

STRUCTURAL-GRAMMATICAL ANALYSIS OF SUBSTANTIVE AND ADJECTIVAL PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS CHARACTERIZING DISEASE – HEALTH

Marat Ajdarovich Yahin¹, Liliya Radikovna Sakaeva², Rina Raefovna Yalalova³

¹Kazan Federal University, Institute of International Relations, History and Oriental Studies, Kazan, Russia

²Kazan Federal University, Institute of International Relations, History and Oriental Studies, Kazan, Russia, e-mail: liliyasakaeva@rambler.ru, contact: +79674617919

³Naberezhnye Chelny Polytechnic College, Naberezhnye Chelny, Russia

ABSTRACT

The topicality of the problem investigated is caused by necessity of comparative study of languages which is in line with main trends in modern linguistics. The aim of the research is comparative study of structural-grammatical features of substantive and adjectival phraseological units characterizing disease – health in the English, German and Russian languages. The article explores comparative adjectival phraseological units and not comparative adjectival phraseological units with subordination and coordination; considers such subgroups of substantive phraseological units as «a noun+a noun», «an adjective+a noun». The main methods are the comparative-typological method; the descriptive method using techniques of observation, interpretation, comparison, generalization; the method of complete selection of material; the component analysis method. The material of the research is a list of phraseological units made by complete selection from English, German and Russian print and electronic idiomatic, paremiological, synonymous, etymological, explanatory dictionaries. The lexicographic sources consists of 108 dictionaries (56 – monolingual, 47 – bilingual, 5 – multilingual phraseological dictionaries). The volume of the analyzed units is 1327 phraseological units (517 phraseological units – in English, 401 phraseological units – in German and 409 phraseological units – in Russian). The results of the research consist in revealing similarities and differences of structural-grammatical organization of English, German and Russian phraseological units characterizing disease – health in the English, German and Russian languages. Clear evidence of existing of common features is presence of phraseological units in different languages which are identical or similar in meaning, structure and an image expressed. The main difference is a way of expressing syntactic relations caused by the different structure of these languages. The materials of the article can be used in theoretical and practical courses of comparative phraseology, contrastive linguistics, in writing textbooks and phraseological dictionaries.

Keywords: language; linguistics; phraseological units; substantive; adjectival.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a means of communication between individuals, and culture is a certain level of society development. The most important function of a language is transfer and storage of people's culture, shaping of national character, ethnic community of a nation [1]. Modern linguistics has concentrated their focus on the human factor in language [2]. When studying development of history of people's thinking, formation of culture and clarification of organic connection between artistic and aesthetic thinking, studying of peculiarities of phraseological units plays a great role, as a result of which it is possible to obtain a correct idea of the semantic development, lexical and phraseological system of a language [3]. As L.R. Sakaeva notes, «phraseological units constitute an important area of linguistics encompassing a wide range of problems related to semantics, composition and structure of phraseological units, peculiarities of their functioning and laws of formation» [3].

Health and disease are human conditions significant on personal and social levels. Conditions of health and disease are fixed in the cultural and social structures of different societies. The pragmatic role of culture (survival function) is most relevant in relation to health and disease [1]. The phenomena «disease – health» is an object of various studies but researches devoted to comparison of phraseological units of this thematic group in the English, German, and Russian languages have not been carried out yet. One of the first researches in the study of linguistic parameters of the concept «health» in the modern English language is a work of A.N. Usacheva, whose goal was to study the linguistic characteristics of the cultural concept of «health» in English [4]. Having analysed linguistic researches in a comparative aspect the following works should be noted: a thesis of L.V. Tulenina [5]; L.O. Tymoshenko [6]; A.V. Yarotskaya [7]. In German linguistics are the works of E.N. Osatyuk [8]; A.P. Kudryasheva [9].

Despite the existence of works devoted to the study of disease – health there is lack of development of a structural-grammatical classification of phraseological units representing disease – health in the English, German and Russian languages. Review of literature devoted to consideration of the phenomena «disease – health» in phraseology leads to the conclusion that there are not any studies of disease – health in a comparative aspect in phraseological units on the material of such languages as English, German and Russian.

