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SEMANTICS OF ANIMAL IDIOMS IN ENGLISH

The work is dedicated to studying idioms with the animal component.

Animals have always played a significant role in the life of our planet. They were idolized and often used by primitive people in rituals. Using phraseology makes the English language become more beautiful and euphonious, so it determines the actuality of this research work.

Idioms with an animal component surround us everywhere: in fiction, journalism, as well as in oral and written speeches. These idioms are formed on the basis of observation and interaction between a man and nature, a man and animals around. Therefore, this area of phraseology is of great interest for a research.

Material of the research includes 110 phraseological units with the animal component that were selected from textbooks such as English Idioms for the TOEFL [2], English Idioms in Use Intermediate [1], English Idioms in Use Advanced, Round Up 5, In The Loop: A Reference Guide to the American English Identity .

Our work consisted of two stages: the examination of theoretical information about semantics and idioms and division idioms into semantic groups. In the distribution, we were guided by such criteria as the existence of the “animal” component [3, p.253].

We identified four semantic groups according to the used components, namely: 1) domestic animals 2) wild animals; 3) fish; 4) birds / insects. Quantitative data were as follows. The first group includes 62 idioms, representing 55.9 % of all analysed idioms; the second group has 16 idioms, which is 14.4 %, the third group - 8, occupying 7, 2 %, the fourth group - 25 idioms, representing 22.5%.

In turn, we separated the most commonly mentioned names of animals belonging to each of the groups. So in the group "domestic animals" the most

frequently used idioms involve the key word "cat". There are 15 items. In England, a cat symbolizes an evil, ill-fated person who likes to argue.

The second group we have identified is "wild animals". In this group the most frequently used idioms contain the key words "wolf", "monkey" and "elephant".

The third group, "birds / insects", is based on the key word "bird" in most cases, and the words "bat", "fly", "crow" and "bee". It was stated that a bird is a symbol of experience, caution, hard work in English idioms.

The fourth group "fish" consists of 8 idioms, two of which have the keywords "wynn" and "snail", the rest are represented by the word "fish".

We saw that most idioms with the keyword "fish" have a negative meaning. This group is the smallest in our classification, but despite this plays a very important role in English phraseology, equating the characteristics of an animal with a person gives the language expressive meaning, creating a vivid series of associations.

The predominance of idioms with a negative assessment of mental ability among the analyzed units indicates a person's inclination to pay attention to disadvantages. Negative assessment passes socially determined estimates of the properties of the human person. A deviation from the norm in the positive side does not cause such an acute reaction and does not provoke the appearance of a large number of idioms.

The main results of the research are: clarification of the features of idioms with the animal component in English, identifying the difficulties of translating these idioms from English into Ukrainian. In this work we considered the semantics of idioms with the animal component.

The elements used to analyse the semantics of idioms with animal component of the English language, which have been applied in the course of the study, can greatly contribute to the expansion of our understanding of the national-cultural aspects of the phraseological development of this language.

Phraseological units with the animal component are a kind of markers of the national image of the world, which has developed in the minds of one or another community.

Exploring phraseological units can be concluded that there is no easy way in translating from one language into another. This is due to the adequate transmission not only of the content but also of the expressive-stylistic color of the idioms, which motivate translators to solve this problem.

So, it turns out that in linguistics native language linguists are followers of the “narrow” understanding of idiomatic units, while foreign colleagues prefer the “broad” approach, introducing units such as proverbs, catch phrase into idioms.

We can also conclude that the idioms with animal component have emotional expressive meaning, creating a striking number of associations. Many phraseological units are based on observations of the behavior, appearance, life of animals. The idioms with the animal component are characterized by double meaning, and the value of the components of the words of a consistent phrase create a certain picture, but the actual value of the entire unit creates a completely new image.

REFERENCES

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