

NATIVE PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS OF THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

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Abstract

This article examines native phraseological units of the Russian language as a key component of linguistic and cultural expression. It explores their definitions, classifications, structural and semantic features, origins, and functions in communication. The study draws on the works of leading linguists such as V. V. Vinogradov, A. V. Kunin, V. N. Telia, and V. M. Mokienko, whose research laid the foundation for phraseology as a scientific discipline. Special attention is given to the cultural specificity and national identity reflected in Russian idioms, as well as their pragmatic and stylistic functions. The article also analyzes examples of commonly used native phraseological units and discusses their role in translation and intercultural communication. The findings demonstrate that phraseological units are not only linguistic phenomena but also carriers of historical memory and cultural values.

Keywords: Phraseological units, Russian language, idioms, Vinogradov classification, linguistic culture, semantics, stability, national identity, figurative meaning, Russian phraseology.

Introduction

Phraseological units, also known as idioms or set expressions, represent one of the most expressive and culturally significant layers of the Russian language. They are stable combinations of words with a figurative meaning that cannot be deduced from the meanings of individual components. These units are deeply rooted in the historical, cultural, and social experience of a people and function as an essential means of communication.

Russian phraseology has been extensively studied by linguists, particularly since the mid-20th century. The foundational works of scholars such as V. V. Vinogradov established the theoretical basis for understanding phraseological systems. According to linguistic research, phraseological units are “semantically

connected word combinations characterized by stability and idiomatic meaning”

The importance of studying native phraseological units lies in their ability to reflect national identity, worldview, and cultural traditions. They are widely used in everyday speech, literature, journalism, and media, contributing to the richness and expressiveness of the Russian language.

Phraseological units are defined as fixed expressions with a transferred or figurative meaning. Unlike free word combinations, they are reproduced as ready-made units and exhibit semantic unity and structural stability.

The main characteristics include:

Phraseological units have a fixed lexical composition. Substitution of components usually leads to loss of meaning.

Example:

- бить баклуши (to idle away time) – replacing any word destroys the idiomatic meaning.

The meaning of the whole expression differs from the literal meanings of its parts.

Example:

- водить за нос (to deceive) does not involve physical action but metaphorical meaning.

They are not created spontaneously but reproduced from memory as complete units .

Phraseological units enrich speech with imagery and emotional coloring.

Example:

- работать засучив рукава (to work hard) emphasizes diligence.

The study of phraseology has been shaped by various linguistic schools and scholars.

V. V. Vinogradov proposed one of the most influential classifications, dividing phraseological units into:

1. **Phraseological fusions** – completely indivisible expressions

Example: спустя рукава (carelessly)

2. **Phraseological unities** – partially motivated expressions

Example: лить крокодиловы слёзы (to pretend to be sad)

3. **Phraseological combinations** – semi-fixed expressions

Example: принимать решение (to make a decision)

This classification is based on semantic cohesion and remains widely used in modern linguistics .

A. V. Kunin emphasized the stability and reproducibility of phraseological units, defining them as stable combinations with figurative meaning and long-term usage .

V. N. Telia viewed phraseological units as cognitive-semantic entities that shape linguistic worldview and cultural perception .

V. M. Mokienko focused on historical origins, demonstrating how idioms evolve from folklore, myths, and everyday practices .

Phraseological units can be classified according to structure and meaning.

- **Verbal phrases:** ломать голову (to puzzle over)
- **Nominal phrases:** белая ворона (outsider)
- **Adverbial phrases:** спустя рукава (carelessly)
- **Sentence-like units:** не всё то золото, что блестит
- **Motivated** (transparent meaning)
- **Non-motivated** (idiomatic meaning)
- **Partially motivated**

Russian phraseological units originate from various sources:

Folk Traditions

Many idioms come from folklore and proverbs:

- ни пуха ни пера (good luck)

Historical Events

- перейти Рубикон (to make an irreversible decision)

Mythology

- кануть в Лету (to disappear forever)

Everyday Life

- точить лясы (to chat idly)

These origins reflect cultural and historical experience .

Phraseological units perform several important functions:

Communicative Function

They facilitate efficient communication by conveying complex ideas concisely.

Expressive Function

They add emotional and stylistic coloring.

Cognitive Function

They reflect the worldview and cultural values of speakers.

Russian writers активно use phraseological units to create vivid imagery.

For example:

- Alexander Pushkin used idioms to reflect folk speech.
- Fyodor Dostoevsky employed phraseology for psychological depth.

Phraseological units enhance character development and realism in literary texts.

Despite their stability, phraseological units can exhibit variation:

- Lexical variation
- Morphological variation
- Syntactic variation

Research shows that variability coexists with stability, forming a dynamic system

Phraseological units present challenges in translation due to cultural specificity.

Strategies include:

- Equivalent translation
- Descriptive translation
- Analogical substitution

Understanding phraseology is essential for accurate translation and intercultural communication

Phraseological units reflect national identity, traditions, and worldview. They preserve cultural memory and provide insight into historical values.

For example:

- школа жизни (life experience)
- туп как пробка (very dull)

They act as carriers of cultural knowledge and linguistic heritage.

Recent studies focus on:

- Cognitive linguistics
- Corpus analysis
- Computational modeling of idioms
- Linguocultural approaches

Modern research highlights the dynamic nature of phraseological systems.

Native phraseological units of the Russian language represent a unique and essential component of linguistic and cultural expression. They combine stability, idiomatic meaning, and expressive power, making them indispensable in communication.

The contributions of scholars such as Vinogradov, Kunin, Telia, and Mokienko have significantly advanced the understanding of phraseology. Their research

demonstrates that phraseological units are not merely linguistic constructs but complex cultural phenomena.

In modern linguistics, phraseology continues to evolve, reflecting changes in society while preserving traditional values. Therefore, the study of phraseological units remains a vital area of linguistic research.

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