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THE SEMANTICAL ANALYSIS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH THE COMPONENT OF CLOTHES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Annotation The article investigates the semantic peculiarities of English phraseological units with the component of “clothes”. The research analyzes their denotative and connotative meanings, semantic classification, metaphorical transformation, and linguocultural significance. The study applies descriptive, semantic, componential, and contextual methods of analysis. The article demonstrates that clothing-related phraseological units often express human character, social status, emotions, behavior, morality, and interpersonal relations.

Keywords: phraseological units, semantics, clothes component, idioms, metaphor, connotation, English phraseology, semantic analysis, linguoculture, lexical meaning.

Annotatsiya Mazkur maqolada ingliz tilidagi kiyim komponentli frazeologik birikmalarning semantik xususiyatlari o'rganib chiqilgan. Unda ingliz tilidagi kiyim komponentli frazeologik birimlar tematik tarzda tahlil qilingan va guruhlariga ajratilgan. Kiyim komponentli frazeologik birliklarning ingliz tilidagi o'ziga xos jihatlari ochib berilgan.

Kalit so'zlar: frazeologik birikma, semantika, kiyim komponentli, idiomalar, metafora, connotatsiya, ingliz frazeologiyasi, semantic tahlil, lingvomadaniyat, leksik ma'no.

Аннотация Данная статья посвящена изучению семантических особенностей фразеологических единиц с компонентом одежды в английском языке. Даны подробные описание фразеологических единиц с компонентом одежды и их тематический анализ употребления в современном английском языке.

Ключевые слова: фразеологическая единица, семантика, с компонентом одежды, идиомы, метафора, коннотация, английская фразеология, семантический анализ, лингвокультурология, лексическое значение.

Introduction

Phraseology is one of the most expressive and culturally rich branches of linguistics. Phraseological units preserve historical memory, cultural traditions, and national worldview. They reflect the mentality of speakers and provide insight into social behavior, customs, and values. English phraseology contains numerous idioms associated with everyday objects, including articles of clothing. Clothes have always been closely connected with social identity, profession, wealth, morality, and emotions. Consequently, clothing vocabulary became a productive source for phraseological formation. Phraseological units with the component of clothes possess both literal and figurative meanings. Their semantics are often based on metaphorical transfer, symbolic associations, and cultural stereotypes. Expressions such as “tighten one’s belt,” “roll up one’s sleeves,” and “wolf in sheep’s clothing” demonstrate how clothing elements symbolize economic hardship, readiness for work, or hypocrisy.

The semantic analysis of phraseological units with clothing components is important because it reveals mechanisms of meaning formation, semantic transformation, and cultural conceptualization in language. Such units also play a vital role in communication, literature, media discourse, and intercultural interaction.

The purpose of this article is to analyze the semantic characteristics of English phraseological units containing clothing components and to determine their linguistic and cultural functions.

The objectives of the research are:

- To define phraseological units and their semantic structure;
- To classify clothing-related phraseological units semantically;
- To investigate metaphorical and connotative meanings;
- To identify cultural and cognitive aspects of clothing idioms;
- To analyze examples from modern English usage.

Literature Review

The theory of phraseology has been widely studied by many linguists. Russian linguist Viktor Vinogradov classified phraseological units according to semantic cohesion and stability. He divided phraseological units into phraseological fusions, unities, and combinations. His classification became fundamental in phraseological studies. British linguist A. V. Kunin made a significant contribution to English phraseology. Kunin defined phraseological units as stable combinations of words with partially or completely transferred meanings. According to him, phraseological units are characterized by stability, idiomaticity, and reproducibility. Leonard Bloomfield considered phraseological expressions as fixed forms functioning as single lexical items. Charles Bally emphasized

the emotional and stylistic nature of phraseological expressions. Modern linguists such as George Lakoff and Mark Johnson investigated metaphorical conceptualization in language. Their cognitive theory explains how idioms emerge from conceptual metaphors rooted in human experience.

