



GRADUAL FUNCTIONS OF PHRASEOLOGISMS IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE FROM SEMANTIC PERSPECTIVE

Niyozova Mashhura Usmonovna

Email: niyozova.86@mail.ru

Abstract: The evolution of communication, particularly through the integration of stable expressions, phrases, and fixed lexical combinations, has significantly shaped the development of speech culture and communication processes. A key area of study in modern linguistics focuses on evaluating the quality of phraseological unit usage, exploring classification methods, and establishing systematization approaches that align with the stylistic and contextual features of these linguistic elements. This article explores the gradual functions of phraseologisms from a semantic perspective in contemporary linguistics. Additionally, it examines the complexities of their semantic structure, their contextual relevance, and their use across various modes of communication.

Key words: Fixed expressions, phraseological expressions, phraseological units, gradual semantics, context, translation.

INTRODUCTION

In today's linguistic development, the use of phraseological units has gained increasing importance, contributing a unique personal style, artistic expression, and sometimes a scientific or deliberate message to both spoken and written language. Utilizing phraseological units is a communicative strategy that not only enhances the overall quality of language expression but also effectively conveys meaningful messages to listeners while improving linguistic accuracy. As modern culture continues to evolve, new phraseological units, idiomatic expressions, and unique lexical combinations are constantly emerging in languages around the world. These linguistic tools serve the dual function of highlighting individual speech styles and reflecting the distinctive characteristics of specific language communities.

Moreover, phraseological expressions generally follow a consistent structural pattern, with fixed lexical elements and often completely redefined semantic meanings. This characteristic of phraseological expressions opens up new possibilities for exploring semantic subtleties, investigating their etymological origins, and assessing their potential uses. Phraseological units play a crucial role as a key component of speech culture and the cultural traditions of various societies. Therefore, conducting extensive research to determine their applications in different fields is essential. Such research is significant not only for preserving and promoting cultural heritage but also for supporting the advancement of contemporary linguistic practices.

The main goal of this study is to provide a comprehensive analysis of gradual functions of phraseological units within the scope of modern linguistics. This research examines the unique aspects of their classification, systematization, semantic analysis, and the identification of their lexical and semantic roots. A key focus of the investigation is the systematic organization and application of phraseological units in contemporary linguistics, including exploring promising areas for their use and the complexities involved in developing and using analytical tools. To achieve this, it is necessary to clarify the core concepts related to phraseological units, fixed expressions, and the nuances of constructing these phraseological structures. Additionally, a vital part of the study is to gain a deep understanding of the effective use of these constructions in communication processes.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Scholars have increasingly focused on the complexities of phraseological units in contemporary linguistics, exploring aspects such as classification, systematization, semantic analysis, and their appropriate contextual usage, while also considering the cultural, communicative, and professional dimensions of stable expressions.

Phraseologisms, as a core area of study in contemporary linguistics, have been extensively analyzed by scholars for their structural, semantic, and functional complexities. The research on phraseological units covers various aspects such as classification, semantic analysis, evaluative meaning, and their role in communication processes. This review outlines key studies that have shaped our understanding of the gradual semantics and evaluative functions of phraseologisms.

A significant focus of phraseological studies is the concept of "gradual semantics", which refers to the expression of varying degrees of intensity within the meaning of a phraseological unit. V.P. Zhukov [2. 177] explores this aspect by introducing the concept of gradosemes, which signal varying degrees of intensity in a characteristic, such as "very" or "strongly." This idea is further expanded in the works of, who examine how nominal phraseologisms possess general and specific semantic features, often complicated by degrees of intensity in describing a person or object.

Research by Vinogradov [1], Zhukov [2], and Molotkov [7] further highlights the structural categorization of phraseological units into different morphological classes, such as nominal, adverbial, and adjectival phraseologisms. Among these, "adverbial phraseologisms" are of particular interest due to their causal semantics, which indicate the reason behind an action. For example, the phraseological unit "за всяко просто" (for no particular reason) demonstrates how such units combine causal, concessive, and manner-of-action meanings. This syncretic nature of phraseologisms allows them to perform multiple functions within a sentence, offering both descriptive and evaluative dimensions.

Overall, the existing literature provides a comprehensive framework for understanding phraseologisms from both a semantic and functional perspective. However, further research is needed to explore how new phraseological units adapt to modern communication contexts, particularly in light of technological and cultural changes. The integration of these units into everyday language use continues to evolve, making phraseologisms a dynamic and fruitful area for ongoing linguistic investigation.

