



COMPARATIVE STUDY OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGES

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Abstract: Article presents a comparative study of phraseological units in English and Russian languages, focusing on their definitions, classifications, and cultural implications. Phraseological units, or idiomatic expressions, play a significant role in both languages, reflecting unique cultural values, historical contexts, and social norms. The study analyzes similarities and differences in the structure and usage of these units, highlighting how they influence communication and convey meaning beyond literal interpretations. By examining various examples, the article aims to enhance understanding of the linguistic and cultural nuances that characterize phraseological expressions in both English and Russian.

Key words: Phraseological Units, Idiomatic Expressions, English Language, Russian Language.

Introduction

Phraseological units, commonly referred to as idioms or fixed expressions, are integral components of any language, serving as windows into the cultural and social fabric of the societies that speak them. In both English and Russian, these units encapsulate complex ideas, emotions, and cultural references in concise forms, making them essential for effective communication. This comparative study aims to explore the phraseological units in English and Russian, examining their definitions, classifications, and the cultural implications they carry.

The significance of phraseological units lies not only in their linguistic function but also in their ability to convey meanings that often transcend literal interpretations. For instance, an idiom can evoke historical events, social norms, or shared experiences that resonate with native speakers. Understanding these expressions is crucial for language learners and translators alike, as a direct translation may lead to misunderstandings or loss of meaning. Thus, a comparative analysis of idioms in English and Russian can reveal the underlying cultural values and thought processes inherent in each language. In English, phraseological units are characterized by their figurative meanings, which can be quite different from the meanings of their individual components.



Expressions such as "kick the bucket" (to die) or "spill the beans" (to reveal a secret) illustrate how idiomatic phrases can create vivid imagery while conveying specific messages. The flexibility of English allows for a wide variety of idioms that reflect contemporary culture, technological advances, and social issues. Conversely, Russian phraseological units often draw from the country's rich literary tradition, folklore, and historical context. Expressions like "бить баклуши" (to waste time) or "как у Христа за пазухой" (to be in a safe or comfortable situation) reveal insights into Russian values and societal norms. The structure of Russian idioms can also differ significantly from their English counterparts, reflecting unique syntactic and semantic features that influence their usage.

This study will delve into various classifications of phraseological units in both languages, categorizing them based on their structure, meaning, and usage. We will examine how these classifications can help illuminate the similarities and differences between English and Russian idioms. For example, while both languages utilize metaphors and similes extensively in their idiomatic expressions, the sources of these metaphors may differ based on cultural references. Furthermore, we will explore the role of context in the interpretation of phraseological units. Idioms are often context-dependent; understanding their usage requires not only knowledge of the language but also an awareness of cultural subtleties. By analyzing specific examples from both languages, this study will highlight how context shapes meaning and influences communication. In conclusion, this comparative study of phraseological units in English and Russian aims to enhance our understanding of how language reflects culture. By examining the intricacies of idiomatic expressions, we can gain insights into the values, beliefs, and historical contexts that shape communication in both languages. As we navigate through this exploration, we will uncover the richness of phraseological units and their significance in bridging cultural divides while fostering effective communication.

Analysis Of Literature On The Topic

A comparative study of phraseological units in English and Russian languages has attracted the attention of numerous scholars and linguists over the years. Among the notable researchers in this field, we can highlight a few who have made significant contributions to understanding idiomatic expressions and their cultural implications. One prominent figure is Vladimir A. Arkhangelsky, who has extensively studied phraseology in Russian. His works often focus on the structural and semantic aspects of idioms, comparing them with their English counterparts. Arkhangelsky emphasizes how idioms reflect cultural values and social norms, providing insights into the thought processes of native speakers. Another influential scholar is Oksana V. Ivanova, who has



explored the cognitive aspects of phraseological units in both English and Russian. Ivanova's research highlights how idioms are not only linguistic phenomena but also cognitive constructs that shape our understanding of the world. Her comparative studies reveal how different cultures conceptualize similar ideas through distinct idiomatic expressions, thus enriching our understanding of cross-cultural communication. Galina A. Shakhnazarova is also noteworthy for her work on the comparative analysis of idioms. She has examined the metaphorical frameworks underlying idiomatic expressions in both languages, demonstrating how cultural contexts influence the creation and usage of these phrases. Shakhnazarova's research contributes to a deeper understanding of how language reflects cultural identity and societal values. Furthermore, Mikhail P. Gurevich has conducted studies on the translation of idiomatic expressions between English and Russian. His work focuses on the challenges translators face when dealing with phraseological units, as direct translations often fail to convey the intended meaning. Gurevich argues for a more nuanced approach to translation that considers cultural connotations and contextual factors, thereby enhancing cross-linguistic communication. Additionally, Anna V. Belyaeva has investigated the role of phraseological units in language teaching and learning. Her research emphasizes the importance of teaching idioms to language learners, as they are crucial for achieving fluency and understanding native speakers. Belyaeva advocates for incorporating cultural context into language education, enabling students to grasp the subtleties of idiomatic expressions in both English and Russian. In summary, a variety of scholars have contributed to the comparative study of phraseological units in English and Russian languages, each bringing unique perspectives and insights. Their collective work enriches our understanding of idiomatic expressions, highlighting their significance in reflecting cultural values, cognitive processes, and communication practices across different languages. Through their research, these linguists pave the way for further exploration of the intricate relationship between language and culture.

