The Main Features of Phraseological Units in the Russian and Armenian Languages and their Translation

Arsen G. Martirosyan, Liliya G. Petrova, Lyudmila F. Svoykina and Svetlana V. Funikova
The National Research University “Belgorod State University”, Pobeda Street 85, 308015 Belgorod, Russia

Abstract: The study deals with the structure of phraseological units of the Russian and Armenian languages. The researchers analyze figurative meaning of phraseological units appearing on the base of primary, nominative meaning of the words in one or another free phrase. The problem needs further consideration as the ways and means of phraseological units translation are to be analyzed from different angles.

Key words: Phraseological units, the Russian and Armenian languages, descriptive expressions, complex conjunction, compound prepositions, compound terms

INTRODUCTION

The study presents the analysis of phraseological units in the Russian and Armenian languages and their translation. It is common knowledge that phraseological unit is the collocation with figurative meaning, the set phrase with idiomatic meaning or the fixed phrase. Nevertheless, the point of view of different scientists about the structure of phraseological units is different. So for example, according to the Russian phraseological dictionary the structure of phraseological units include analytical and descriptive expressions, complex conjunction, compound prepositions, compound terms and etc. Permyakov (1988) includes proverbs, saying, folsays, catch words and aphorism in the structure of phraseological units. Agricola (1975) picks out simple phraseological combinations, phraseological unities and idioms.

Vinogradov (1977) affords the classification of phraseological units according to the grades of semantic unity in his researches. He characterizes the main feathers of semantics of phraseological binding and phraseological unity and makes analogy between the phraseological unities and the words in their motivate meaning. He stressed that the meaning of phraseological binding is conditionally and voluntary as the meaning of non-motivated word. It is independent of lexical structure and meaning of elements. In his research work “About types of the phraseologial units” he notes the phraseological binding is the semantic unit which is homogeneous to the word without inner form. The researchers limits phraseological unities to phraseological binding. The perception of motivate meaning of phraseological unity is based upon realization of lexical structure and relation between the whole meaning of expression and meaning of the components of the expression (Agricola, 1975).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Methods of the analysis are defined by the type of the material under study and the theoretical and practical objectives of the research. In the researchers, the following types of analysis are implied: descriptive method, the comparative analysis, the contextual analysis; semantic analysis of separate parts of the phraseological units.

Main part: It is difficult to set time and date when the phraseology appears. In the end of 18th century the phraseological units had different names and had been explained in special collectors and defining dictionary as catch words, aphorism, idioms proverbs, saying. The greatest number of phraseology was formed on the base of the free phrases.

A lot of phraseology was formed on the base of the proverbs. Usually, the phraseological unit becomes the part of proverbs which use independent in the speech and without knowledge this proverb the meaning of this phraseological unit is unclear (Ter-Minasova, 2000).

As has been said, phraseological unit has general meaning of whole expression and it distinguishes from free phrase. In response to this fact, we can mark special

Corresponding Author: Arsen G. Martirosyan, The National Research University “Belgorod State University”, Pobeda Street 85, 308015 Belgorod, Russia

876
type of meaning—phraseological meaning which is inconsistent with lexical meaning of words. Besides, phraseological meaning has figurative meaning appearing on the base of primary, nominative meaning of the words in one or another free phrase. Therefore, phraseological meaning has indirect connection with the object. In comparison with direct meaning of the words, the phraseological units are more expressive when we speak about denomination, characteristics, motions and etc. (Compare to collapse to go like a shot from a gun); to starve—tighten one's belt and so on). So, the phraseological meaning is not total lexical meaning of the words, their components but it is new semantic generalized type of meaning of the whole phraseological unit. As words phraseological units can be monosemantic (the large number) and polysemous. For example, to monosemantic refers "Achilles' heel" take in tow babel), tie up "off the bat" and etc. Two and more meanings have the follow phraseological units: to bet "go cap in hand" take its course give one's word, suspend pass skilful fingers and etc.

