

SEMANTIC STRUCTURE OF ZOONYMS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGES

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Annotation. The article considers the semantic structure and classification of adjective phraseological units with zoonymic components. Subject-evaluative connotation, metaphorical phraseological units with zoonyms are largely due to the implicitly expressed anthropocentrism in them. The thematic classification of the analyzed phraseological units makes it possible to distinguish groups of anthropocentrically directed adjective phraseological units with the "zoonim" component.

Key words: zoonym, adjective phraseological units, connotations, evaluative component, anthropocentrism.

Phraseology is an obligatory and specially highlighted component of a language, the most intense, unique, unusual, "individual", culturally significant and nationally unique, which can formulate not only the characteristic features of the language, but also its speakers, their worldview, mentality, mentality, national character and manner of thinking. Adjective phraseological units (hereinafter - phraseological units) are phraseological units, expressing mainly the qualitative or quantitative characteristics of a feature.

Zoosemic nomination - the name of any living creature (animals, insects, birds, etc.) with the exception of humans. The phraseological fund of the English language is rich in phraseological units of an anthropocentric orientation with a zoonym component. Most idiomatic expressions were created by the people, so they are associated with the interests and everyday concerns of ordinary people. The names of animals (zoonyms) are one of the most ancient layers of vocabulary in all languages of the world.

Man resorted to comparing his behavior, feelings, state, appearance with the animal world. The structure of phraseological meaning is determined by the presence of three components: denotative, significative and connotative. The denotative component is expressed in the correlation of phraseological units with any reality of the external world. Significative component is the conceptual content of a linguistic sign, i.e. the carrier of a certain concept of the designated element of reality. The analysis of the linguistic material allows us to single out the following semantic classifications of adjective phraseological units with zoosemisms: according to the emotional-evaluative characteristic, according to the topic.

For phraseological units, semantically oriented towards animals, but metaphorically associated with humans, connotative meaning acquires special significance. It is thanks to him that the units of phraseology serve to designate the feelings and state of mind of a person, express the emotional attitude and assessment of the linguistic environment [1, p. 17]. The evaluative component, i.e. an approving or disapproving assessment, concluded in the meaning of phraseologism, is the main one in the connotative status of phraseological units, as it determines the evaluative characteristics of persons, objects, phenomena, actions. In the interpretation of phraseological units, as a rule, negative, neutral and positive components of phraseological meaning are distinguished, which are based on judgment, approval or lack of pronounced approval of any fact [3, p. 83].

The emotional component is very closely related to the evaluative component of meaning - the expression of feelings and emotions. This is due to the fact that a person's assessment of some phenomenon within the semantics of phraseology, as a rule, entails an emotional attitude, experience. The expressive component is decoded with the help of lexical intensifiers expressing a greater, in comparison with the norm, degree of the feature. The last component of the connotation is the functional-stylistic component. This component indicates that zoomorphic phraseological units belong to a particular style of speech [Ibid, p. 84]. The indirect phraseological nomination is based on an associative-figurative connection, which contributes not only to an adequate decoding of the meaning of an utterance, but also to the appearance of an appropriate evaluative and emotional reaction in the addressee [4, p. 38].

Rich material for analysis is represented by the names of pets that are especially close to humans: a cat, a dog, a horse, a donkey, a chicken, a cow, a bull - and wild animals, especially those that pose a danger to humans: a lion, a snake, a tiger, a wolf. In English, there are adjective phraseological units with zoosemic nominations with a positive assessment. The material for the analysis was taken from the "Great English-Russian phraseological dictionary" by AV Kunin [2, p. 20-1004]. A positive assessment is typical for the following nominations of zoonyms: *bee (as busy as a bee; as innocent as a dove; as quiet as a lamb; as bold as a lion; happy as a clam; as strong as a horse; as playful as a kitten.*

The horse is an animal that helped out in the peasant economy. It symbolizes qualities such as strength and endurance: *as strong as a horse.*

Somewhat more often than wild animals, birds are mentioned in English idioms, which carry a positive assessment: *as graceful as a swan; as innocent as a dove; as cheerful as a lark.*

Much more phraseological units in English with a negative assessment. Probably, the general semantic asymmetry of the phraseological system can be explained by a more acute emotional and verbal-cognitive reaction of people precisely to negative

phenomena [3, p. 21].

Cats are one of the most popular pets in England and the United States. Many idioms of stable expressions are associated with these animals, but they are more negative in nature than positive: *as nervous as a cat; as weak as a cat*.

The main breadwinner - the cow - did not avoid mocking expressions: *as awkward as a cow*. The cow in them acts as an unattractive and awkward creature.

The bad attitude towards the pig is also expressed: *as fat as a pig; as greedy as a pig*. Examples show that a negative assessment has a specific character, indicating uncleanness and other negative qualities. This unfriendly attitude towards the pig comes from the Bible. Apparently, this led to the negative meaning of the word pig in the phraseology of many peoples of Europe. Idioms in which wolves appear also contain a negative assessment, for example: *as mean as a wolf*.

Snakes have a negative connotation and are used in phraseological units such as: *as mean as a snake in the grass*. In England, donkeys are a symbol of stubbornness or stupidity: *as obstinate as a donkey; as stupid as a donkey*. Pisces have associations such as silence or helplessness: *as dumb as a fish*.

A negative assessment is concretized by signs of deceit, cunning, deceit with such animals as: *as cunning as a fox; as sly as a fox; like a bear with a sore head; as slippery as an eel*.

The dog has long been considered a friend of man. Expressions of canine loyalty, canine loyalty evaluate the dog well. But such expressions are few. More than others: a dog's life, a dog's death, like uncut dogs, a dog's tail. In English, these are phraseological units such as: *as a dog's hind leg; as tired as a dog*.

Thus, among the adjective phraseological units with zoosemic nominations, adjective phraseological units with zoosemisms were identified, having a negative assessment and with a positive assessment.

Reference

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