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## **ABOUT THE ETYMOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS**

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**Abstract.** This article examines the problem of etymological analysis of phraseological units. It is noted that the main goal of etymological analysis should be considered to be the identification of the image underlying the phraseological unit. The main tasks of etymology as a science are considered.

**Keywords:** phraseological unit, etymology, realia, image, internal form, sign, extralinguistic.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The etymological approach to studying the vocabulary and phraseology of a language provides rich material for studying various features of a particular language community. The connection between phraseology and cultural and national traditions has been proven. However, in order to obtain objective data on national consciousness through the prism of phraseology, an etymological analysis of phraseological units is necessary to confirm their ethnic linguistic affiliation.

The word “etymology” has two Greek roots: *étymon* – “truth, the main meaning of a word” and *lógos* – “concept, teaching”. This term usually refers to 1) the section of linguistics that studies the origin and history of individual words and morphemes; 2) the origin and history of words and morphemes.

Etymology as a section of modern linguistics sets the following goals:

- to determine in which language and at what historical stage of its development the analyzed word arose;

- to establish the primary motivation of the word, for which purpose to find the producing word, the word-formation model and the original meaning of the word;
- to find out the ways and reasons for changing the primary semantics and historical morphemic composition of the word.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The material for research of this nature is phraseological units of the language, selected by the method of continuous sampling from dictionaries of phraseological units, including the "Phraseological Dictionary of the Russian Language" edited by A.Molotkov and the "Large Phraseological Dictionary" edited by V.Telia.

The following methods were used in the course of the work:

1. Etymological analysis - to identify the origin and primary meanings of the components of phraseological units.
2. Comparative-historical method - to establish the connection of phraseological units with historical events, cultural phenomena, and realities of the past.
3. Method of semantic analysis - to determine the modern meanings of phraseological units and identify semantic shifts.
4. Descriptive method - to characterize the structure, grammatical and stylistic features of phraseological units.
5. Method of quantitative analysis - to identify statistical patterns in the use of various types of phraseological units.

The use of these methods allows for a comprehensive analysis of the etymology and semantics of the selected phraseological units of the Russian language.

## **RESULTS**

It is necessary to mention that linguists talk about different ways of the emergence of phraseological units in the language, pointing both to the sources of

replenishment of the phraseological fund of the language, such as borrowings, fiction, quotation from the Bible, and to the ways of forming phraseological units in the course of the historical development of the language (transfer of meaning and changes in the meaning of phrases, alliteration, use of archaisms, metaphorical use of phrases and individual components in their composition, i.e. semantic methods). Etymological analysis of phraseological units, taking into account these methods, becomes more complete and theoretically meaningful.

The direct object of etymology is mainly the so-called “obscure words” in which the connection between form and content is unclear to native speakers. In most words existing in the modern language, their internal form is clear, that is, we can answer the question, “why is it called that?” “Defining the internal form of a word is possible because a word as a name is initially, when it arises, always motivated. Naming this or that object of objective reality, people relate it to other phenomena of the world around them. This leads to the fact that this object or phenomenon receives a name by using the name of other objects or phenomena that are in one way or another connected or correlative with it.” However, over time, for various reasons, the motivation for the emergence of the meaning of a word can be lost, and then words begin to function as purely conventional, unmotivated designations: mirror, soldier, week, etc. And only etymological analysis restores what speakers have forgotten [3].

Until recently, etymological analysis included the following main tasks:

- 1) determining the original or borrowed nature of a phraseological unit;
- 2) establishing the time of its appearance in the Russian language as a certain significant unit with a certain meaning, lexical and grammatical composition and structure;
- 3) reconstructing its original form and structural and semantic character;
- 4) clarifying the image underlying the phraseological unit, if it appeared in the language as a metaphorical name [1, c.7].

Accordingly, etymological research on specific phraseological units was carried out with varying degrees of elaboration. A partial solution to the above-mentioned problems was sufficient, i.e., to put it simply, the etymology of phraseological units was a unique value. All the tasks of etymological analysis that were solved were equivalent, since the results obtained remained unclaimed, historical references of no practical value.