Because of different meanings of phraseological unit lose one's tongue, we can use it in different synonymic rows. So in the meaning, "to eat something tasty the synonym will be phraseological unit the cat's whiskers. In the case, when we speak about person who does not want or cannot tell something, we use several interconvertible expressions: lose one's tongue—to kept mum—mute as a fish). Quantitively synonymic rows of phraseological units are different from synonymic rows of separate words. One of them is consist of two units, another three and more. Compare: daily off—put on the shelf; to take a hint—think on one's feet); keep one's weather-mind your eye—keep one's ears open); waste of space—a big (fat) zero (nothing)—minor cog in the machine); (make a fool of (oneself)—find a mare's nest—put one's foot in one's mouth); for all one is worth—like beans—at full speed); in a twinkling of an eye—before one can say Jack Robinson—We'll be here in a crack; take the varnish off—show one's hand—catch red-handed—drive someone into a corner); like crow—both of a hair—tarred with the same brush-cut from the same cloth—Siamese twins and etc. (Tyulenev, 2004).

There are phraseological units-antonyms in phraseological structure. Their function is similar as the function of synonymic units. According to the meaning and structure phraseological units-antonyms often appear in the result of changing one of the components which is semantic antonym.

For example: at someone else's expense—to personalize, smb's mind flew to. But, there are phraseological units-antonyms which have different structure. For example: go downstream—go up in the world. The antonymy in phraseology does not occur widely as synonymy. The human mental activity is different according to their content. It is the complex and varied process of different parts of human activity and life. It is improving and complicating because of cognitive process. As the result human gets knowledge about surrounding world and about themselves and then he/she can use this knowledge in his/her activity special in professional life and as the result human can adjust to changing conditions in the world. But, we want to stress that there are not only cognitive process is used but appears different psychological characteristic of individual.

We have factual material which gives evidence that there are phraseological units reflecting process which is connecting with mental activity both in Russian and Armenian languages. The meaning of phraseological units are forming on the ground of different types of transfer of meaning. The basic mass are based on metaphor in the both languages.

In our research, the phraseological units is presented by 9 metaphoric phraseological units which are forming on the ground of different types of transfer of meaning in Russian and Armenian languages. Transference according to the similarity of action (or the general impression from the activity):

- Burn bridges, drop out of a game
- Absolute zero, heart of stone
- Pick somebody to pieces, waste money
- To the end of the world
- My heart is in my boots, take to heart
- Lead a cat and dog life, flesh nor good red herring
- Beauty is but skin deep
- Come off with a whole skin
- Weight off one's mind

In Russian and Armenian language, the transference according to the similarity of action is more used. The Transference according to the similarity of characteristic is classless (Telia, 1996).

It is notice to stress that the "complex" metaphor takes the place among the metaphoric phraseological units in the both languages which are based on unreal situation. For example: pull foot; be on top of the world. There are "hyperbolic" metaphors in the both language. For example:

- Deep in love
- Inviolable sanctuary
In analyzing languages, we can mark phraselogical units which are based on comparison with the properties of the substances. For example: as like as two peas in a pod.

There are phraselogical, units which are based on metonymic shift. As in Russian language as in Armenian they are represented by two groups:

- Phraselogical units in which organ has main function
- My heart is in my boots, act as a most useful second
- Phraselogical units passing emotional state through body language. A load off one’s mind come round

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To summarize, we can divide proverbs and sayings into several types:

- The Russian proverbs and sayings that are “absolutely” translated into Armenian, i.e., Russian version is fully coincide with the Armenian
- Russian proverbs and sayings during translation into Armenian partially different from the original, i.e., Russian version is slightly different from the Armenian
- Russian proverbs and sayings that during translation are fully replaced by the Armenian analogue, i.e., Russian version does not correspond to the Armenian

CONCLUSION

A lot of Russian proverbs and sayings can be translated into Armenian language without any problems: an englishman’s home is his castle; take to heart (Philippov, 2003).

- But other Russian proverbs and sayings have the same logical content but they should be explained
- The “material” using for making proverbs and sayings are different in every nation. They have the same meaning but they are different according to the realization (Lekant et al., 1999).
- For comparison, we give examples of Russian and Armenian proverbs
- Better a small fish than an empty dish-better a bare foot than none
- Better to ask the way than go astray-with a tongue in one’s head one can find the way to Rome
- One drop of poison infects the whole tun of wine
- Never say die

REFERENCES