MATERIALS AND THE METHODS

The study employs rigorous scientific research methodologies to conduct an in-depth analysis of the unique characteristics of phraseological units in contemporary linguistics. It also explores the potential for systematic categorization and semantic analysis of these units. The investigation uses the search method to examine a corpus of phraseological expressions and fixed idiomatic constructions, allowing for the identification of key commonalities and methods to reveal their underlying essence. This method is also used to evaluate prevalent techniques for classifying and organizing phraseological units, establishing their applicability across various language groups and dialects.

The introduction of the comparative method serves as a crucial analytical tool for exploring the nuances associated with the use of phraseological units with varying semantic connotations and those formed through lexical constructions. This method helps to develop a comprehensive understanding of the specific features governing the usage of such phraseological units. The analysis method has been pivotal in uncovering distinct aspects of comparison and defining the characteristic attributes of phraseological units, particularly in their application and potential within communication processes.

ANALYSIS AND THE RESULTS

In linguistics, a phraseologism is defined as "a reproducible expression, constructed based on the model of coordinating and subordinating word combinations (of both non-predicative and predicative nature), possessing a holistic meaning and combining with a specific word form" [3. 158].

In phraseological units of all lexical-grammatical categories, there is a degree of gradual semantics: "The general semantic feature in nominal phraseologisms is the indication of a person or an object, and the specific one is the indication of a characteristic of the given person or object, often complicated by the degree of intensity of that characteristic" [ibid].

V. P. Zhukov highlights the intensifying meaning in phraseologisms, which is expressed through

gradosemes such as "very," "strongly," "to the highest degree." A gradoseme is defined as "any discrete unit (representative) that signals the position of a graded word relative to the zero level on the scale of gradation" [2. 177].

All phraseological units, without exception, carry an evaluative meaning because they contain an imagery component in their semantics. The evaluative meaning belongs to the phraseologism as a whole, not to its individual components, which confirms one of its main characteristics—integrity. The presence of evaluative meaning can often be easily identified through the analysis of explanatory definitions. "Evaluative meaning refers to a positive or negative characterization of a person or object based on its stable, permanent properties, rather than accidental or temporary ones" [2. 57].

Based on this definition, the scholar distinguishes between phraseologisms with inherent evaluative meaning and those with evaluative usage. The inherent evaluative meaning of a phraseologism is its constant feature, independent of contextual conditions. Phraseologisms with evaluative usage acquire this meaning depending on the context.

The gradual function of phraseologisms is realized in expressing the highest or lowest degree of manifestation of a characteristic, trait, or action. Adverbial and adjectival phraseological units form the core part of the means used to express the semantics of gradation. The aim of this article is to analyze adverbial phraseologisms with causal semantics and identify indicators of gradation. Traditionally, in the works of V. V. Vinogradov [1], V. P. Zhukov [2], A. I. Molotkov [7], N. M. Shansky [14], and others, the following morphological classes of phraseologisms are identified: nominal, adverbial, verbal, interjectional, modal, adjectival, and verbal-propositional. The causal semantics is most clearly observed in adverbial phraseologisms. Adverbial phraseological units "indicate the reason for performing an action" [3. 164]. The phraseological unit "за всяко просто" (for no particular reason) expresses a syncretic meaning of negating the cause, concession, and manner of action. The indicator of concessive semantics is the explanatory component "без всяких причин" (for no particular reason), "просто так" (just like that) = despite the absence of cause. For example, "...слово молвлено за всяко просто..." [6] – "...the word was spoken without any reason..." – "You offend me for no particular reason..." [14] – "You offend me for no reason." In these examples, the phraseological unit "за всяко просто" expresses a negative evaluation, as thoughtless actions lead to negative consequences. In the sentence, it functions as a syncretic adverbial modifier with the meaning of negating the cause, concession, and manner of action.

The phraseological units "по молодости лет" (due to inexperience, because of youth) and "от большого ума" (due to foolishness) express a syncretic meaning of cause, time, and qualitative state. These phraseologisms possess inherent evaluative meaning, pointing to the negative cause of the action, triggered by the physical or mental state of the person. In the examples given, the indicator of the negative component of the semantics is the negative pronoun "ничего" (nothing) and the particle "не" (not). Compare: "Я по молодости лет ничего не могу понять" [12]. – "I can't understand anything because I'm young." – "I can't understand anything due to my inexperience." – "Maybe he'll even sue because of his great wisdom" [10]. – "Maybe he'll sue out of foolishness." – "It's not wise to start complaints because of great wisdom" [8]. The causal semantics of these phraseologisms is expressed both in the explanation and in the sentence. The phraseologism "по молодости лет" also contains temporal meaning, which is reflected in the lexical meaning of the noun "молодость" (youth). The temporal meaning also appears in several transformations, for example: "По молодости лет это приводило меня в бешенство" [5]. – "This made me furious in my youth." – "This made me furious when I was young." In combination with adverbials expressed by nouns with typical prepositions of cause, the causal semantics becomes more prominent. For example: "По молодости лет и легкомыслию очень много я проморгал в жизни" [13]. The degree of action intensity is expressed by the adverbs of measure and degree "очень много" (very much), characterizing the highest degree. In the sentence, the phraseological unit functions as a syncretic adverbial modifier with the semantics of cause, time, and qualitative state.