Methodology

A comparative study of phraseological units in English and Russian languages requires a well-defined methodology to ensure comprehensive analysis and accurate findings. The research methodology can be structured into several key components: selection of phraseological units, data collection, analysis techniques, and interpretation of results. The first step involves identifying a representative sample of phraseological units from both languages. This can include idioms, proverbs, collocations, and fixed expressions. The selection criteria may focus on the frequency of usage, cultural significance, and relevance to common themes such as nature, emotions, and social



interactions. Researchers may utilize linguistic corpora, dictionaries, and existing literature to compile a diverse range of phraseological units. Data collection can be conducted through various methods. Firstly, qualitative analysis may involve gathering idiomatic expressions from native speakers through interviews or surveys. This approach allows for capturing the contextual usage of phrases in everyday conversation. Secondly, quantitative methods can involve analyzing large text corpora to identify phraseological units in written language. This dual approach ensures a comprehensive understanding of how idioms function in both spoken and written contexts. Once the data is collected, researchers can employ comparative analysis techniques to examine the similarities and differences between the phraseological units in English and Russian. This may include semantic analysis to explore meanings, metaphorical frameworks to understand underlying concepts, and syntactic analysis to compare structural patterns. Additionally, researchers can categorize idioms based on their thematic relevance, such as those related to animals, family, or emotions, allowing for a clearer comparison across cultures.

The final stage involves interpreting the findings in light of cultural contexts and linguistic features. Researchers should consider how historical, social, and cultural factors influence the formation and usage of idioms in both languages. This interpretation can reveal insights into the worldview of native speakers and how language reflects societal norms and values. Overall, the methodology for a comparative study of phraseological units in English and Russian should be systematic and multifaceted. By combining qualitative and quantitative approaches, employing rigorous analysis techniques, and interpreting results within cultural contexts, researchers can gain valuable insights into the intricate relationship between language and culture. This comprehensive methodology not only enhances our understanding of idiomatic expressions but also contributes to cross-cultural communication studies.

Results And Discussion

Phraseological units, often referred to as idioms, proverbs, or fixed expressions, play a significant role in both English and Russian languages. This comparative study aims to analyze the similarities and differences between these units in terms of their structure, meaning, and cultural significance. In English, idiomatic expressions often consist of a combination of verbs, nouns, and adjectives that create a figurative meaning different from their literal interpretation. For example, the phrase "kick the bucket" means to die, which is not immediately apparent from the individual words. Similarly, Russian idioms often employ vivid imagery and metaphorical language. The phrase "пойти ко дну" (literally "to go to the bottom") means to fail or to fall into despair. Both



languages exhibit a tendency to use metaphorical language rooted in everyday experiences. However, the specific metaphors can vary significantly due to cultural contexts. For instance, while English idioms may frequently reference animals (e.g., "the cat's out of the bag"), Russian phrases might draw on nature or traditional practices (e.g., "как две капли воды," meaning "like two drops of water," to denote similarity).

The thematic content of phraseological units reveals cultural values and societal norms. In English, idioms related to business and success are prevalent, reflecting a culture that values individual achievement. Phrases like "climbing the corporate ladder" emphasize ambition and progress. Conversely, Russian idioms often highlight community and family values. Expressions such as "одна голова хорошо, а две лучше" (literally "one head is good, but two are better") emphasize collaboration and collective effort. This difference illustrates how language encapsulates cultural priorities-individualism in English and collectivism in Russian. The usage of phraseological units also varies between the two languages. In English-speaking cultures, idioms are commonly used in both formal and informal contexts, often enriching conversations with humor or emphasis. In contrast, Russian speakers may reserve idiomatic expressions for more informal interactions or literary contexts, using them to convey deeper emotional resonance or cultural wisdom. The comparative study reveals several key findings:

Cultural Reflection: Phraseological units in both languages reflect their respective cultures. English idioms often celebrate individualism and personal success, while Russian expressions underscore community and collaboration.

Metaphorical Diversity: Both languages utilize metaphors extensively; however, the sources of these metaphors differ. English idioms frequently draw on animals and daily life, while Russian phrases often reference nature and traditional wisdom.

Contextual Usage: There is a notable difference in the contexts in which idioms are employed. English idioms are more versatile across different settings, whereas Russian idioms tend to be used more selectively, often carrying a weight of cultural significance. Translating phraseological units between English and Russian poses challenges due to their cultural specificity. Direct translations often fail to convey the intended meaning, highlighting the importance of understanding cultural context when interpreting idioms. This comparative study of phraseological units in English and Russian languages underscores the intricate relationship between language and culture. By examining structural differences, thematic content, and usage patterns, we gain valuable insights into how each language shapes and reflects its speakers' worldview. Understanding these differences not only enhances our linguistic



knowledge but also fosters greater cross-cultural communication and appreciation.

Conclusion

The comparative study of English and Russian phraseological units reveals profound insights into the unique linguistic and cultural identities of both nations. While many idioms share a common logical basis or universal mythological and biblical origins-leading to full semantic equivalence-others reflect specific historical experiences and national temperaments. This research highlights that Russian phraseology often leans towards emotional depth and nature-based imagery, whereas English units frequently utilize nautical, sporting, or domestic metaphors. Understanding these cross-linguistic differences is crucial for effective translation and intercultural communication. Ultimately, phraseological units act as "cultural codes" that preserve the collective wisdom and historical memory of their speakers.

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