The most important goal of etymological analysis should be considered to be the identification of the image underlying the phraseological unit. All other tasks are or should be accompanying precisely this main goal of etymological analysis. Here, first of all, on the mechanism of formation of phraseological units: figurative basis of phraseological units - clothing the content of the image in verbal form - phraseological meaning - phraseological unit - semantic reduction of the components of phraseological units - grammatical reduction of the components and phraseological units.

Originally Russian phraseological units were formed in various ways. Depending on the linguistic material that formed the basis of the future phraseological unit, as well as the method of phraseologization (taking into account both linguistic and extralinguistic factors), several basic methods of forming phraseological units can be outlined:

1. Rethinking free word combinations: *попасть впросак, пройти (сквозь) огонь, воду и (медные трубы), пускать/пустить пыль в глаза, обвести вокруг пальца* etc. This is the main way of forming phraseological units;

2. Rethinking stable combinations: *чистой воды, гиена огненная, до скончания века* etc.;

3. Formation based on the model of already existing expressions: *живой труп* (by analogy with phraseological units of the type *белая ворона*);

4. Formation of phraseological units based on the author's turns of phrase: *слона-то я и не заметил* (I.Krylov), *дистанция огромного размера* (A.Griboyedov), *рожденный ползать летать не может* (M.Gorky) and others;

5. Formation of phraseological units based on proverbs and sayings: *старый воробей из старого воробья на мякине не проведешь, колоть глаза из правда глаза колет* etc.;

6. Formation of phraseological units by rethinking terminological combinations: *катиться по наклонной плоскости* [1].

In this chain of phraseologization elements, the dominant position is occupied by the figurative basis of the unit. In phraseologization, it is what is called an internal form in lexicology. This initial link in the mechanism of formation of a phraseological unit, the author defines as "a logical image of a specific or specifically perceived reality, created on the basis of the sensation and conceptual comprehension of reality by an individual, which localizes and coordinates all the semantic and grammatical specificity of phraseological units according to the real relationship of things in the world" [2, p. 36].

Such an understanding of the practical significance for the functioning of the phraseological unit of the value sought in the etymological analysis allows us to evaluate both the internal form and the goals of etymological research in a completely different way. According to the author, such an understanding of the specifics of the internal form of the phraseological unit brings to the forefront etymological research in phraseology, since in the functional aspect the internal form is an orthological essence. The etymological analysis of the phraseological unit is a path from the linguistic essence of the sign to its extralinguistic basis, i.e. the image - the ultimate goal of such research [2, p. 142].

"Etymological analysis of phraseological units is always a "piecemeal", "atomic" study. The recently applied modelability (identification of the initial structural-semantic model of the phrase) in etymological analysis of phraseological units is fully justified only to a certain extent, up to the reconstruction of the initial structural-semantic model, and then the specification of the CF should follow on the basis of ethnographic material with subsequent linguistic verification of its reliability. Let us note at the same time that modelability in etymological analysis is not always

effective" [2, p. 143]; "A purely linguistic criterion for the objectivity of establishing the image at the last stage can serve, again, as at the first stage of analysis, semantics, compatibility, form-changing possibilities of the phraseological unit, i.e. direct implementation of those provisions on the CF that are given in its definition" [2, p. 143].

## **CONCLUSION**

The conducted research showed that the etymological analysis of phraseological units is an important tool for identifying their origin, primary meanings and subsequent semantic transformations.

The analysis of the factual material allowed us to establish that phraseological units of the Russian language have various sources of origin - from the Old Russian language, ancient Slavic mythological ideas, borrowings from other languages, historical realities, etc. Tracing the etymology of phraseological units makes it possible to better understand their internal form, the motivation of figurative components, and also to identify the mechanisms for rethinking primary meanings.

The results of the conducted etymological analysis showed that the most resistant to semantic transformations are phraseological units that go back to the Old Russian cultural tradition, biblical stories, and folk wisdom. At the same time, phraseological units borrowed from other languages are most often subject to more significant semantic shifts in the process of adaptation to the Russian language system.

Thus, the etymological approach to the study of phraseology allows not only to reconstruct the history of the origin and development of individual phraseological units, but also to reveal the features of the national and cultural specificity of the linguistic picture of the world. Further research in this direction seems promising for a deeper understanding of the relationship between language and culture.

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