The analyzed phraseologisms are prepositional-case combinations, which include typical prepositions of cause "по," "от." The phraseological unit "без задних ног" (to be exhausted, worn out) expresses a syncretic meaning of qualitative state and cause. The causal semantics is present in the explanatory component. This phraseologism has inherent evaluative meaning, characterizing the person's physical state. See examples: "...on his day off, he works until dark, returns home exhausted, and the next

morning he must stand at the machine again..." [10]; "...this happened due to the deadly fatigue of the men returning from the front, collapsing from exhaustion..." [11]. In the second example, the causal semantics is more pronounced, as there is an adverbial of cause expressed by a noun denoting physical condition, with the typical preposition "от" (from exhaustion). The adjective "смертельный" (deadly) has a figurative meaning in this sentence and characterizes the highest degree of the trait (gradoseme "very"): "смертельная усталость" (deadly fatigue) = very strong. In the sentence, "без задних ног" functions as a syncretic adverbial modifier with the semantics of cause and qualitative state. Thus, the indicators of gradual semantics are adverbs of measure and degree, which are found in the definition. The meaning of cause is expressed either in the explanation or in the phraseological unit itself. Depending on the composition, phraseological units can express a syncretic meaning of negating the cause, concession, and manner of action (indicator – preposition "без"), a syncretic meaning of cause, time, and qualitative state (indicators – typical prepositions of cause and nouns with the semantics of psychological and physical condition), or a syncretic meaning of qualitative state and cause.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, phraseologisms, as reproducible linguistic expressions, play a significant role in contemporary linguistics, with their unique ability to convey holistic and evaluative meanings. The concept of gradual semantics is especially prominent in nominal, adverbial, and adjectival phraseologisms, where characteristics of a person or object are expressed with varying degrees of intensity. The inherent evaluative nature of phraseological units allows them to offer both constant and context-dependent assessments, enhancing the richness of communication.

The study highlights that adverbial phraseologisms, particularly those with causal semantics, serve as powerful tools in articulating reasons for actions, often conveying complex syncretic meanings such as cause, concession, and qualitative state. Additionally, the presence of adverbs of measure and degree underscores the gradual function of phraseologisms, making them essential in expressing varying intensities of characteristics or actions.

Ultimately, this research underscores the intricate structure and semantic depth of phraseological units, demonstrating their vital role in both spoken and written language, and their potential for further exploration in the fields of linguistic analysis and communication studies.

REFERENCES:

1. Виноградов В. В. Русский язык. Грамматическое учение о слове / под ред. Г. А. Золотовой. М.: Рус. яз., 2001. 720 с.
2. Жуков В. П. Семантика фразеологических оборотов. М.: Просвещение, 1978. 160 с.
3. Колесникова С. М. Функциональная грамматика: предикативность, градуальность, оценочность: учебное пособие. М.: МПГУ, 2016. 288 с.
4. Колесникова С. М. Категория градуальности в современном русском языке: дисс. ... д. филол. н. М., 1999. 424 с.
5. Мариенгоф А. Б. Это вам, потомки! [Электронный ресурс]. URL: http://search1.ruscorpora.ru/search.xml?env=alpha&mycorp=&mysent=&mysize=&mysentsize=&mydocsize=&dpp=&spp=&spd=&text=lexform&mode=main&sort=gr_tagging&lang=ru&nodia=1&req=%CF%EE+%EC%EE%EB%EE%E4%EE%F1%F2%E8+%EB%E5%F2+%FD%F2%EE+%EF%F0%E8%E2%EE%E4%E8%EB%EE (дата обращения: 15.06.2017).
6. Мельников-Печерский П. И. На горах [Электронный ресурс] // Национальный корпус русского языка. URL: http://search1.ruscorpora.ru/search.xml?env=alpha&mycorp=&mysent=&mysize=&mysentsize=&mydocsize=&dpp=&spp=&spd=&text=lexform&mode=main&sort=gr_tagging&lang=ru&nodia=1&req=%F1%EB%EE%E2%EE+%EC%EE%EB%E2%EB%E5%ED%EE+%E7%E0 (дата обращения: 11.06.2017).
7. Молотков А. И. Основы фразеологии русского языка. Л.: Наука, 1977. 282 с.
8. Островский А. Н. Волки и овцы [Электронный ресурс] // Национальный корпус русского языка. URL: http://search1.ruscorpora.ru/search.xml?env=alpha&mycorp=&mysent=&mysize=&mysentsize=&mydocsize=&dpp=&spp=&spd=&text=lexform&mode=main&sort=gr_tagging&lang=ru&nodia=1&req=%E