Research on clothing-related phraseological units demonstrates that clothes symbolize social identity, moral values, and emotional states. Many scholars emphasize that clothing idioms are culturally conditioned and reflect historical traditions of English-speaking societies. Despite extensive research on phraseology, the semantic analysis of clothing-component phraseological units remains insufficiently explored, especially from linguocultural and cognitive perspectives. Therefore, this article aims to fill this gap.

Methodology

The research is based on qualitative linguistic analysis. The following methods were applied:

1. Descriptive Method: this method was used to identify and describe phraseological units with clothing components in English.
2. Semantic Analysis: the meanings of phraseological units were analyzed according to denotative and connotative aspects.
3. Componential Analysis: the semantic structure of clothing lexemes such as “hat,” “shoe,” “belt,” “glove,” and “sleeve” was examined.
4. Contextual Analysis: examples from literary works, dictionaries, and spoken English were analyzed in context.
5. Comparative and Cognitive Analysis: metaphorical meanings and conceptual associations were studied from cognitive and linguocultural perspectives.

The material for analysis was collected from English phraseological dictionaries, corpora, literary texts, and online linguistic resources.

Theoretical Foundations of Phraseological Semantics

Phraseological semantics studies the meaning structure of fixed expressions. Unlike free word combinations, phraseological units possess semantic integrity. Their overall meaning cannot usually be understood from individual lexical components. For example, the idiom “tighten one’s belt” does not literally refer to adjusting a belt. Instead, it metaphorically means reducing expenses during difficult times. Phraseological meaning includes: denotative meaning and connotative meaning;

Emotional and evaluative coloring.

Stylistic characteristics, cultural associations. semantic transfer in phraseological units often occurs through metaphor; metonymy; hyperbole; symbolism.

Clothing components in idioms usually function symbolically because clothes are connected with protection, social status, appearance, and behavior. Phraseological units with clothing components can be classified into several semantic groups:

1. Phraseological Units Expressing Social Status: clothes traditionally indicate social position, wealth, and profession. Examples: “Born with a silver spoon in one’s mouth”, “In someone’s shoes” “Blue-collar worker”, “White-collar worker”. The idiom “white-collar worker” symbolizes office employment, whereas “blue-collar worker” refers to manual labor. The semantic opposition reflects social stratification.

2. Phraseological Units Expressing Poverty and Economic Conditions Examples: “Tighten one’s belt”, “Lose one’s shirt”, “Without a shirt on one’s back”. The belt symbolizes restriction and self-control. “Lose one’s shirt” metaphorically indicates complete financial ruin.

3. Phraseological Units Expressing Hypocrisy and Deception Examples: “Wolf in sheep’s clothing”, “Under the cloak of”. The idiom “wolf in sheep’s clothing” originates from religious and literary traditions. Clothes here symbolize disguise and false appearance.

4. Phraseological Units Expressing Readiness and Activity Examples: “Roll up one’s sleeves”, “Pull one’s socks up”. Sleeves and socks symbolize preparation and effort. These idioms motivate discipline and active behavior.

5. Phraseological Units Expressing Authority and Power Examples: “Wear the pants”, “Iron glove”, “Hand in glove”. The semantic connection between clothing and power reflects patriarchal social traditions.

6. Phraseological Units Expressing Emotional States Examples: “Get hot under the collar”, “Keep one’s shirt on”. The collar and shirt metaphorically represent emotional restraint and irritation. Different clothing lexemes possess specific symbolic meanings in phraseology. Hat: The word “hat” is associated with profession, authority, and responsibility. Examples: “Wear many hats”, “Hat in hand”. “Wear many hats” means performing multiple roles. “Hat in hand” symbolizes humility.

Shoe: Shoes symbolize experience and personal position. Examples: “In someone’s shoes”, “If the shoe fits”. Shoes metaphorically represent life circumstances and identity. Belt: The belt symbolizes restriction and discipline. Example: “Tighten one’s belt”. The semantic shift occurs from physical tightening to economic limitation.

Glove: Gloves symbolize control, elegance, or conflict. Examples: “Hand in glove”, “Throw down the gauntlet”. These idioms reflect cooperation and challenge.

