SEMANTIC PECULIARITIES OF THE PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS EXPRESSED BY PROPER NOUNS

Tokumbetova Mekhribonu Shavkat qizi
The teacher of Turtkul faculty of Tashkent state university of Economics
Tel:+998909148767
E-mail: tokumbetovab@gmail.com
Bekchanov Boburjon Bahodir o'g'li
The student of Turtkul faculty of Tashkent state university of Economics
Tel: +998907022207
E-mail: bekchanovbobur571@gmail.com

Abstract. The article discusses proper nouns and usage of articles with proper nouns,specific translational peculiarities of phraseological units with proper noun components have been revealed,semantic peculiarities of the phraseological units with proper noun components.

Key words: phraseological units, proper noun components, geographical components, linguocultural analaysis.

INTRODUCTION

English proper nouns include people's names (John Smith), geographical names (Africa, the Thames), names of institutions (the United Nations; the British Museum), places in the city (Central Park; Fifth Avenue), historical and other events (the French Revolution; the Jazz Festival), nationalities (Russian; Irishman), weekdays (Tuesday), months (May) and other notions, objects or places that are capitalized and used as names.Proper nouns are a special type of names. In fact, when someone asks us our name, it is such a type of name we use in reply, i.e. Paul or Mohandas or Teresa or any such name.[1]

Names of people — like those just mentioned;

Brand names — like Penguin Books, Tata Indica, Lux or Dell;

Geographical names — Asia, River Nile, Mount Everest, the British Isles;

Names of institutions — St. Michael's School, Bank of England, European Union;

Names of books and films — Utopia, Wuthering Heights, My Fair Lady. Names of this kind are called Proper Nouns. See that in the examples above the first letter of every proper name is a capital (upper case) letter. This is the convention in English. Sometimes, this can be a problem. What about those proper names which have more

[1] Смирницкий, А. И. Лексикология английского языка / А. И. Смирницкий.- М.: Изд-во литературы на иностранных языках, 1956. - 309 с.

than one word in them? See this…South Africa, West Bengal, South Korea, North Korea, Western Australia and East Timor, but…north Kerala, eastern Australia, southern Europe, and even eastern South Africa. The 'South' in South Africa and South Korea is part of the official names of these places. The 'north' in Kerala and the 'eastern' in Australia just tell us which part of Kerala or Australia we are talking about. Even if you remember all the 'rules' or conventions about capitalization, you will still find educated people and reputed newspapers using their own set of rules.

Types of Nouns. We have different types of nouns in English. They are:

Common nouns and Proper nouns

Countable nouns and Uncountable (or Mass) nouns

Collective nouns

Concrete nouns and Abstract nouns

Compound nouns

Predicate nouns

In grammar, different types of nouns represent different kinds of names. What Do We Mean by Different Kinds of Names in Real Life? It appears to be easy to understand this, but it is not immediately clear to many people what grammar means by different kinds of names. If you were Albert Einstein. People would call you different things: Albert, Mr. Einstein. Your close friends might even call you Mr. Intelligent or Mr. Genius (either to praise you or to make fun of you). If you happened to be in my country, we would address you as Einstein or Einstein Sahab or even Albert. All these names of Einstein are different names. We refer to them as names, surnames or nicknames. However, grammar does not treat names, surnames, nicknames as belonging to different types. All of them belong to one type in grammar.

What Are the Different Kinds of Names According to Grammar? Let's take an example. Suppose a man comes to meet me at home while I am in my study. My wife receives him at the door and reports to me, "A man has come to see you." She refers to him as a man. Now suppose both she and I know that he is Joseph, my student. In that case, she would tell me, "Joseph wants to meet you." She would refer to him as Joseph. These two (man and Joseph) are different names for the same person. When my wife said man, I had a vague idea that the person waiting for me was a man and not a woman or child. The information was helpful...somewhat. When she said Joseph, I knew exactly who was waiting for me. A difference of this kind between two names (man and Joseph) is not the same as the difference between a name, surname or nickname, as in (Albert or Mr. Einstein or Mr. Genius).

In our day-to-day conversation, it is common to say, My name is Joseph or Jane or Anil or Asha. We use these names for ourselves. None of us says: "My name is a man" or "My name is a woman".We don't usually think of man, woman etc as

names. Yet in truth they are names because we use those words to refer to people. Grammar recognizes this fact. So grammar is more true to life than life itself!

A proper noun or proper name is a noun representing unique entities (such as London, Jupiter, or Toyota), as distinguished from a common noun which describe a class of entities (such as city, planet, person or car). Proper nouns are not normally preceded by an article or other limiting modifier (such as any or some), and are used to denote a particular person, place, or object without regard to any descriptive meaning the word or phrase may have (for example, a town called "Newtown" may be, but does not necessarily have to be, a new [recently] town).

