



## A STUDY OF DISCOURSE MARKERS AND VERBAL EXPRESSIONS IN ENGLISH COMMUNICATION

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**Summary:** This article explores the field of phraseological units, with particular attention to those that predicated on educational phraseology. Phraseological units are significant parts of language because they convey complex emotions and cultural concepts through only a few words. The article investigates meaning, origin, and how we use common expressions like “Above all”, “As it appears”, and “Apply yourself”. Understanding these units enhance linguistic skills and deepens appreciation for the English languages’ expressive capabilities.

**Key words:** phraseological units, study, linguistics, skill, important element, language.

Phraseology ( from Greek *phrasis* meaning “ mode of expression” and *logos* meaning “ study or science”) is a significant branch of modern linguistic that emerged as an independent field mainly in the twentieth century. It focuses on the investigation of fixed expressions, idioms, proverbs, and stable word combinations that function as ready-made units within a language. Phraseology plays an essential role in the expansion and enrichment of vocabulary, because phraseological units and figurative meaning, stylistic variety, and cultural depth to linguistic communication. Unlike ordinary word combinations, phraseological units possess a stable structure and a meaning of the individual components. One of the best definitions of phraseological units is as follows: it is stable, coherent combination of



words with partially or fully figurative meaning. In addition, A.V. Kunin classified phraseological units according to the way they are formed. He pointed out primary and secondary ways of forming phraseological units. Primary ways of forming phraseological units those when a unit is formed on the basis of the free word group [2, 4]. Moreover, Prof. A.I. Smirnitsky worked out structural classification of phraseological units, comparing them with words [2,6]. He points out one-top units which he compares with derived words because in compound words we usually have two root morphemes. Among one-top units he points out three structural types. Individuals often use phraseological units in various forms of communication to express ideas clearly and effectively. These expressions help listeners understand the speaker's intention more easily and reduce the effort required to interpret the message. Phraseological units therefore play an important role in language, as they allow speakers to convey complex meanings in a concise and memorable way. According to D.T. Khadjieva following function of proverbs and phraseological units: the first one is communicative function of which is mostly used during our speech or in intercommunicative to each other [1]. Furthermore, they enrich vocabulary, improve speaking and writing skills, and help students understand figurative meanings in language. When learners become familiar with such expressions, they are better able to interpret texts and communicate their ideas more effectively. Furthermore, phraseological units also provide insight into the cultural and intellectual background of a language community. Through learning these expressions, students not only expand their vocabulary but also gain a deeper understanding of cultural traditions, social values, and patterns of thinking reflected in the language. Therefore, the study of phraseological units is considered an important component of language education, as it strengthens both communicative ability and cultural awareness.



Undoubtedly, such expressions play an important role in phraseology. In the course of this research, numerous phrases in the English language have been examined and analyzed.

### **Comparative Analysis of Phraseological Units**

In this section, attention is given to the grammatical structure of phraseological units, as well as to their meanings, etymology, semantic features, and figurative imagery. It also examines how these expressions function within the language and how their components contribute to their overall interpretation.

1. “Above all” is an English phrase used to emphasize that one particular thing is more important than everything else. It expresses priority, importance, or the highest degree of consideration in a given context. When someone uses “above all,” they are drawing attention to what matters most, often after mentioning several other points. Grammatically, this phrase functions as an adverbial expression. In a sentence, it can appear at the beginning, in the middle, or occasionally at the end, and it is often set off by commas. It modifies the whole clause by highlighting the most significant idea. Structure: Above all, + main clause / Subject + verb + above all. Now that we have looked at its structure, the phrase also has a notable etymological background. The expression “above all” originates from the literal spatial meaning of “above,” combined with “all,” to indicate something placed higher than everything else. Over time, this physical sense developed into a metaphorical one, representing superiority in importance rather than position. Its usage can be traced back to Middle English, and it became more firmly established in Early Modern English, especially in religious, philosophical, and literary texts where writers aimed to stress moral or intellectual priorities. Before “above all” became a fixed phrase, similar constructions such as “before all things” or “more than anything” were commonly used. By the 17th and 18th centuries, “above all” had gained stability and began to appear frequently in formal writing and speech.



Semantically, the phrase functions as a marker of emphasis and hierarchy, signaling that the element it introduces outweighs all others in significance, thereby guiding the listener or reader toward the speaker's primary concern or value.

For example, *“But then, above all, that emphatic, yet gentle pressure of the hand, which seemed to say, ‘TRUST me;’ and many other things besides—too delightful, almost too flattering, to be repeated even to one’s self. ‘Egregious folly—too absurd to require contradiction—mere inventions the imagination, which you ought to be ashamed of”* [4, 216].

In this passage, “above all” is used to emphasize the most important or most memorable detail among several impressions. The speaker is recalling different feelings and moments, and “above all” highlights that the gentle pressure of the hand stands out more than anything else. It functions as an adverbial phrase that prioritizes one experience over others already mentioned or implied. Emotionally, it shows that this particular action had the strongest impact on the speaker, making it especially meaningful. Stylistically, it helps guide the reader's attention to the key moment in the description. Overall, “above all” signals that this detail dominates the speaker's thoughts and feelings compared to the rest. Moreover, *“You have known for a long time what you must do. You have sense enough: don't give way to drunkenness and incontinence of speech; don't give way to sensual lust; and, above all, to the love of money. And close your taverns. If you can't close all, at least two or three. And, above all —don't lie”* [3, 65]. In this sentence, “above all” is used to stress the most important warnings among several pieces of advice.

