
Phraseology as a Reflection of Linguocultural Values: A Comparative Study of Russian and French

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Annotation *This article explores phraseological units as a reflection of linguocultural values within Russian and French linguistic traditions. The study adopts a comparative approach and focuses on semantic, lexical, grammatical, and figurative features of phraseological expressions. Particular attention is given to the role of phraseology in encoding both universal human values and culture-specific meanings shaped by historical, social, and cognitive factors. The research demonstrates that Russian phraseology tends to emphasize emotional openness, spirituality, and collective experience, whereas French phraseology reflects pragmatism, rationality, and everyday material culture, especially in the domains of gastronomy and economic life. The article also examines cognitive differences manifested in phraseological semantics and highlights the importance of imagery in conveying national identity. Drawing on the works of leading scholars in phraseology and linguoculturology, the study confirms that phraseology serves as a key linguistic tool for understanding cultural worldview and intercultural communication. The findings reveal a deep interconnection between language, culture, and cognition, and underline the importance of phraseological analysis in modern linguistic research.*

Keywords *Phraseology, linguoculture, values, semantics, cultural identity, Russian language, French language, cognition*

Frazeologiya lingvokulturologik qadriyatlarining aks ettiruvchisi sifatida: rus va fransuz tillarining qiyosiy tadqiq

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Annotatsiya *Ushbu maqolada frazeologik birliklar rus va fransuz tillari misolida lingvokulturologik qadriyatlarining aks ettiruvchisi sifatida tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqot qiyosiy yondashuv asosida olib borilib, frazeologizmlarning semantik, leksik-grammatik va obrazli xususiyatlari o'rganiladi. Asosiy e'tibor frazeologiyaning umumiy insoniy qadriyatlar bilan bir qatorda tarixiy, ijtimoiy va kognitiv omillar ta'sirida shakllangan milliy xususiyatlarni ham ifodalash qobiliyatiga qaratilgan. Tadqiqot natijalariga ko'ra, rus frazeologiyasi hissiylik va ma'naviyatni aks ettiradi, fransuz frazeologiyasi esa pragmatizm va ratsionallikni ifodalaydi. Maqolada obrazlilikning ahamiyati ham ko'rib chiqiladi. Natijalar frazeologiya til va*

madaniyat o'rtasidagi bog'liqlikni ochib berishini ko'rsatadi. Maqola shuningdek frazeologik semantikada namoyon bo'ladigan kognitiv farqlarni tahlil qiladi hamda milliy identifikatsiyani ifodalashda obrazlilikning muhim ahamiyatini yoritadi. Frazeologiya va lingvokulturologiya sohasidagi yetakchi olimlarning ilmiy ishlari asosida olib borilgan tadqiqot shuni tasdiqlaydiki, frazeologiya madaniy dunyoqarashni anglash va madaniyatlararo muloqotni tushunishda muhim lingvistik vosita hisoblanadi. Tadqiqot natijalari til, madaniyat va tafakkur o'rtasidagi chuqur o'zaro bog'liqlikni ochib beradi hamda zamonaviy lingvistik tadqiqotlarda frazeologik tahlilning muhimligini ta'kidlaydi.

Kalit so'zlar Frazeologiya, lingvokultura, qadriyatlar, semantika, identitet, madaniyat, til, tafakkur, muloqot, qiyoslash

Фразеология как отражение ценностей лингвокультурного сообщества: сопоставительное исследование русского и французского языков

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Аннотация В данной статье рассматриваются фразеологические единицы как отражение ценностей лингвокультурного сообщества на материале русского и французского языков. Исследование носит сопоставительный характер и направлено на анализ семантических, лексико-грамматических и образных особенностей фразеологизмов. Особое внимание уделяется способности фразеологии отражать как универсальные человеческие ценности, так и национально-специфические смыслы, сформированные под влиянием исторических, социальных и когнитивных факторов. Установлено, что русская фразеология отражает эмоциональную открытость, духовность и коллективизм, тогда как французская фразеология акцентирует прагматизм, рациональность и материальную культуру. Анализ также показывает значимость образности и метафоричности. Результаты подтверждают важную роль фразеологии в изучении языковой картины мира.

Ключевые слова Фразеология, лингвокультура, ценности, семантика, идентичность, культура, язык, мышление, коммуникация, сопоставление

Introduction

Phraseology occupies a central position in modern linguistics, as it reflects not only the structural organization of language but also the

cultural, historical, and cognitive worldview of its speakers. Phraseological units are stable expressions with partially or fully reinterpreted meanings that accumulate centuries of

collective experience and cultural knowledge. Unlike free word combinations, they preserve traditional patterns of thinking and encode values, beliefs, and social norms in a condensed and figurative form. In contemporary linguistic research, phraseology is increasingly considered within the framework of linguoculturology, which studies the interaction between language and culture. Phraseological units function as a repository of national identity, reflecting traditions, customs, and behavioral norms of a particular linguistic community. Through phraseology, speakers not only communicate information but also express attitudes, emotions, and evaluations that are culturally specific.

The relevance of this study is determined by the growing importance of intercultural communication in the context of globalization. In real communication, language users often face difficulties when interpreting phraseological expressions in a foreign language, since their meanings are rarely transparent and cannot be understood through literal translation. Phraseological units require cultural competence, as they are deeply rooted in national traditions and historical development. Moreover, phraseology plays a significant role in shaping the linguistic worldview. It reflects how different cultures conceptualize reality, interpret human behavior, and evaluate social phenomena. Expressions related to emotions, morality, and interpersonal relations may vary significantly across languages, revealing important cultural differences.

The purpose of this article is to analyze phraseological units as a reflection of linguocultural values based on a comparative study of Russian and French. The study aims to identify both universal and culture-specific features of phraseology and to demonstrate how language encodes cultural meanings through stable expressions.

