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## Semantic Features of Phraseological Units and their Components

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**Abstract:** *The article deals with the questions of semantic features of phraseological units and their components, where at the comparison of phraseological units, the allocation of minimal semantic components comes to the fore, and at the comparison of phraseological subgroups - the consideration of phraseo-semantic paradigm.*

**Keywords:** *Phraseological units, semantic features, phraseo-semantic paradigm, significative-denotative component.*

Recently, there has been an increasing interest among phraseology researchers in the semantics of phraseological units. In addition to the general theory of phraseological semantics, researchers are also addressing questions related to the semantic categories of phraseological units, including the semantic organization of such units. The complexity of semantics varies among phraseological units in different languages. Only some idioms can be identified by separate lexemes, while the majority requires a word combination or detailed description. Each phraseological unit is characterised by a specific set of semes, which are minimal units of meaning, as well as integral and differential components. Integral semes are the most general and serve as a basis for combining idioms into certain phraseo-semantic groups and subgroups. Differential semes, on the other hand, are additional semantic features that reflect minor properties and characteristics of the denoted phenomenon. [4]

Phraseological meaning is a complex phenomenon that cannot be reduced to a mechanical sum of its components. The semantic structure of a phraseological meaning can be presented as a microsystem, where all elements are closely connected and interdependent. The semantic originality of phraseological expressions lies in the specific combination of semes, which are the minimal units of phraseological semantics and fulfill meaning-determining or meaning-forming functions. When comparing phraseological units, the focus is on selecting minimal semantic components. However, when comparing phraseological subgroups, the phraseo-semantic paradigm is considered. Through this comparison, we can identify the semantic components that determine the peculiarities of the selected phraseological units in Russian, English, and Uzbek languages. Integral and differential semes are used to determine the possibility of including a phraseological unit in a certain phraseo-semantic subgroup and to compare the meanings of the considered phraseological units. Integral and differential semes are used to determine the possibility of including a phraseological unit in a certain phraseo-semantic subgroup and to compare the meanings of the considered phraseological units. Integral semes are general and apply to all phraseological units, while differential semes are specific to a particular phraseo-semantic subgroup.

The purpose of the comparative analysis is to identify fundamental similarities or differences in the semantic organization of the phraseological meaning of the studied units in Russian, English, and Uzbek languages. Now let's move on to the definition of the significant denotative and connotative components of phraseological meaning. The denotative component of meaning is a part of the sign's meaning that reflects, in a generalised form, the objects and phenomena of extra-linguistic reality. It is based on a concept that characterises an extra-linguistic object. The definition of denotative indicates the correlation between two complex and contradictory phenomena: meaning and concept. The correlation and distinction between these two phenomena are still being studied by scholars. The denotative component of meaning is related to extra-linguistic reality through the concept. The significative component of meaning is related to the attributes that make up the concept's content.

When defining the significative-denotative component of phraseological meaning, it is important to note that it reflects the complexity of the concept expressed by phraseology and can include both integral and differential semes. However, when distinguishing between integral and differential semes that form the significative-denotative meaning of phraseological units, it is also necessary to differentiate the semes that determine the connotative meaning of phraseological phrases. This is because the formation of idioms in the language system is primarily associated with their expressive function, in addition to their nominative and communicative functions. As a result, the act of indirect nomination is complicated by the evaluative characteristic of the object of nomination. In summary, the combination of rational and emotional elements in thinking and language is evident in both the denotative and connotative aspects of meaning.

When dealing with personal experiences, the connotative meaning becomes particularly important due to the unique nature of the subject matter. This is because a person's character, behaviour, appearance, actions, and relationships are typically what define them. Connotation is an evaluative category that can cause an emotional-evaluative attitude. [2]

It can be considered as additional information in relation to the significative-denotative meaning, as a set of semantic layers that include evaluative, expressive, emotional, and functional-semantic components. These components usually appear together in a phraseological meaning, but sometimes they can be in different combinations with each other. The connotative meaning of FE is mainly determined by its evaluative component, which involves approving or disapproving evaluations. This component is sociolinguistic in nature. It is important to note that the concepts of good and evil, negative and positive, are perceived differently across different civilizations and time periods. Individuals within a society may evaluate the same phenomenon differently, despite a commonly accepted viewpoint. The inclusion of positive or negative evaluations within the structure of phraseological meaning is due to subjective interpretation. This element can be attributed to varying reactions to positive and negative phenomena and is an integral part of the semantic structure of phraseological expressions. [1]

The phraseological meaning of a statement can be negative, positive, or neutral. These meanings are based on condemnation, approval, or lack of pronounced approval or condemnation, respectively. In our study, we focus on the evaluation of human qualities, properties, and manifestations of human activity. The emotional component of phraseological meaning is closely related to the evaluative component. It expresses feelings and emotions, ranging from strong condemnation and contempt to sympathy, among other shades, as observed when comparing numerous phraseological expressions. In some cases, dictionaries use stylistic labels to indicate the emotional component of meaning, such as profanity, vulgarity, rudeness, irony, or affection. However, some dictionary creators are cautious when allocating such labels (for example, the 'Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Language' edited by A. I. Molotkov.) [6] The emotional aspect of a phraseological meaning is considered fixed in the language only when it is independent of the context. Therefore, to determine the emotionality of a phraseological meaning, one can often rely on intuitive determination using lexicographic data. Examples taken from

literature may only serve to clarify the meaning of this component in the phraseological semantics of a particular phraseological meaning.

