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"LEXICAL AND SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS
CONTAINING ANIMAL-RELATED COMPONENTS"

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Annotation: This article focuses on the lexical-semantic analysis of phraseological units that contain animal-related components. It highlights how such phraseological units reflect people's worldview and the unique perspectives expressed in the linguistic representation of the world. Phraseologisms are among the most commonly used elements in speech, and the ability to use them correctly enhances the expressiveness of our speech. The analysis of phraseological units containing zoological components is provided, along with a lexical-semantic examination of several expressions.

Key words: Phraseological units, Lexical-semantic analysis, Animal-related components, Worldview, Linguistic representation, Speech activity, Expressive speech.

Kalit so'zlar: Frazelogik birliklar, Leksik-semantik tahlil, Hayvonlarga oid komponentlar, Dunyoqarash, Lingvistik rasm, Nutq faoliyati, Jozibador nutq, Zoo komponent.

Ключевые слова: Фразеологические единицы, Лексико-семантический анализ, Анималистический компонент, Картина мира, Языковой образ, Речевая деятельность, Убеждающая речь, Зоокомпонент.

Kirish.

Phraseology is derived from the Greek word *phrasis* (expression, phrase) and *logos* (study, doctrine). Stable combinations are linguistic units formed by the fixed relationship of two or more words, introduced into speech as ready-made expressions, and stored in the memory of language users as potential linguistic elements.

A phrase or expression conveys a particular concept or meaning within a sentence, such as "his face is like thunder," "his heart sank," "he lost his composure," or "he made a blunder," etc. A phrase is a fundamental unit of speech that expresses a complete thought and serves as a semantic unit. A sentence consists of one or more words that form a meaningful grammatical unit, created through a specific syntactic structure. The study of phrases is called phraseology. Phraseological expressions convey meaning more strongly than their synonymous words and vividly reflect imagery. These expressions are figurative representations of clear and precise conclusions drawn by people based on their experiences, observations of various life events, and assessments of different human actions and conditions.

Although phraseological units express a unified meaning like words, phraseological meaning differs from lexical meaning. Phraseological meaning consists of additional nuances. The information conveyed by a phraseological unit about characteristics, actions, and other concepts is referred to as phraseological meaning. Even when phraseological



Date: 15th February-2025

units serve as synonyms for words, their meanings are not entirely identical. The scope of phraseological meaning is broader and more complex than lexical meaning. In many phraseological expressions, some components do not carry individual lexical meaning.

Lexical-Semantic Analysis of Phraseological Units Related to Animals

Lexical-semantic analysis involves uncovering the meaning of each word in a text.

Lexical semantics is a branch of linguistics that systematically studies word meanings.

Two main questions that lexical semantics examines are:

- (a) How should the meanings of words be described?
- (b) How should meaning variations across different contexts be accounted for?

Understanding **contextual variation** leads to two perspectives:

1. The process of selecting meanings from a fixed set of possibilities.
2. The creation of new meanings using metaphors and metonymy.

By examining **synchronous** (current language use) and **diachronic** (historical language change) meaning shifts, lexical semantics explores how words mediate between concepts and linguistic structures. Words are not just collections of semantic features but active participants in grammatical and compositional operations within a language.

Now, let's analyze some phraseological units that contain animal-related components.

Animal-Related Idioms and Their Lexical-Semantic Analysis

1. **Hardworking like an ant / Busy like a bee** (chumolidek mehnatkash / aridek band)

○ The word "**bee**" in English appears in phrases like "*busy bee*" and "*worker bee*," which convey the meanings of "hardworking" and "industrious."

○ In Uzbek, the equivalent zoonym is "**ant**" (**chumoli**), which is sometimes used in phrases like "*chumolidek mehnatsevar*."

○ Other animals associated with physical strength and endurance include **horse, ox, mule, tiger**.

○ Similar idioms in Uzbek: *otdek baquvvat, eshshakday mehnatkash, itdek mehnat qilmoq*.

2. **To pig out** ("to eat too much") — cho'chqaga o'xshab bo'kib yemoq

○ This idiom describes **overeating** and gluttony, likening the act to pigs, which eat messily and do not know when to stop.

○ Similar Uzbek expression: *otdek yemoq*.

