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PROVERBS AS ONE OF THE SOURCES OF PHRASEOLOGICAL DERIVATION

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Phraseological unit is a non-motivated word-group that cannot be freely made up in speech but is reproduced as a ready-made unit. Reproducibility is regular use of phraseological units in speech as single unchangeable collocations. Idiomaticity is the quality of phraseological unit, when the meaning of the whole is not deducible from the sum of the meanings of the parts. Stability of a phraseological unit implies that it exists as a ready- made linguistic unit which does not allow of any variability of its lexical components of grammatical structure. In lexicology there is great ambiguity of the terms phraseology and idioms. Opinions differ as to how phraseology should be defined, classified, described and analysed[1].

The word "phraseology has very different meanings in our country and in Great Britain or the United States, In linguistic literature the term is used for the expressions where the meaning of one element is dependent on the other, irrespective of the structure and properties of the unit (V.V. Vinogradov); with other authors it denotes only such set expressions which do not possess expressiveness or emotional colouring (A.I. Smirnitsky), and also vice versa: only those that are imaginative, expressive and emotional (I.V.Arnold). N.N. Amosova calls such expressions fixed context units, i.e. units in which it is impossible to substitute any of the components without changing the meaning not only of the whole unit but also of the elements that remain intact. O.S. Ahmanova insists on the semantic integrity of such phrases prevailing over the structural separateness of their elements. A.V. Koonin lays stress on the structural separateness of the elements in a phraseological unit, on the change of meaning in the whole as compared with its elements taken separately and on a certain minimum stability [2].

In English and American linguistics no special branch of study exists, and the term "phraseology" has a stylistic meaning, according to Webster's dictionary 'mode of expression, peculiarities of diction, i.e. choice and arrangement of words and phrases characteristic of some author or some literary work' [3]. Difference in terminology ("set-phrases", "idioms", "word-equivalents") reflects certain differences in the main criteria used to distinguish types of phraseological units and free word-groups. The term "set phrase" implies that the basic criterion of differentiation is stability of the lexical components and grammatical structure of word-groups. The term "idiom" generally implies that the essential feature of the linguistic units is idiomaticity or lack of motivation. The term "word-equivalent" stresses not only semantic but also functional inseparability of certain word groups, their aptness to function in speech as single words. The essential features of phraseological units are: a) lack of semantic motivation; b) lexical and grammatical stability [4]. As far as semantic motivation is concerned phraseological units are extremely varied from motivated (by simple addition of denotational meaning) like a sight for sore eyes and to know the ropes to partially motivated (when one of

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the words is used in a not direct meaning) or to demotivated (completely non-motivated) like tit for tat, red-tape. Lexical and grammatical stability of phraseological units is displayed in the fact that no substitution of any elements whatever is possible in the following stereotyped (unchangeable) set expressions, which differ in many other respects; all the world and his wife, red tape, calf love, heads or tails, first night, to gild the pill, to hope for the best, busy as a bee, fair and square, stuff and nonsense time and again. In a free phrase the semantic correlative ties are fundamentally different [5]. The information is additive and each element has a much greater semantic independence where each component may be substituted without affecting the meaning of the other: cut bread, cut cheese, eat bread. Information is additive in the sense that the amount of information we had on receiving the first signal, i.e. having heard or read the word cut, is increased, the listener obtains further details and learns what is cut [6].

Semantic approach stresses the importance of idiomaticity, functional - syntactic inseparability, contextual - stability of context combined with idiomaticity. In his classification of V.V. Vinogradov developed some points first advanced by the Swiss linguist Charles Bally. The classification is based upon the motivation of the unit, i.e. the relationship existing between the meaning of the whole and the meaning of its component parts [7]. The degree of motivation is correlated with the rigidity, indivisibility and semantic unity of the expression, i.e with the possibility of changing the form or the order of components, and of substituting the whole by a single word. According to the type of motivation three types of phraseological units are suggested, phraseological combinations, phraseological unities, and phraseological fusions. The Phraseological Collocations (Combinations), are partially motivated, they contain one component used in its direct meaning while the other is used figuratively: meet the demand, meet the necessity, meet the requirements [8].

