

Linguistic and ethnocultural peculiarities of phraseological units with onomastic component in the English language

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Стаття присвячена дослідженню національно-культурних особливостей фразеологічних одиниць з ономастичним компонентом. У ній проаналізована роль оніма у цих одиницях, враховуючи соціолінгвістичні фактори при вивченні фразеологізмів.

Key words: onomastic component, phraseological unit, local markedness.

An investigation of phraseological units is one of the urgent problems of modern linguistics. Since phraseology as a science emerged only in the early twentieth century, today there is still a lot of unresolved issues in this area. In particular, explorations of native and foreign scholars dedicated to onomastic phraseology (K. Betehtina, A. Kravchuk, N. Lalayan, G. Manushkina, V. Mokienko, O. Moroz, O. Safronov, and L. Stepanova et al.), first of all give a general description of the material or cover some aspects based on a particular language. Still there are no generally accepted theoretical approaches for dealing with such controversial issues as the nature of onomastic component in phraseological unit and its role in the motivation of idiomatic meaning, semantic status of proper names.

Functioning of onyms as the part of phraseological units has repeatedly been the subject of the consideration of scientists. The evidence of this is the presence of numerous works of national and foreign scholars dedicated to onomastic phraseology of different languages, in particular of Ukrainian (O.Moroz,N.Pasik), of Russian (K.Betekhtina), V.Mokiyenko), of Polish (A.Kravchuk), of Czech (L.Stepanova), of German (N.Lalayan) and of others. Separate groups of phraseological units with onomastic component have been researched in modern English language. In particular, phraseologisms of biblical origin are examined in detail in dissertational studio of O.Safronova . A brief characteristic of English phraseological units with proper names is given in the article of B.Azhnyuk . Role of onyms in the formation of holistic phraseological meaning was found out in the studies of H. Manushkina in the early 70-ies of the last century.

At the same time many problems are not finally solved yet. Issue of structural and semantic systematization of English phraseologisms with onomastic component remains unsolved; functional aspect of these language units and their national-cultural specificity has not been fully studied out. Analysis was carried out without taking into account the entire extended system of onyms and comparable analysis of relevant phraseological units on the material of different languages was not performed in the conducted researches. Consequently, English onomastics phraseology needs further professional study.

In our research under onomastic component we understand "reanalyzed proper names (onyms) -

secondary, specific names that complement and specify the primary, general and serve to distinguish nomens of one kind" [5]. Components derived from toponyms, anthroponyms, mythonyms, agionyms, formations of pseudospecific names, etc. are also taken into account. Nomen is a lexical unit with the help of which we name the object that we see and perceive; it is a sign connected with the named object in the act of perception and imagination.

Taking into account the object of the research, we must also clarify the interpretation of the notion "local markedness". This markedness is determined by relatedness of a linguistic unit to a certain variant of the English language. Here this notion acquires features of extralinguistic conditionality and is interpreted as the ability of the studied phraseological units to reflect the material conditions of life of the people, the geography of the country, its history, culture and reality.

Phraseology, according to most linguists, is the most specific and nationally marked branch of language. Specificity of phraseological units is often caused by extra linguistic factors which, according to O. Kunin "are preserved in their figurativeness" [2]. Phraseological fund is not just language, but also a cultural and historical heritage of each nation. Through the researches of phraseological units linguists are able to get important information about nation – the native speaker. Sometimes it is not enough to know only phraseologism it is a need to know what stands behind it, but it should be considered in connection with the culture of the country and its history.

Local markedness is a direct expression of sociolinguistic factor in phraseological units with onomastic component.

The basis of the linguistic-cultural theory of word is the teaching of lexical background. It is defined as "semantic residue after exclusion from the plan of the content of lexeme of its conceptual semes " [1]. The presence of semantic background is especially visible when contrastly comparing lexically equivalent words in different languages. For example, words thistle and thistle denote the same plant in different languages, that means that they have the same subject meaning – name of prickly weed. The difference of semantic backgrounds of these words is caused by the thing that Ukrainian word "chortopolokh" has clear negative connotative coloring (devil herb and so on). In its turn English word "thistle" is the national emblem, the symbol of Scotland. This word is a part of the proper name of knight order – Order of the Thistle, whereas in Ukraine this linguistic unit denotes weed, unremarkable plant.

Uniqueness of a number of English phraseologisms with onomastic component is explained not just by

differences in the character of language nomination, but also by extralinguistic factors, first of all by the absence in culture of one of the languages of the denotatum. For example: the Black and Tans ("black and red" are English punitive detachments in Ireland in 1920-1923), garden seat – seat on the second floor of a two-level bus, sandwich man (a man with advertising posters on the back and chest).

When comparing appellatives (common names) with proper names, we come to the conclusion that every language has (as defined by A.O. Biletskyi) peculiar "dummies" among proper names [4]. These are lexical forms with individualizing semantics. However, even such "dummies", when forming a part of phraseologism represent background semantic component that has great importance for the formation of motivation of phraseological meaning. For example, in phraseological units Brown, Jones and Robinson or Tom, Dick and Harry (ordinary British people) there was used such background attribute of these anthroponyms as prevalence, frequent use, and routine. This concerns also the aforementioned expressions to astonish the Browns (surprise with something unusual, to challenge social prejudices), to keep up with the Joneses (to try to outdo the neighbors and friends in the sphere of social prestige).

According to the studied material, the source of background semantics can be not only extralinguistic factors. In the process of semantic interaction of components-onyms with internally-phrasal context and with each other they can realize in the role of semantic component such their feature as a grammatical category of gender, for example: there is not so bad a Jill, but there is as bad a Will (there are no bad women, but there are bad men), a good Jack deserves a good Jill (a good man deserves a good woman). Selection of grammatical semantic fields that represent the opposition man - woman, is dictated here by internally-phrasal context, and this opposition is in a holistic sense of phraseological unit. Indefinite article a before anthroponyms Jack and Jill points to partial loss by them of onymic function, generalize them, as in the case with phraseological unit to give one a Roland for an Oliver.

Conclusion

Phraseological units with onomastic component present wide system of units, one of the most expressively coloured groups in phraseological fund of the English language.

Phraseological unit is a prolific source for researches. Various categories and analysis of idioms are the result of the work of human imagination and it is endless. Every case of proper names functioning in English phraseology is something new, fresh; it brings a new flavour to the text, a new colouring, and adds expressiveness.

Proper names in the corpus of investigated units are represented by the wide range of onyms. Anthroponyms can be considered as the most efficient components, such as: modern names of people (to a lesser extent – surnames), ancient names (names of biblical characters and ancient mythology), placenames and ethnonyms. We consider the use of phraseological units with onomastic component

from the view on its origin, and present the classification depending on the sphere of social life, which they present.

Mostly the onomastic component plays a decisive role in motivation plan of phraseological meaning. It not only causes the expressiveness and is the marker of national identity but also affects the semantics of phraseologisms. All of the observed idioms have been divided into groups according to their semantics, such as: human and society, personal qualities, emotions and feelings, financial conditions and relations, national and professional identity, relations in society, family relations, etc.

Phraseological units with proper names present the peculiarities of worldview and the stereotypes which exist in society. The overwhelming majority of them characterize a person and the relationships in society.

Our most important task was to show the national-cultural features of phraseological units with onomastic component. We have analysed many examples of them and explained their lingvocultural features using the descriptive method and method of comparative analysis.

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The presented article has provided a starting point, and further research can make the picture of phraseology involving proper names more accurate and complete. For example, future studies can use other corpora to verify the extent to which the tendencies and distributions observed in the diploma paper are borne out, or to explore cultural differences between national varieties of English.

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