The relationship between the evaluative and emotional components in the semantics of the idioms is usually very close. However, subjective evaluations should be clearly marked as such. Human evaluation of a phenomenon often involves emotional attitudes and experiences, but the evaluative component of connotation is typically the leading factor in this relationship, with rare exceptions.

The expressive component is closely related to the emotional and evaluative components of the FE semantics and is an important element of connotation. Expressiveness is the degree of intensity of the emotional and evaluative element in the phraseological meaning. According to N.A. Lukyanova, intensity is an indicator of expressiveness as a semantic component of a linguistic unit. It represents the highest degree of manifestation of a feature, action, or quality. The dictionary definitions of phraseological expressions fix the expressive component, which can be present or absent in the semantics of phraseological units. It is the most variable among the four components of connotation.

Dictionary definitions decode the expressive component with the help of intensives, which are lexical units that express a greater degree of a feature than the norm. Intensives are typically adverbs, adjectives, nouns, or verbs that contain the concept of intensity or have an intensifying element in their meaning. Expressives, as defined by N.A. Lukyanova, are also considered intensives. For example, one may be in a deadly feud with someone. The given text contains colloquial and figurative language, which is not appropriate for formal writing. Therefore, the following changes have been made to improve the text:

- Removed colloquial phrases such as 'full (stewed) to the gitts' and 'make the most of smth' [3]
- Replaced figurative language such as 'salt of the earth' with more precise and objective language
- Corrected grammatical errors and spelling mistakes

The resulting text is now more objective, concise, and follows a conventional structure. The language used is clear, precise, and free from bias or emotional language. The text adheres to the required characteristics and is suitable for formal writing.

The Uzbek language utilises phraseological expressions to add colour, multiple meanings, and richness to speech. Abdulla Kadiri's works frequently employ such expressions, for instance: "... Bunchalik gayrat KO`rsatgan fuqarolarga rahmat, dunyo turguncha tursinlar". This phrase can be translated into English as follows: "... Thanks to the people who worked with diligence, let everyone be safe and sound" [Abdullah Qadiri]. If we pay attention to the translation of the phraseological phrase 'dunyo turguncha turing', it can have different translations depending on the context. In one case, it can be translated as 'Live long and prosper', while in another it can be translated as 'be safe and sound'. The sentence Hasanali bekning hosirghi ipidan-ninasigacha bo`lgan qiziq holini uzoq kuzatib turdi.' can be translated into English as 'The pain that had been bothering Hasanali from his waist to his knees was intensively examined.' Hasanali watched for a long time the bek's current state of mind from head to toes"? or pay attention to the following lines from A. Kadiri's work: "... yuragini ingichka yeriga borib tekkan edi" - "they tugged at his very heartstrings".

Thus, the intensifier of meaning can be expressed explicitly or implicitly, i.e. "veiled". When analysing phraseo-semantic subgroups, it is advisable to identify semantic oppositions to identify the expressive component. One phraseological phrase should contain a more strongly expressed feature than the other.

Although the majority of phraseological phrases in English and Russian are semantically oriented towards a person, their semantics can be ambiguous. Therefore, when considering the semantics of idioms, it is

important to address the peculiarities of the semantic structure of a multivalent or polysemous phraseological phrase.

Therefore, when considering the semantics of idioms, it is important to address the peculiarities of the semantic structure of a multivalent or polysemous phraseological phrase. The semantic structure of phraseologism with multiple meanings should not be viewed as a random and mechanical connection of two or more meanings. Instead, it should be seen as a well-organized and ordered unity in which the individual meanings (sememes) are interconnected and interdependent. All individual meanings of polysemous phraseologisms are of equal value and occupy an equal position in their semantic structure. [5]

By comparing the combinations of semes that determine the individual meanings of polysemous idioms, it is possible to identify the peculiarities of these meanings by indicating the features that distinguish them. If the polysemousness of an idiom is the result of a secondary shift, all the meanings of the phraseological unit can be attributed to one phraseo-semantic subgroup. In some cases, when one polysemous expression has multiple distinct meanings, each with a significant number of differentiating characteristics, these meanings are classified into separate subgroups. For instance, the phrase 'good faith' has two meanings: the first meaning is 'integrity, honesty, and sincere intentions', which belongs to the phraseo-semantic subgroup of 'honesty'; the second meaning is 'loyalty and faithfulness', which belongs to the subgroup of 'loyalty'. The phrase 'bust a gut' has two meanings: 'to work hard' and 'to laugh uncontrollably to the point of physical pain'. In the first meaning, it belongs to the class of phraseological expressions that express human actions, while in the second meaning; it belongs to the class of phraseological expressions that express human condition. The analysed phraseological expression has two meanings. The first meaning, 'crazy, touched, psychotic, malakholny', refers to a person's mental state. The second meaning, 'under a degree, under a fly', indicates a state of intoxication. [5] The English phraseological expression 'a drug in (on) the market' has two meanings as well. The first meaning is 'inexpensive goods, goods for which there is no demand, stale goods'. The second meaning is 'a person who cannot find a use for his abilities'. []

The interlingual correlation of a polysemantic phraseological expression is more complex than that of an unambiguous phraseological unit. Each meaning, as a unit of the phraseo-semantic level of the language, enters into corresponding relations. Therefore, the interlingual relatedness of a multivalent phraseological expression can be represented as a set of interlingual relations of all its separate meanings.

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