Phraseological unities are much more numerous. They are clearly motivated. The emotional quality is based upon the image created by the whole as in to stick (to stand) to one's guns, i.e. refuse to change one's statements or opinions in the face of opposition', implying courage and integrity. The example reveals another characteristic of the type, the possibility of synonymic substitution, which can be only very limited, e. g. to know the way the wind is blowing. Phraseological fusions, completely non-motivated word-groups, (e.g. tit for tat), represent as their name suggests the highest stage of blending together [9]. The meaning of components is completely absorbed by the meaning of the whole, by its expressiveness and emotional properties. Phraseological fusions are specific for every language and do not lend themselves to literal translation into other languages. Semantic stylistic features contracting set expressions into units of fixed context are simile, contrast, metaphor and synonymy. For example: as like as two peas, as old as the hills and older than the hills (simile); from beginning to end, for love or money, more or less, sooner or later (contrast); a lame duck, a pack of lies, arms race, to swallow the pill, in a nutshell (metaphor); by leaps and bounds, proud and haughty (synonymy) [10]. A few more combinations of different features in the same phrase

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are: as good as gold, as pleased as Punch, as fit as a fiddle (alliteration, simile); now or never, to kill or cure (alliteration and contrast). More rarely there is an intentional pun: as cross as two sticks means 'very angry'. This play upon words makes the phrase jocular. There are, of course, other cases when set expressions lose their metaphorical picturesqueness, having preserved some fossilized words and phrases, the meaning of which is no longer correctly understood. For instance, the expression buys a pig in a poke may be still used, although poke 'bag' (cf. pouch, pocket) does not occur in other contexts [11]. Expressions taken from obsolete sports and occupations may survive in their new figurative meaning. In these cases, the euphonic qualities of the expression are even more important. A muscular and irreducible phrase is also memorable [12]. The muscular feeling is of special importance in slogans and battle cries. Saint George and the Dragon for Merrie England, the medieval battle cry, was a rhythmic unit to which a man on a horse could swing his sword. The modern Scholarships not battleships! can be conveniently scanned by a marching crowd. N.N. Amosova's approach is contextological. She defines phraseological units as units of fixed context. Fixed context is defined as a context characterisedby a specific and unchanging sequence of definite lexical components, and a peculiar semantic relationship between them. Units of fixed context are subdivided into phrasemes and idioms [13].

 Phrasemes are always binary: one component has a phraseologically bound meaning, the other serves as the determining context (small talk, small hours, small change). In idioms the new meaning is created by the whole, though every element may have its original meaning weakened or even completely lost: in the nick of time 'at the exact moment'. Idioms may be motivated or demotivated. A motivated idiom is homonymous to a free phrase, but this phrase is used figuratively: take the bull by the horns 'to face dangers without fear. In the nick of time is demotivated, because the word nick is obsolete [14]. Both phrasemes and idioms may be movable (changeable) or immovable. A.V. Koonin's classification is based on the functions of the units fulfil in speech. They may be nominating (a bull in a china shop), interjectional (a pretty kettle of fish), communicative (familiarity breeds contempt), or nominatingcommunicative (pull somebody's leg) [15]. Further classification into subclasses depends on whether the units are changeable or unchangeable, whether the meaning of the one element remains free, and, more generally, on the interdependence between the meaning of the elements and the meaning of the set expression. Formal classification distinguishes set expressions that are nominal phrases: the root of the trouble; verbal phrases: put one's best foot forward; adjectival phrases: as good as gold; red as a cherry; adverbial phrases. from head to foot; prepositional phrases: in the course of; conjunctional phrases: as long as, on the other hand, interjectional phrases [16]: Well, I never! A stereotyped sentence also introduced into speech as a ready-made formula which may be illustrated by: Never say die! 'never give up hope', take your time 'do not hurry. This classification takes into consideration not only the type of component parts but also the functioning of the whole, thus, tooth and nail is not a

