

LINGUISTIC PRINCIPLES OF INTERPRETING THE PHRASEOSTYLISTIC MEANING OF FIXED PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITHIN TEXTUAL CONTEXTS

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Abstract. This article examines the phraseostylistic meaning of fixed phraseological units in English as a linguistic phenomenon formed and realized within textual boundaries. The study proceeds from the assumption that the stylistic and pragmatic potential of phraseological units is not inherent in isolation but is determined by their functioning in specific textual environments. Particular attention is given to context as the principal factor that actualizes emotional-expressive and evaluative components of phraseological meaning. Based on material from English literary prose, the article identifies the key linguistic principles underlying the emergence and interpretation of phraseostylistic meaning, including contextual determination, semantic transformation, pragmatic actualization, discursive adaptability, and cultural-cognitive grounding. The findings contribute to a clearer understanding of phraseological units as dynamic elements of discourse and as important stylistic resources in literary texts.

Keywords: phraseological unit, fixed expression, phraseostylistic meaning, text, context, interpretation, English language.

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматривается фразеостилистическое значение устойчивых фразеологических единиц английского языка как лингвистическое явление, формирующееся и реализуемое в пределах текста. Исследование основывается на предположении, что стилистический и прагматический потенциал фразеологических единиц не является изначально присущим им в изоляции, а определяется их функционированием в конкретной текстовой среде. Особое внимание уделяется контексту как основному фактору, актуализирующему эмоционально-экспрессивные и оценочные компоненты фразеологического значения. На материале английской художественной прозы в статье выявляются ключевые лингвистические принципы, лежащие в основе формирования и интерпретации фразеостилистического значения, включая контекстуальную обусловленность, семантическую трансформацию, прагматическую актуализацию, дискурсивную адаптивность и культурно-когнитивную обусловленность. Полученные результаты способствуют более глубокому пониманию фразеологических единиц как динамических элементов дискурса и как важных стилистических средств художественного текста.

Ключевые слова: фразеологическая единица, устойчивое выражение, фразеостилистическое значение, текст, контекст, интерпретация, английский язык.

Annotatsiya. Mazkur maqolada ingliz tilidagi turg'un frazeologik birliklarning frazeostilistik ma'nosi matn doirasida shakllanadigan va namoyon bo'ladigan lingvistik hodisa sifatida tadqiq etiladi. Tadqiqot frazeologik birliklarning stilistik va pragmatik salohiyati ularning alohida holatdagi mavjudligida emas, balki muayyan matniy muhitda qo'llanishi orqali belgilanishi haqidagi qarashga asoslanadi. Maqolada kontekst frazeologik ma'noning emotsional-ekspressiv hamda baholovchi komponentlarini aktuallashtiruvchi asosiy omil sifatida talqin qilinadi. Ingliz badiiy nasri materiallari asosida frazeostilistik ma'noning yuzaga kelishi va talqin etilishiga asos bo'luvchi asosiy lingvistik tamoyillar, jumladan, kontekstual determinatsiya, semantik transformatsiya, pragmatik aktuallashuv, diskursiv moslashuvchanlik hamda madaniy-kognitiv asoslanganlik aniqlab beriladi. Tadqiqot natijalari frazeologik birliklarni diskursning dinamik unsurlari hamda badiiy matnning muhim stilistik vositalari sifatida chuqurroq anglashga xizmat qiladi.

Kalit so'zlar: frazeologik birlik, turg'un ifoda, frazeostilistik ma'no, matn, kontekst, interpretatsiya, ingliz tili.

Introduction. In modern linguistics, phraseological units are widely recognized as an essential component of the lexical system and as an important means of meaning formation in speech. Traditionally, they have been studied primarily from lexical-semantic and structural perspectives, with emphasis placed on their stability, idiomaticity, and semantic opacity. However, recent developments in stylistics, pragmatics, and discourse analysis have shifted scholarly attention toward the functional aspects of phraseological units, particularly their role in text and discourse.

This shift is motivated by the recognition that the phraseostylistic meaning of phraseological units does not exist in a fixed or ready-made form. Instead, it emerges dynamically through actual usage in concrete textual conditions. Phraseostylistic meaning is shaped by the interaction between the phraseological unit and its surrounding context, including the immediate linguistic environment, the broader textual structure, and the communicative situation in which the unit is employed.

Fixed phraseological units in English are characterized by a multilayered semantic structure that combines denotative meaning with expressive, evaluative, and cultural components. These components become especially salient in literary texts, where authors deliberately exploit the stylistic potential of phraseological units to convey psychological nuance, express subjective evaluation, and construct implicit meanings. Consequently, interpreting phraseological units in isolation from the text limits their communicative value and obscures their role in shaping textual meaning. This study therefore aims to explore the linguistic principles underlying the interpretation of phraseostylistic meaning within textual contexts, using English literary material as its empirical basis.