In English and most other languages that use the Latin alphabet, proper nouns are usually capitalized. Languages differ in whether most elements of multiword proper nouns are capitalised (e.g., American English House of Representatives) or only the initial element (e.g., Slovenian Državni zbor 'National Assembly'). In German, nouns of all types are capitalized. In past centuries, orthographic practices in English, including noun capitalization, varied widely, with less standardization than today. Documents from the 18th century show some writers capitalizing all nouns and others capitalizing certain nouns based on varying ideas of their importance in the discussion. For example, the end (but not the beginning) of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and all of the Constitution (1787) show nearly all nouns capitalized, the Bill of Rights (1789) capitalizes a few common nouns but not most of them, and the Thirteenth Constitutional Amendment (1865) only capitalizes proper nouns. Today English orthography has been standardized to the point that capitalizing common nouns is considered formally incorrect outside of sentence-initial or title case contexts. Although informal writing often dismisses formal orthographic standards (by mutual consent of the communicators), an epistemological stance of orthographic "right and wrong" governs formal writing.[2]

Today the meaning of proper noun capitalization is uniqueness within an implicit context, that is, it provides a name to an instance of a general type when the instance is unique within an implicit context. Most often the implicit context is "the whole world" or "the universe"; thus London, Jupiter, and Toyota are effortlessly understood as being cosmically unique; they derive their proper-noun status (and thus their capitalization) from that fact, and those properties are unequivocal (no one could argue with them). But in instances where a context shift is possible, and the context shift causes a shift from uniqueness to nonuniqueness, the capitalization or lowercasing decision may become a matter of perspective, as discussed below (see especially the examples under "Specific designators"). Sometimes the same word can function as

[2] Howarth . Phraseology in English academic writing. Cambridge University;1996.p123

both a common noun and a proper noun, depending on context. Two variants of this principle can be distinguished, although the distinction is blurred by real-world use of the labels to refer to instances of both types. They have no universally agreed names (that is, no standardized metalanguage), but the names "capitonym" and "specific designator" have some currency.

Articles with proper nouns.

Indefinite articles a or an are not used with proper nouns. But in some cases A/an can be used to describe a person introduced by his/her name but unfamiliar to the speaker.The definite article the is used only in certain places.

Proper Names

Ahmed Ali

David Wang

The Wangs

Use the with the names of seas, rivers, oceans, deserts, or other landmarks:

the Atlantic Ocean

the International Dateline

the Black Sea

the Mohabi Desert

Use the with the names of plural mountains, lakes, and islands but not with singular names:

Mount St. Helens

Lake Michigan

the Hawaiian Islands

the Rocky Mountains

Do not use the with the names of continents, countries, states, provinces, or cities. Use the, however, with the name of a country if it is plural, if it contains the word united or union, or if you use an official name that includes an of phrase:

the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China

the country of Spain, the state of Minnesota, the city of Tokyo

China, Europe, Asia, Mexico

the Philipines, the United States, the United Kingdom

Do not use the with the names of streets, parks, or squares.

Rodeo Drive

Central Park

Berkeley Square

Do not use the with the name of a college or university unless it contains an of phrase:

National College the University of Minnesota

Do not use the with the name of a company unless the name includes the word association, company, corporation or foundation:

Honeywell
the 3M Company

Honda
the Toyota Company
the McKnight Foundation
the Eaton Corporation
Productivity Inc.

Use the with the names of most buildings, structures, or bridges, but not if the name includes the word hall:

the Hilton Hotel
the Statue of Liberty
Lind Hall
the Golden Gate Bridge

There are different ways to create phraseological units with proper names. Idiomatic noun phrases can have various structures and widely use in the speech. Proverbs are widely known, people often say just part of a proverb, like an idiomatic expression. Some points emerge from the analysis. First, the largest group of expressions is constituted by idioms having the structure of noun phrases. Secondly, the personal and place names involved in phraseology are historically, socially or culturally prominent in British culture. Among them, there is a predominance of personal over place names, and within the former, a predominance of male over female names, and first names over family names, with a number of hypocorisms. Thirdly, many units express evaluation (often disapproval or criticism).The expressions examined constitute a rich repertoire of resources potentially available to users, who can select the most appropriate expression according to their communicative needs: for example, to add humour, to emphasis an idea, to express a negative evaluation indirectly.

There are many idiomatic expressions that contain proper names. The same as other idioms, they came from people's everyday life, folklore, prose and poetry, myths, fairy tales, fables, songs, slang and other sources.

Quite a few idioms with proper names are familiar to people of different nationalities and it's natural that a student of English wants to know how to say those colorful expressions in English. It should be stressed, though, that idioms with proper names are not used in speech or writing often. For example, we all know such idiomatic expressions as Pyrrhic victory; as wise as Solomon; Uncle Sam. But how often do we actually use them? Generally, we prefer more neutral phrases in everyday speech.

Also, some idioms with proper names, especially those with people's names, names of nationalities, cities or countries, may be perceived as offensive and should be avoided.The lists below illustrate some English idioms and proverbs with proper names. They include idioms that are still in use, as well as some bookish or outdated expressions. Use the lists for studying and understanding idioms, not for active use.

CONCLUSION

So we can say that there are different ways to create phraseological units with proper names. Idiomatic noun phrases can have various structures and widely use in the speech. Proverbs are widely known, people often say just part of a proverb, like an idiomatic expression. Some points emerge from the analysis. First, the largest group of expressions is constituted by idioms having the structure of noun phrases. Secondly, the personal and place names involved in phraseology are historically, socially or culturally prominent in British culture. Among them, there is a predominance of personal over place names, and within the former, a predominance of male over female names, and first names over family names, with a number of hypocorisms. Thirdly, many units express evaluation (often disapproval or criticism).The expressions examined constitute a rich repertoire of resources potentially available to users, who can select the most appropriate expression according to their communicative needs: for example, to add humour, to emphasis an idea, to express a negative evaluation indirectly.

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