3. **When pigs fly** (cho'chqalar uchganda)

○ Since pigs cannot fly, this phrase expresses something that is **impossible**.

○ Uzbek equivalent: *Tuyaning dumi yerga tekkanda* (since a camel's tail never touches the ground, it means something will never happen).

4. **To chicken out** — qattiq qo'rqmoq

○ Since chickens are timid animals, this phrase describes **backing out of something due to fear**.

○ Uzbek equivalent: *Tovuqdan qo'rqsang, tariq ekma* (if you are afraid of chickens, don't plant millet).



Date: 15th February-2025

5. **Sly as a fox** (tulcidek ayyor)
 - A **fox** symbolizes cleverness and trickery.
 - Similar Uzbek idiom: *Ilonni yog'ini yalagan* (someone highly cunning).
6. **To be a dark horse** ("a person who keeps interests and ideas secret, especially someone with surprising abilities or skills")
 - This phrase refers to a person who is **mysterious yet talented**.
 - Uzbek equivalent: *Og'ziga talqon solgandek jim yurmoq* (someone who keeps quiet about their abilities).
7. **To be a pussycat** ("a very gentle person")
 - Describes someone **kind and soft-spoken**.
8. **To be bull-headed** ("a very stubborn person")
 - Equivalent to **eshakdek qaysar** (stubborn as a donkey) in Uzbek.
9. **To be in the doghouse** ("to be in trouble")
 - Uzbek equivalent: **qattiq kulfatga tushmoq** (to fall into great misfortune).
10. **To smell fishy** ("something seems dishonest or suspicious")
 - Similar to **kalamush bo'lmoq** (to betray or be untrustworthy).
11. **Like a bull in a china shop** ("to behave clumsily or recklessly")
 - Uzbek equivalent: **gandiraklab yurmoq** (to walk carelessly).
12. **To talk the back legs off a donkey** ("to talk excessively")
 - Uzbek equivalent: **ko'p vaysamoq** (to talk too much).

Many English idioms have **direct or conceptual equivalents** in Uzbek. While some phrases are universal (e.g., "sly as a fox" exists in both languages), others are unique due to **cultural and linguistic differences**. For example, "when pigs fly" is conceptually similar to "tuyaning dumi yerga tekkanda" but uses a different animal. These expressions **reflect cultural perspectives on animals** and how they symbolize different traits in different languages.

CONCLUSION

Every language has its own history and unique stages of development. Over centuries, the **vernacular language** evolves and improves, eventually reaching the status of a **national language** and later becoming a **state language**.

In many languages, **human characteristics** are metaphorically represented through **animal names**. Phraseological units that contain **animal-related components** are based on the **objective or subjective qualities** of animals, as perceived through human creativity and thought.

In phraseological expressions, **animal traits** are often attributed to **human personality, appearance, or behavior**. The **linguocultural study** of phraseological units with zoonymic components helps us understand human **perceptions of themselves and the world around them**.

Since many phraseological units are **metaphorical**, they are rich in **imagery**. Idioms involving **human body parts** are among the most frequently used elements in



Date: 15th February-2025

speech. Using such expressions correctly makes our speech **more expressive and engaging**.

This article presents an **analysis of phraseological units containing zoo components** and provides a **lexical-semantic interpretation** of several idioms. These phraseological units often describe or name **inanimate objects, situations, and phenomena**, reflecting people's **worldview** and the unique features of their **linguistic representation of reality**.

However, some **individual zoonymic expressions** do not fully correspond to the **differential semantic structure** of the original animal term. When translating, it is essential to **consider the different semantic connotations** that the same zoonym may have in two languages.

In summary, the **phraseological nature** of meaning determines the **semantic and psychological relationships** between expressions. Unlike **lexical relationships**, which focus on the semantic connection between words and phrases, phraseological units function as **fixed expressions with connotations, imagery, and stable meanings**.

Phraseological units are **linguistic and cultural elements** that **carry cultural heritage**, providing insights into **objective reality and society**. Therefore, these expressions serve as a **"treasury of wisdom"**, preserving a nation's **mentality and traditions**, and passing them down from **generation to generation**—a true linguistic and cultural legacy.

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Date: 15th February-2025

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