Literature review

The foundations of phraseological theory were established by Viktor Vinogradov, who

proposed a classification of phraseological units into fusions, unities, and combinations (Vinogradov, 1946). His approach highlighted the semantic cohesion and structural stability of phraseological expressions and remains influential in modern linguistics.

Further development of phraseological studies is associated with Nikolai Shansky, who expanded the concept of phraseology and emphasized its communicative function (Shansky, 1987). His work contributed to a broader understanding of phraseological units as essential elements of language use.

A significant shift toward cultural interpretation was introduced by Vera Telia, who argued that phraseological units reflect cultural stereotypes, beliefs, and values (Telia, 1996). According to her, phraseology is deeply embedded in the cultural consciousness of a linguistic community. From a cognitive perspective, Yuri Stepanov developed the idea that language forms a system of cultural concepts, and phraseology plays a crucial role in organizing this system (Stepanov, 2001). His theory highlights the relationship between language and conceptualization of reality.

The connection between phraseology and national identity was further explored by Valentina Maslova, who emphasized that phraseological units reflect the mentality and worldview of a people (Maslova, 2001). Similarly, Nina Arutyunova noted that language encodes evaluative meanings and cultural judgments, which are particularly evident in phraseology (Arutyunova, 1999).

The works of Alexander Kunin contributed to the understanding of idiomaticity and semantic indivisibility (Kunin, 1970). His research highlighted the complexity of phraseological meaning and its resistance to literal interpretation. Thus, modern phraseological research integrates structural, semantic, cultural, and cognitive approaches, making it a multidisciplinary field.

Methodology

The study is based on a qualitative comparative methodology aimed at identifying linguocultural features of phraseological units in Russian and French. The research combines semantic analysis, lexical and grammatical examination, and cognitive interpretation.

The material includes phraseological units extracted from dictionaries and linguistic sources. The analysis focuses on identifying cultural values encoded in phraseology and comparing their representation in the two languages.

The methodological framework is based on linguocultural theory, which considers language as a reflection of cultural experience. The study also employs elements of cognitive linguistics to analyze conceptual differences between languages.

Results

The analysis reveals that phraseological units reflect both universal human values and culture-specific meanings. It was found that Russian and French phraseologies differ significantly in their value orientation. Russian phraseology tends to emphasize emotional openness, spirituality, and collectivism. French phraseology, in contrast, reflects pragmatism, rationality, and attention to everyday life, particularly in areas such as gastronomy and economic activity.

The results also demonstrate that semantic and cognitive differences influence the interpretation of phraseological units. This confirms that phraseology is an essential tool for understanding cultural worldview and intercultural communication.

Discussion

Phraseological units serve as a powerful reflection of cultural values embedded in language and reveal how different societies perceive and interpret reality. They often contain metaphorical and symbolic meanings that are culturally specific and cannot be fully understood without background knowledge.

Russian phraseology is characterized by emotional richness, spirituality, and a strong

focus on interpersonal relationships. For example, expressions such as "to open one's soul" (*izlit' dushu*) and "a soul wide open" (*dusha naraspashku*) reflect sincerity, emotional openness, and trust, which are highly valued in Russian culture. Another example is "to meet with bread and salt" (*vstrechat' khlebom-sol'yu*), which symbolizes hospitality and generosity. These expressions demonstrate that Russian culture places great importance on emotional connection and human warmth.

In contrast, French phraseology reflects pragmatism, rationality, and attention to everyday life. Expressions such as "to earn one's bread" (*gagner son pain*) emphasize economic activity and practical survival. Another example is "to defend one's steak" (*défendre son bifteck*), meaning to defend one's interests, which reflects a pragmatic and sometimes material-oriented worldview. Similarly, expressions related to gastronomy, such as "to make an omelette" (*faire une omelette*), meaning to break or damage something, illustrate the cultural importance of food in French society. Differences in phraseological imagery clearly demonstrate cultural distinctions. For instance, the Russian expression "to go around the issue" (*khodit' vokrug da okolo*) reflects indirectness in communication, while French expressions tend to emphasize clarity and logical structure. Another example is the French phrase "to speak French like a Spanish cow" (*parler français comme une vache espagnole*), meaning to speak poorly, which represents a culturally specific metaphor that does not have a direct equivalent in Russian.

The semantic structure of phraseological units is often non-compositional, meaning that their meaning cannot be derived from individual components. This characteristic makes phraseology particularly complex for language learners. For example, expressions such as "to fall into a trap" or the Russian "popast' vprosak" require cultural knowledge for proper interpretation. Without

understanding the historical or cultural background, the meaning remains unclear. Lexical composition also reflects cultural priorities. Russian phraseology frequently includes references to nature, folklore, and traditional life. For example, "a bear stepped on one's ear" (*medved' na ukho nastupil*) means a lack of musical ability and reflects the importance of animal imagery in Russian culture. French phraseology, on the other hand, contains numerous expressions related to food, finance, and social life, which highlights different cultural values.

Thus, phraseological units function not only as linguistic elements but also as cultural symbols that reveal differences in worldview, values, and social norms. Their analysis allows researchers to better understand the interaction between language, culture, and cognition.

Conclusion

The study confirms that phraseology is a powerful reflection of linguocultural values and an essential component of language as a cultural system. Phraseological units encode complex meanings that combine semantic, cognitive, and cultural elements. The comparative analysis of Russian and French phraseology demonstrates that, while universal values are present in both languages, each linguistic community develops its own system of priorities and representations.

The findings highlight the importance of phraseology for understanding cultural differences and improving intercultural communication. Further research may explore additional languages and investigate changes in phraseology under the influence of globalization.

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