholars such as G. Lakoff and M. Johnson emphasize that figurative language, including phraseological expressions, is grounded in conceptual metaphor. They argue that human thinking is inherently metaphorical, and phraseological units reflect underlying cognitive models that structure our understanding of abstract concepts, including intellect [2, 78].

Another important contribution comes from V. N. Telia, who views phraseology as a cultural code embedded in language. She suggests that phraseological units carry evaluative and emotional meanings, making them key elements in expressing cultural attitudes and social norms. This idea is particularly relevant for analyzing expressions related to intellect, as they often reflect societal judgments about intelligence and behavior [3, 288]. In Uzbek linguistics, significant attention has been given to the comparative and linguocultural aspects of phraseology. Z. Narimonova's research demonstrates that English phraseological units often require careful interpretation when translated into Uzbek, as their meanings are shaped by cultural and cognitive differences. Her work highlights the importance of identifying semantic equivalents and understanding the cultural context behind phraseological expressions [6, 167].

Other Uzbek scholars also emphasize that phraseological units serve as indicators of national mentality and cultural identity. They argue that such expressions are closely linked to everyday experience, historical development, and social values, which influence how concepts like intellect are perceived and evaluated.

Furthermore, contemporary studies adopt a linguocognitive approach, combining semantic, cultural, and cognitive analyses. This approach allows researchers to examine how phraseological units are structured, how they function in discourse, and how they reflect mental representations. It is particularly effective for analyzing literary texts, where phraseological expressions contribute to characterization, narration, and stylistic richness [7, 100].

Overall, the reviewed literature indicates that phraseological units related to intellect can be effectively studied through an integrative framework that combines cognitive, semantic, and cultural perspectives. However, despite extensive research on phraseology, the specific analysis of intellect-related expressions in 19th-century English literature remains relatively underexplored, which determines the relevance and novelty of the present study.

Methodology



The present research adopts a comprehensive methodological framework that integrates linguocognitive, semantic, and linguocultural approaches in order to analyze phraseological units related to intellect in 19th-century English literature. This multidimensional approach allows for a deeper understanding of how intellectual qualities are conceptualized, encoded, and interpreted through stable figurative expressions.

At the initial stage, the selection method is employed to compile a corpus of phraseological units associated with intellect from selected literary works of the 19th century. Texts by prominent authors such as Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, and William Makepeace Thackeray are used as primary sources, as their works provide rich linguistic material and reflect diverse representations of intellectual traits [8, 95].

The study further applies the componential (semantic) analysis method, which involves breaking down phraseological units into their constituent semantic features. This enables the identification of key meanings related to intellect, such as wisdom, intelligence, wit, prudence, and, in some cases, lack of intellect. Through this analysis, both denotative and connotative aspects of meaning are examined.

In addition, the linguocognitive method is utilized to investigate the mental structures underlying phraseological expressions. This approach focuses on identifying conceptual metaphors, cognitive models, and schemas that shape the representation of intellect in language. It allows for the reconstruction of how speakers conceptualize intellectual abilities and how these conceptualizations are reflected in figurative language.

The research also incorporates the contextual analysis method, which examines the use of phraseological units within literary discourse. By analyzing their function in specific contexts - such as character description, dialogue, and narrative development - the study reveals how these expressions contribute to the portrayal of intellectual qualities and the overall stylistic effect of the text. Furthermore, the comparative method is employed to highlight similarities and differences between English phraseological units and their Uzbek equivalents. This aspect of the research draws on the works of Uzbek scholars, particularly in the field of phraseology, to identify culturally specific features and translation challenges [9, 75].

Overall, the combination of these methods ensures a systematic and in-depth analysis of phraseological units related to intellect, enabling the study to address both linguistic structure and cognitive-cultural meaning.

Conclusion

The conducted study confirms that phraseological units related to intellect in 19th-century English literature constitute a complex and meaningful layer of



language that reflects both cognitive processes and cultural values. These expressions go beyond simple linguistic constructions, functioning as carriers of figurative meaning and evaluative judgment. The findings demonstrate that intellect is conceptualized through a wide range of phraseological units that emphasize different aspects of mental ability, including wisdom, rational thinking, quick wit, and intellectual limitation. Such diversity indicates that the concept of intellect is not homogeneous but rather structured as a multifaceted cognitive category.

The analysis also reveals that phraseological units serve important stylistic and communicative functions in literary texts. They contribute to character development, enhance expressiveness, and provide insight into the social and cultural attitudes of the time. In particular, the works of 19th-century authors illustrate how intellectual traits are evaluated and interpreted within specific historical and cultural contexts.

From a linguocognitive perspective, the study shows that many phraseological expressions are based on underlying conceptual metaphors and cognitive models. These models reflect general patterns of human thinking while also incorporating culture-specific elements. This confirms the idea that language, cognition, and culture are closely interconnected in the formation and use of phraseological units.

The comparative aspect of the research highlights that while some representations of intellect are universal, others are shaped by national and cultural factors. This underscores the importance of considering cultural context in the analysis and translation of phraseological expressions.

In conclusion, the study contributes to the broader understanding of phraseology as a key domain for exploring the relationship between language and thought. The analysis of intellect-related phraseological units in 19th-century English literature not only enriches linguistic research but also provides valuable insights into the cognitive and cultural dimensions of literary discourse. Future research may expand this approach by examining other conceptual domains or by incorporating a wider range of linguistic data.

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