Sleeve: Sleeves are connected with work and hidden intentions. Examples: “Roll up one’s sleeves”, “Have something up one’s sleeve”. The sleeve symbolizes preparation and secrecy.

Metaphorical Nature of Clothing Idioms: metaphor is the principal mechanism of semantic transformation in phraseological units. According to cognitive linguistics, metaphor reflects conceptual thinking. Clothing idioms emerge from embodied human experience. For example: clothes are social identity, clothes are protection clothes are behavior, clothes are moral masks.

The idiom “wolf in sheep’s clothing” conceptualizes morality through external appearance. Similarly, “wear the pants” conceptualizes authority through clothing traditionally associated with masculinity. The metaphorical structure of clothing idioms demonstrates how physical experience becomes abstract meaning. Connotative Meaning and Evaluation: phraseological units usually contain strong emotional and evaluative connotations.

Positive connotations: “Roll up one’s sleeves” (hardworking), “Pull one’s socks up” (self-improvement).

Negative connotations: “Lose one’s shirt” (failure), “Wolf in sheep’s clothing” (deception).

Neutral connotations: “Wear many hats” (multiple functions), Connotative meaning depends on cultural norms and communicative context. Linguocultural Aspects of Clothing Phraseological Units are very significant as language and culture are inseparable. Clothing idioms reflect English cultural traditions, social hierarchy, morality, and historical development.

For example, hats historically symbolized social respectability in British culture. Therefore, many idioms involving hats express politeness or social role. The expression “keep it under your hat” means keeping something secret. The hat metaphorically functions as a container for hidden information. The idiom “white-collar worker” emerged during industrialization when office employees wore white shirts. Religious and literary influences also shaped clothing idioms. Biblical symbolism contributed to expressions like “wolf in sheep’s clothing.” Thus, clothing phraseological units preserve historical and cultural memory. Structural Features of Clothing Phraseological Units From the structural point of view, clothing phraseological units may function as: verbal phrases; nominal phrases; adjectival expressions;

Sentential idioms.: Verbal Phraseological Units “Roll up one’s sleeves”, “Keep one’s shirt on”.

Nominal Phraseological Units: “Wolf in sheep’s clothing”, “Blue-collar worker”
Sentential Idioms: “If the shoe fits, wear it”. Structural stability is an important feature of phraseological units. Their lexical components are usually fixed.

Functional Role in Communication Clothing idioms perform several communicative functions expressiveness, emotional impact, evaluation humor. Cultural representation: in literary discourse, idioms enrich characterization and narrative style. In spoken communication, they increase emotional expressiveness and naturalness. Mass media and political discourse frequently employ clothing metaphors to influence audiences.

Discussion

The semantic analysis demonstrates that clothing-related phraseological units represent an important fragment of the English linguistic worldview. Their meanings are formed through metaphorical reinterpretation of everyday clothing items. The semantics of such idioms are closely connected with:
Human experience;

Social interaction;

Cultural symbolism;

Historical development.

Most clothing idioms contain evaluative and emotional meanings. They often describe moral behavior, economic conditions, authority, or interpersonal relations.

The analysis also shows that clothing components possess stable symbolic associations:

Hat → role and status;

Shoe → experience and position;

Belt → restriction;

Sleeve → preparation and secrecy;

Glove → control and relationship.

These semantic patterns reveal universal and culture-specific aspects of conceptualization.

Conclusion

Phraseological units with clothing components constitute a rich and expressive layer of English phraseology. Their semantics are based on metaphorical transfer, symbolic associations, and cultural traditions. Clothing idioms reflect social hierarchy, emotional states, morality, power relations, and human behavior.

The study revealed that clothing lexemes acquire figurative meanings through cognitive and cultural mechanisms. The semantic analysis demonstrated the interaction between literal and figurative meanings, denotation and connotation, language and culture. The research confirms that phraseological units are valuable sources for understanding national mentality and conceptual worldview. Clothing idioms preserve historical experience and cultural symbolism while enriching communicative expressiveness.

Further research may compare English clothing phraseological units with those of Uzbek and other languages from contrastive and linguocultural perspectives.

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