

## THE ROLE OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN CROSS-CULTURAL COMMUNICATION

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**Abstract.** This article examines the role of phraseological units in cross-cultural communication and language learning. Phraseological units, including idioms, proverbs, collocations, and fixed expressions, are important elements of every language because they reflect cultural traditions, national mentality, and historical experience. The study analyzes the structural and semantic features of phraseological units and discusses their communicative and stylistic functions. Special attention is given to the difficulties of understanding and translating phraseological units between languages.

**Keywords.** phraseological units, idioms, fixed expressions, intercultural communication, semantics, language learning.

**Introduction.** Language is not only a system of grammar and vocabulary but also a reflection of culture and national identity. One of the most expressive parts of language is phraseology. Phraseological units are stable combinations of words with figurative or transferred meanings that are widely used in spoken and written communication. Examples such as “break the ice,” “spill the beans,” and “once in a blue moon” demonstrate how phraseological expressions make speech more vivid and emotional.

Phraseological units play an important role in communication because they help speakers express thoughts concisely and effectively. They also preserve cultural values, traditions, and social experience. In modern linguistics, phraseology is considered an independent field of study due to its complex semantic and structural characteristics.<sup>1</sup>

**Literature Review.** The study of phraseological units has attracted the attention of many linguists. Russian linguist Viktor Vinogradov made a significant contribution to phraseology by classifying phraseological units according to their semantic unity. He divided them into phraseological combinations, unities, and fusions.

Another important scholar, Alexander Kunin, defined phraseological units as stable word combinations with fully or partially transferred meanings. According to Kunin, phraseology reflects the historical and cultural development of society.

English linguists also studied idiomatic expressions and their role in communication. John Rupert Firth emphasized that meaning is closely connected with

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<sup>1</sup> Phraseology Theory and Practice

context and collocation. His theories influenced the study of phraseological patterns in English linguistics.<sup>2</sup>

**Types of Phraseological Units.** Phraseological units can be classified according to their structure, meaning, and degree of semantic unity. Linguists have proposed different classifications, but the most widely accepted division includes idioms, phraseological unities, phraseological combinations, phraseological fusions, proverbs, sayings, collocations, and fixed expressions. Each type has its own linguistic and stylistic characteristics.

**1. Idioms.** Idioms are stable word combinations whose meanings cannot be understood from the literal meanings of individual words. They are highly figurative and expressive. Example: “Break the ice” means “to start communication in a difficult situation”, “Burn the midnight oil” means “to work late at night”

**2. Proverbs.** Proverbs are short, wise sayings expressing general truths, moral lessons, or life experience. They are important elements of folk culture and oral tradition. Example: “Actions speak louder than words”, “A friend in need is a friend indeed”<sup>3</sup>

**3. Sayings.** Sayings are fixed expressions that express ideas or emotions but usually do not contain direct moral lessons like proverbs. Example: “Time will tell”, “Easy come, easy go”.

**4. Collocations.** Collocations are words that frequently occur together in a language. Their meanings are usually clear, but native speakers naturally prefer certain combinations. Example: “Heavy rain”, “Catch a cold” or “Make a decision”.

**Results and Discussion.** The analysis shows that phraseological units perform several important functions in communication.

First, they make speech more expressive and emotional. Speakers use idioms and proverbs to create vivid images and attract listeners’ attention. For example, the expression “time is money” emphasizes the value of time effectively and concisely.

Second, phraseological units reflect national culture and traditions. Many idioms are connected with historical events, customs, and everyday life. English phraseology often includes references to sea life, sports, and weather, while Uzbek phraseological units may reflect hospitality, family values, and agriculture.<sup>4</sup>

Third, phraseological units create difficulties for foreign language learners and translators. Literal translation often leads to misunderstanding because figurative meanings differ across cultures. For example, the English idiom “spill the beans” cannot be translated word-for-word into another language without losing its meaning.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> A Course in Modern English Lexicology

<sup>3</sup> Abdirasulov B. A. Yozma tarjima. Written Translation (birinchi bosqich talabalari uchun). Uslubiy qo‘llanma. Samarqand: “Samarqand davlat chet tillar instituti” nashriyoti, 2024.

<sup>4</sup> Phraseology in Language and Culture

<sup>5</sup> Phraseology Theory and Practice

**Conclusion.** Phraseological units are an essential part of language and communication. They enrich speech, reflect cultural identity, and improve expressiveness. The study demonstrates that phraseological expressions carry both linguistic and cultural information, making them important for intercultural communication and translation studies. Understanding phraseological units helps language learners communicate more naturally and accurately. Despite translation difficulties, phraseological competence contributes significantly to successful communication in a foreign language. Future research may focus on the influence of technology and globalization on the development of modern phraseology.

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