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nominal but an adverbial unit, because it serves to modify a verb (e. g. fight tooth and nail) [17]. Within each of these classes a further subdivision is as follows: a) Set expressions functioning like nouns: N+N: maiden name 'the surname of a woman before she was married'; brains trust 'a committee of experts' N's+N: cat's paw 'one who is used for the convenience of a cleverer and stronger person' (the expression comes from a fable in which a monkey wanting to eat some chestnuts that were on a hot stove, but not wishing to burn himself while getting them, seized a cat and holding its paw in his own used it to knock the chestnuts to the ground) Ns'+N: ladies' man 'one who makes special effort to charm or please women'. N+prp+N: the arm of the law, skeleton in the cupboard [18]. N+A: blight errant (the phrase is today applied to any chivalrous man ready to help and protect oppressed and helpless people). N+and+N: lord and master 'husband'; all the world and his wife. A+N: high tea 'an evening meal which combines meat or some similar extra dish with the usual tea'. N+ subordinate clause: ships that pass in the night 'chance acquaintances'. b) Set expressions functioning like verbs: V+N: take advantage V+and+V: pick and choose V+(one's)+N+(prp): snap one's fingers at V+one+N: give one the bird 'to fire smb' V+subordinate clause: see how the land lies 'to discover the state of affairs'. c) Set expressions functioning like adjectives: A+and+A: high and mighty (as)+A+as+N: as old as the hills, as mad as a hatter d) Set expressions functioning like adverbs: N+N: tooth and nail prp+N: by heart, of course adv+prp+N: once in a blue moon prp+N+or+N: by hook or by crook cj+clause: before one can say Jack Robinson e)Set expressions functioning like prepositions: prp+N+prp: in consequence of f)Set expressions functioning like interjections: these are often structured as imperative sentences: Bless (one's) soul! God bless me! Hang it (all)! 4. Phraseological stability is based upon: a)the stability of use; b)the stability of meaning; c)lexical stability; d)syntactic stability; e)rhythmic characteristics, rhyme and imagery [19]. 5. Proverbs, sayings, familiar quotations and clichés. The place of proverbs, sayings and familiar quotations with respect to set expressions is a controversial issue. A proverb is a short familiar epigrammatic saying expressing popular wisdom, a truth or a moral lesson in a concise and imaginative way. Proverbs have much in common with set expressions, because their lexical components are also constant, their meaning is traditional and mostly figurative, and they are introduced into speech ready-made [20]. Another reason why proverbs must be taken into consideration together with set expressions is that they often form the basis of set expressions. E. g. the last straw breaks the camel's back: the last straw; a drowning man will clutch at a straw: clutch at a straw; it is useless to lock the stable door when the steed is stolen: lock the stable door [21]. As to familiar quotations, they are different from proverbs in their origin. They come from literature and become part of the language, so that many people using them do not even know that they are quoting, and very few could accurately name the play or passage on which they are drawing even when they are aware of using a quotation from W. Shakespeare. The Shakespearian quotations have become and remain extremely numerous they have contributed enormously to the store of the language. Very many come from

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"Hamlet", for example: Something is rotten in the state of Denmark; Brevity is the soul of wit; The rest is silence; Thus conscience does make cowards of us all; There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio. Some quotations are so often used that they come to be considered clichés. A proverb is a commonly-known, easily understandable example of descriptive, colorful, "folksy" wisdom, which, independent of the era, carries a lesson to and conveys a philosophy of life for the common man. A proverb is a commonly-known, often-quoted, concise saying which expresses a generalization concerning some aspect of everyday existence. A proverb is a commonly used or known phrase, expressing knowledge, a conclusion or an attitude about aspects of life that are universally familiar to mankind [22]. A proverb is a complete sentence which usually contains a moral or didactic "message" A proverb is a condensed form of age-old folk sayings and biblical teachings. The proverb attempts to teach us, via the trials and tribulations of others who were not as fortunate as we. Proverbs can be positive or negative in nature; unfortunately, far too many of them are anti-women in their conclusions. A proverb is a condensed version of basic opinions, prejudices and beliefs common to a group of people. These are usually in the form of very short, easy-tore member sentences or phrases. A proverb is a fixed-phrase, metaphorical statement [23]. A proverb is a fixed phrase piece of folklore consisting of a comparison or analogy, applying one set of circumstances to a different but similar situation. A proverb is a formulaic expression of a certain truth which is applicable only in a special situation. Used generally a proverb is only half a truth. A proverb is a linguistic attempt to express a general truth or wisdom in a few words. A proverb is a metaphorical statement that illustrates a lesson of behavior. A proverb is a one-sentence statement which encapsulates an element of folk wisdom; a specific reference which applies to many generalized situations or meanings [24]. A proverb is a phrase or sentence, accepted and integrated into common verbal usage of the general population, although often regional in character, which is most likely generated by astute, humanistic, albeit didactic, assessment of the human experience, offering tidbits of wisdom applicable to these paradigms of existential encounter [25]. A proverb is a pictorial phrase in which a message is given, many times a picture of an oft done action. A proverb is a pithy statement or comment usually involving advice or a moral. A proverb is a saying or generalization often accepted as truth; it contains words of wisdom. A proverb is a saying that is known to the public; sometimes a moral or a threat. A proverb is a saying with which people often identify because it is universal and meaningful in some way or other. A proverb is a sentence or phrase which expresses the generally accepted thought or belief of a group and which has, through use, become of a group and which has, through use, become standardized in form.

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