In addition to this, *“But, when this passed away, when her spirits became collected, when she saw that to the perfect good-breeding of the gentleman, he united frankness and vivacity, and above all, when she heard him declare, that of music and dancing he was passionately fond, she gave him such a look of*



*approbation assecured the largest share of his discourse to herself for the rest of his stay*” [8, 56]. In this sentence, “above all” is used to highlight the most decisive factor that influenced her positive impression of him. Among his qualities, his passion for music and dancing is presented as the most important reason for her approval. It emphasizes that this trait had the strongest impact compared to the others mentioned.

2.” As it appears” in English language phraseology generally means “according to how something seems or is presented” or “based on the information visible or available”. It is often used to indicate that what are you saying is your understanding of the situation, not necessarily confirmed fact. The grammatical structure of “as it appears” can be broken down like this: «as” – subordinating conjunction. It introduces a dependent clause and means in the way that or according to. “it” – subject pronoun of the clause. Refers to whatever is being described. “appears” – verb in the present simple tense, meaning seems or looks. So the whole phrase is a subordinate clause: [as + subject + verb] → as it appears It functions adverbially or parenthetically in a sentence, giving information about how something seems. Historically, the phrase reflects English usage where “appear” developed from a physical sense of becoming visible to a more abstract sense of seeming or giving an impression. The phrase “as it appears” has been commonly used since at least the 17th century in both literary and formal contexts to cautiously state an observation or interpretation. Semantically, the phrase emphasizes perception or apparent reality rather than absolute truth. It allows the speaker to acknowledge that their statement is based on what is evident or seems to be true, leaving room for uncertainty or correction.

For example, “*As it appeared that he wished to depart tonight, I replied that we would see him before retiring*” [5, 587]. In this context “as it appears” used to indicate that speaker is drawing a conclusion based on observation or evidence,



not certainty. Furthermore, *“He has declined the proposal, if my information from Mr. Tulkinghorn be correct, as I have no doubt it is. Mr. Tulkinghorn being always correct and exact; still, that does not,”* says Sir Leicester, *“that does not lessen the anomaly, which is fraught with strange considerations—startling considerations, as it appears to me”* [5, 587]. In this passage, the phraseology “as it appears” used to signal that Sir Leicester is expressing his personal observation or interpretation rather than stating an absolute fact. It shows that what he finds “startling” is based on his own perception of the situation. In this sentence, “as it appears that he wished to depart tonight” is used to show that the speaker is making an assumption based on what seemed evident rather than confirmed fact. It signals that the decision to reply was guided by observation or inference, not certainty.

3. “Apply yourself” is an English phrase that means to focus one’s attention and effort on a particular task in order to achieve success. It emphasizes personal diligence, discipline, and active engagement, implying that improvement or accomplishment depends on the individual’s initiative and persistence rather than luck or outside help. Grammatically, it is a phrasal verb with a reflexive pronoun. The structure is: verb (apply) + reflexive pronoun (yourself) + optionally + prepositional phrase (to something). In sentences, it functions as the main verb phrase, often in the imperative mood to give advice or encouragement, e.g., “Apply yourself to your studies and you will succeed.” Historically, the phrase developed in English from the 16th–17th centuries, when “apply” primarily meant to devote or put into practice. Over time, “apply yourself” evolved into a figurative expression emphasizing dedicated effort and purposeful focus, particularly in educational or professional contexts. It became widely used as a motivational phrase in both spoken and written English, encouraging people to work diligently. Semantically, the phrase conveys that success, learning, or mastery requires active personal effort. It suggests that progress is not automatic; one must intentionally concentrate and engage with the task. It often carries a guiding or advisory tone,



implying that achievement is attainable through persistent effort and self-discipline. For instance, “*Apply yourself and you can do it—that was the axiom in which we had been schooled by both parents. At the dinner table, my father would reiterate to his young sons time and again, "If anybody asks 'Can you do this job?'” [6, 1].* In this context, “apply oneself” is used to encourage focus effort, and self-discipline in approaching any task. Moreover, “*If you apply yourself, you can be out of there in four years, maybe even three, with a scholarship anywhere you want to go” [7, 168].* In this sentence, “apply yourself” is used to advise the listener to focus and work diligently in order to achieve a goal. It emphasizes that success, such as graduating early or earning a scholarship, depends on personal effort or discipline.

In conclusion, phraseological units such as “above all”, “as it appears” and “apply oneself” play a vital role in English , helping speakers express ideas, attitudes, and advice clearly and effectively. As it appears, analyzing their grammatical, semantic, and historical aspects shows how these phrases reflect thought, judgment, and personal initiative in communication. Learning and analyzing these phrases allows us to gain a deeper understanding of the richness and expressiveness of the English language.

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