The materials of the article can be used by specialists who teach theoretical and practical courses of comparative phraseology, contrastive linguistics. The theoretical thesis and the results can be used in conducting similar researches on the material of other languages, in writing textbooks, monolingual and bilingual phraseological dictionaries.

This article is devoted to the investigation of substantive and adjectival phraseological units characterizing disease – health in the English, German and Russian languages.

METHODS

The main methods are the comparative-typological method; the descriptive method using techniques of observation, interpretation, comparison, generalization; the method of complete selection of material; the component analysis method.

The material of the research is a list of phraseological units made by complete selection from English, German and Russian print and electronic idiomatic, paremiological, synonymous, etymological, explanatory dictionaries. The lexicographic sources consists of 108 dictionaries (56 – monolingual, 47 – bilingual, 5 – multilingual phraseological dictionaries).

RESULTS

Comparative study of languages aimed at finding similarities and differences is a topical problem of modern linguistics. Studies in phraseology are of particular interest in this regard as it clearly reflects peculiarities of people's lives, their culture and traditions [10]. Comparative analysis of the phraseological systems of different languages is of considerable interest both from the point of view of the development of the general theory of phraseology and to explore the common and distinctive features of the language [11]. Phraseology is a unique language material containing very concentrated information about the nation and its considering of this or that notion or object. So the meaning of a phraseological unit is not formed simultaneously but it is formed together with the development of the language and its history [12]. Therefore, knowledge of phraseology becomes an integral part of learning languages [13].

DISCUSSION

Analysis of phraseological units in structural-grammatical aspect is aimed at revealing similarities and differences of grammatical structure of phraseological units that cannot be revealed without a comparative analysis of material of various languages [14].

SUBSTANTIVE PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

Components of substantive phraseological units of the English, German and Russian languages can be joined with subordination and coordination [15]. One of the most common structural types of substantive phraseological units with subordination is a model «N+N». The main factor influencing differences between these phraseological units is analytism of English and synthetism of the German and Russian languages: in English means of expressing dependence is a preposition «of» or a morpheme of possessiveness -'s, in German – the genitive case of an article and a noun, in Russian – the genitive case of a noun: *writer's cramp*; *Dog's disease*; *Duck's / ducks' disease*; *ein Mann des Todes*; *nederzhaniye mochi*. In English and Russian it is possible to expand components with an adjective: *a whiter shade of pale*; *clean bill of health*; *starogo lesu kocherga*; *krupoznoye vospaleniye logkikh*; *plyaska Svyatogo Vitta*.

The analytism of the English language explains the wide extension of phraseological units of the model «N+N» with a noun in the attributive function with adjacency. English phraseological units are characterized by an attributive-prepositional type with contiguity with a substantive-nominative group, in which a dependent component is a noun without any morphological expression: *a basket case*.

The attributive-postpositional type with government is characteristic of German and Russian phraseological units, since a dependent component in postposition to the core component is expressed by a noun in the genitive case: *ein Mann des Todes*; *emfizema legkikh*.

A common structural type of substantive phraseological units is a combination of an adjective and a noun «Adj+N»: *the white scourge*; *common cold*; *ein lebendes Skelett*; *luchevaya bolezni*; *poval'naya bolezni*; *rodil'naya goryachka*; *chesotochnyy kleshch*; *morovoye povetriye*. Specific forms of implementation of this model are different in comparable languages. There is no concord of an adjective with a noun in English: *brown plague*; *the white scourge*; *galloping consumption*. Unlike English, in German and Russian there is concord in number, case and gender: *ein lebendes Skelett*; *kamennaya bolezni*; *kessonnyaya bolezni*; *kislorodnoye golodaniye/kislorodnaya nedostatochnost*; *vozvratnyy tif*. A specific feature of the German and Russian languages is that substantives of phraseological units can be masculine, feminine or neuter. The category of gender is considered extinct in the English language [16]. Therefore, it is not morphologically expressed in English. The category of gender is tripartite in the German and Russian languages and is represented by nouns of masculine, feminine and neuter gender. In Russian gender of a noun can be expressed morphologically – by inflections and outcome of a stem: *belaya goryachka*; *zheleznyaya natura*; *ognennaya bolezni*; *gazovaya gangrena*; *antonov ogon*; *sydney tif*; *sibirskoye zdorov'ye*. In German gender is marked by an indefinite and definite articles: *ein lebendes Skelett*; *das letzte Stündlein*.