Materials and methods. The material for the present study was drawn from English literary prose of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, representing a range of authors, genres, and narrative styles. Literary texts were selected as the primary source of data because they provide particularly rich contexts for the realization of phraseostylistic meaning and allow for the observation of nuanced stylistic effects.

Phraseological units were identified and selected on the basis of their stylistic salience in the text and their sensitivity to contextual variation. The analysis was conducted using an integrated methodological framework that combines contextual-textual analysis with phraseostylistic and pragmatic approaches. Discourse analysis was employed to examine the function of phraseological units within the broader structure of the text, while comparative-descriptive analysis was used to highlight shifts in phraseostylistic meaning across different contexts. This combination of methods made it possible to account for both the linguistic form of phraseological units and their functional realization in discourse.

Results. The analysis demonstrates that phraseostylistic meaning is formed through the interaction between fixed phraseological units and their textual environment. In literary discourse, phraseological units frequently serve as markers of evaluation, emotional

intensity, irony, or cultural meaning, and their stylistic effect depends on the specific context in which they occur.

In the example *She was at her wits' end, yet the polite smile never left her face* from Jane Austen's *Emma*, the phraseological unit *to be at one's wits' end* conveys a state of inner psychological tension and emotional exhaustion. The juxtaposition of this internal state with outward politeness creates a contrast that enhances the evaluative and psychologically nuanced phraseostylistic meaning of the expression. The context thus plays a decisive role in revealing the character's inner conflict. (J. Austen. *Emma*, 2003.)

Similarly, in Charles Dickens's *Bleak House*, the use of the expression *to make a mountain out of a molehill* in the sentence *He made a mountain out of a molehill, as though the matter were of national importance* functions as a vehicle of irony. The phraseological unit exaggerates the significance of a trivial issue, while the surrounding context reinforces the author's critical and ironic stance toward the character's behaviour. Here, phraseostylistic meaning emerges from the alignment of the idiomatic expression with the evaluative perspective of the narrator. (Ch. Dickens. *Bleak House*, 2016.)

In George Orwell's *Coming Up for Air*, the expression *to wash one's hands of something* acquires a pronounced critical and pragmatic meaning. In the context *The leaders washed their hands of the affair, leaving others to deal with the consequences*, the phraseological unit signals deliberate renunciation of responsibility and moral disengagement. The phraseostylistic meaning is intensified by the broader socio-political context of the narrative, transforming the idiom into a marker of social criticism. (G. Orwell. *Coming Up for Air*, 2013.)

Emotional intensification is illustrated by the use of *to be over the moon* in Virginia Woolf's *Mrs Dalloway*. In the sentence *She was over the moon, though she tried to appear calm*, the phraseological unit expresses intense joy, while the contrast with external restraint reveals the complexity of the character's emotional state. The phraseostylistic effect arises from the tension between inner emotion and outward behaviour, a theme characteristic of Woolf's narrative style. (V. Woolf. *Mrs Dalloway*, 2008.)

Finally, the expression *to keep up appearances* in E. M. Forster's *Howards End* reflects a culturally embedded model of social behaviour. In the context *They kept up appearances, even as everything quietly fell apart*, the phraseological unit functions as a cognitive-stylistic marker that encapsulates social norms, values, and expectations associated with English culture. The phraseostylistic meaning here is inseparable from cultural knowledge shared by the author and the reader. (E.M. Forster. *Howards End*, 2000.)

Discussion. The analysis of literary examples demonstrates that the phraseostylistic meaning of fixed phraseological units is closely linked to authorial intention, genre conventions, discourse type, and cultural background. In literary texts, phraseological units are not merely decorative elements but serve as powerful tools for constructing meaning.

They contribute to the portrayal of psychological states, express implicit evaluation, create irony or criticism, and encode culturally specific patterns of behaviour.

The findings confirm that phraseostylistic meaning cannot be reduced to dictionary definitions or treated as an invariant property of phraseological units. Instead, it emerges through contextual interaction and is shaped by the communicative goals of the author and the interpretative activity of the reader. This underscores the necessity of a text-based approach to phraseological analysis, particularly in stylistic and discourse-oriented research.

Conclusion. The study demonstrates that the phraseostylistic meaning of fixed phraseological units in English does not exist independently of textual context. Such units acquire their full semantic, pragmatic, and stylistic value only through textual realization and are actualized under the influence of contextual, pragmatic, and cultural factors. The linguistic principles identified in this article provide a theoretical foundation for further research in phraseology, stylistics, and discourse analysis, and they highlight the importance of contextual interpretation for understanding the functional role of phraseological units in literary texts.

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