- 4%E0+%EE%F2+%E1%EE%EB%FC%F8%EE%E3%EE+%F3%EC%E0 (дата обращения: 15.06.2017).
9. Панова В. Ф. Евдокия [Электронный ресурс] // Национальный корпус русского языка. URL: http://search1.ruscorpora.ru/search.xml?env=alpha&mycorp=&mysent=&mysize=&mysentsize=&mydocsize=&dpp=&spp=&spd=&text=lexform&mode=main&sort=gr_tagging&lang=ru&nodia=1&req=%E0%E6%E5%F2%2C+%E5%F9%E5+%E2+%F1%F3%E4+%EF%EE%E4%E0%F1%F2 (дата обращения: 15.06.2017).
10. Панова В. Ф. Кружилиха [Электронный ресурс] // Национальный корпус русского языка. URL: http://search1.ruscorpora.ru/search.xml?env=alpha&mycorp=&mysent=&mysize=&mysentsize=&mydocsize=&dpp=&spp=&spd=&text=lexform&mode=main&sort=gr_tagging&lang=ru&nodia=1&req=%EE%ED+%E2+%E2%FB%F5%EE%E4%ED%EE%E9+%E4%E5%ED%FC+%ED%E0%F0%E0%E1%EE%F2%E0%E5%F2%F1%FF (дата обращения: 16.06.2017).
11. Распутин В. Г. Дочь Ивана, мать Ивана [Электронный ресурс] // Национальный корпус русского языка. URL: http://search1.ruscorpora.ru/search.xml?env=alpha&mycorp=&mysent=&mysize=&mysentsize=&mydocsize=&dpp=&spp=&spd=&text=lexform&mode=main&sort=gr_tagging&lang=ru&nodia=1&req=%EF%F0%EE%E8%E7%EE%F8%EB%EE+%FD%F2%EE+%EE%F2+%F1%EC%E5%F0%F2%E5%EB%FC%ED%EE%E9 (дата обращения: 20.06.2017).
12. Токарева В. С. Мой мастер [Электронный ресурс] // Национальный корпус русского языка. URL: http://search1.ruscorpora.ru/search.xml?env=alpha&mycorp=&mysent=&mysize=&mysentsize=&mydocsize=&dpp=&spp=&spd=&text=lexform&mode=main&sort=gr_tagging&lang=ru&nodia=1&req=%FF+%EF%EE+%EC%EE%EB%EE%E4%EE%F1%2%E8+%EB%E5%F2+%ED%E8%F7%E5%E3%EE (дата обращения: 11.06.2017).
13. Шаляпин Ф. И. Моим детям [Электронный ресурс] // Национальный корпус русского языка. URL: http://search1.ruscorpora.ru/search.xml?env=alpha&mycorp=&mysent=&mysize=&mysentsize=&mydocsize=&dpp=&spp=&spd=&text=lexform&mode=main&sort=gr_tagging&lang=ru&nodia=1&req=%EF%EE+%EC%EE%EB%EE%E4%EE%F1%F2%E8+%EB%E5%F2+%E8+%EB%E5%E3%EA%EE%EC%FB%F1%EB%E8%FE (дата обращения: 15.06.2017).
14. Шанский Н. М. Фразеология современного русского языка. СПб.: Специальная литература, 1996. 192 с.
15. Шишков В. Я. Емельян Пугачев [Электронный ресурс]. URL: http://search1.ruscorpora.ru/search.xml?env=alpha&mycorp=&mysent=&mysize=&mysentsize=&mydocsize=&dpp=&spp=&spd=&text=lexform&mode=main&sort=gr_tagging&lang=ru&nodia=1&req=%F2%FB+%E7%E0+%E2%F1%FF%EA%EE+%EF%F0%EE%F1%F2%EE (дата обращения: 11.06.2017).