Functional parts of speech along with notional parts of speech also play an important role in a formal organization of phraseological units. In English and German phraseological units a noun has a grammatical escort – an article. Unlike English, in German articles are declined and indicate a gender, a number and a case of a noun: *the Black Death*; *the English disease*; *a frog in one's/the throat*; *das böse Weh und Wesen*; *ein Kind des Todes*; *ein lebendes Skelett*. In the Russian language there isn't a category of an article.

There is an insignificant number of phraseological units with coordination «N+Conj+N» among the substantive phraseological units. In English the phraseological units of this model contain a conjunction «and»: *milk and roses*; in German – a conjunction «und», in Russian – a conjunction "i", "da", components of phraseological units are expanded with the help of an adjective and a participle: *das böse Weh und Wesen*; *bei vollem Verstand <und ungetrübtem Gedächtnis>* – *v zdravom ume <i tverdoy pamyati>*.

A quantitative preponderance of substantive phraseological units with subordination over substantive phraseological units with coordination was revealed in the course of the analysis.

COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVAL PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

Adjectival phraseological units express a degree of qualitative characteristics of an object [17], the main component of which is an adjective. After E.F. Arsentyeva two major structural subclasses are distinguished among adjectival phraseological units: comparative and not comparative. Comparative adjectival phraseological units are stable combinations of words correlated with adjectives and based on comparison [18]. Comparative units are widespread in the languages. The first component of such units is used in its literal meaning; the second – to strengthen the meaning of the first [19]: *<as> hearty as a buck; <as> red as a cherry/rose; <as> sick as a cat; gesund wie ein Fisch im Wasser; dürr wie eine Spindel; bolen kak lazhar'; zhelyty kak/slovno/tochno limon; krasnyye, kak u krolika*. In a number of cases nature of the whole comparison depends on semantics of a component studied. An adjective may have clearly expressed estimated meaning, for example, positive: *as fit as a fiddle; <as> fresh as a daisy/a rose/paint – svezha kak roza; <as> sound as a bell/a roach; gesund/stark wie ein Bär; j-d ist stark wie eine Eiche; zdorov kak Yur'yeva rosa; zdorovyy kak bugay/borov/buyvol/byk; rumyanaya kak/slovno/tochno roza*. There are phraseological units where an adjective determines their negative semantics: *as dry as paper; as weak as water; <as> pale as a ghost/death <itself>; dünn wie ein Strich; dünn wie ein Streichholz; blednyy/poblednet' kak bumaga/mertvets/sneg; zhelyty, kak/slovno/tochno pomeranets*.

NOT COMPARATIVE ADJECTIVAL PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

Not comparative adjectival phraseological units are phrases with subordination and coordination. One of the most common structures of not comparative adjectival phraseological units with subordination in the languages studied is a model «Adj+Prep+N»: *sound in mind and body; red/rosy about the gills; j-d ist schwach auf der Brust; tugoy/tugovatyy/krepkiy na ukho*. In English main and dependent components are connected by contiguity. Attributive syntactic relations are identified between components of phraseological units, therefore English phraseological units are characterized by adjectival-prepositional-nominal subtype of attributive-prepositional type with postposition and contiguity. In the German and Russian languages phraseological units are distinguished by adjectival-prepositional-nominal subtype of attributive-prepositional type with postposition and government.

A specific feature of English, German and Russian is existence of not comparative adjectival phraseological units with syntactic coordinative connection uniting equal parts of phraseological units of the structure «Adj+and/und/i+Adj»: *hale and hearty; alive and kicking; alive and well; safe and sure; safe and sound – heil und ganz; j-d ist wieder gesund und munter/gesund und frisch; zdorov i bodr*.

CONCLUSIONS

Comparative study of structural-grammatical features of phraseological units characterizing disease – health in the English, German and Russian languages aims to reveal similarities and differences of compared phraseological units. Clear evidence of existing of common features is presence of phraseological units in different languages which are identical or similar in meaning, structure and an image expressed. Common features are caused by universal laws of thought, the same social conditions, physiological and psychological qualities of a person. The structural differences of phraseological units are explained by specific grammatical forms of each language and peculiarities of their functioning. The main difference between the phraseological units characterizing disease – health in the English, German and Russian languages is a way of expressing syntactic relations caused by the different structure of these languages.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The work is performed according to the Russian Government Program of Competitive Growth of Kazan Federal University.

REFERENCES

Yalalova, R.R., Phraseological units characterizing disease – health in the English, German and Russian languages, Cand. Ph. thesis, Kazan, 2014, 307 p.

- Sakaeva, L.R., Yahin, M.A., Burenkova, O.M., The Comparative Analysis of Anthropocentric Phraseological Units in Russian, English and Tatar Languages, *The Social Sciences*, 11, 2016, pp. 4048-4052.
- Sakaeva, L.R., Isomorphism and allomorphism of phraseological units of anthropocentric orientation (based on the Russian, English, Tatar and Tadzhik languages), Naberezhnye Chelny: Kazan State University Branch in Naberezhnye Chelny, 2008, 168 p.
- Usacheva, A.N., Linguistic parameters of the concept «state of health» in modern English, Cand. Ph. thesis, Volgograd, 2002, 167 p.
- Tulenina, L.V., The concepts «health» and «disease» in the English and Russian linguistic cultures, Cand. Ph. thesis, Volgograd, 2008, 248 p.
- Tymoshenko, L.O., Scalar-antonymic complex of the concept «health» in Russian and English, Cand. Ph. thesis, Ufa, 2005, 190 p.
- Yarotskaya, A.V., Lexical means of nomination of the sphere «health» in the English language magazine texts: cognitive-pragmatic perspective, Cand. Ph. thesis abstract, Moscow, 2012, 24 p.
- Osatyuk, E.N., Cognitive models of metaphors «disease» and «death» as a reflection of the author's view of the world: on the material of novels of Thomas Mann, Cand. Ph. thesis, Stavropol, 2007, 185 p.
- Kudryashova, A.P., The processes of formation and functioning of euphemisms in the semantic fields «death», «disease», «age»: on a material of modern Russian and German languages, Cand. Ph. thesis, Saratov, 2002, 236 p.
- Sakaeva, L.R., Yalalova, R.R., Structural-grammatical peculiarities of phraseological units characterizing disease – health in the English, German and Russian languages, *Life Science Journal*, 11(5), 2014, pp. 547-550 (ISSN:1097-8135). <http://www.lifesciencesite.com>. 82
- Sakaeva, L.R., Nurullina, A.G., Comparative analysis of verbal, adjectival, adverbial and modal phraseological units with a lexeme «devil» in the English and Russian languages, *Middle East Journal of Scientific Research*, 18 (1), 2013, pp. 50-54.
- Sakaeva, L.R., Spirina, T.S., Structural Models of Phraseological Units Characterizing Power in the English, German and Russian Languages, *Asian Social Science*, Vol. 11, No. 7, 2015, pp. 145-151. <http://www.ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/ass/article/view/46403/25018> p.145-151.
- Khabibullina, A.E., Phraseological units expressing human condition in the English, Russian and Tatar languages, Cand. Ph. thesis, Kazan State University, 2010, 197 p.
- Palmer, F.R., *Semantics*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1974, 78 p.
- Fam Tkhi Tkhan' Kha, Comparative analysis of somatic phraseological units of the English and Vietnamese languages, Cand. Ph. thesis, Kazan State University, 2005, 224 p.
- Sharypova, N.H., The manifestation of morphological interference in the Russian speech of the Tatar. Study on vocabulary and grammar of the Tatar language, Kazan, 1986, pp. 33-38.
- Khusnutdinov, A.A., Grammar of a phraseological unit, Ph. D. thesis, Saint Petersburg, 1996, 237 p.
- Gizatova, G.K., Comparative phraseological units of the modern Tatar literary language, Kazan, 1983, 17 p.
- Betekhtin, P.N., Phraseological units with biblical names, Saint Petersburg: Publishing house of the Petersburg University, 1999, 172 p.