

**SEMANTIC, PRAGMATIC AND LINGUOCULTURAL REPRESENTATION
OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN ARTISTIC DISCOURSE**

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The study of phraseology has traditionally focused on structural and semantic properties. Contemporary approaches, however, increasingly examine phraseological units from cognitive, pragmatic and linguocultural perspectives. Such approaches allow researchers to identify not only what an expression means, but also why it is used in a particular communicative situation and what cultural knowledge it activates.

In literary discourse, phraseological expressions are particularly productive because they enable writers to convey complex meanings in a concise and expressive form. They can characterise a literary figure, indicate social or cultural identity, express emotional attitudes, create irony and establish a particular relationship between the author, characters and readers.

One of the most distinctive characteristics of phraseological units is the relationship between their lexical components and their overall meaning. In many idiomatic expressions, the meaning of the whole unit cannot be predicted simply by adding together the meanings of its individual words. English provides numerous examples of this phenomenon, including “break the ice,” “spill the beans,” “hit the nail on the head,” “cost an arm and a leg,” and “once in a blue moon.” These expressions have conventionalised meanings that differ from their literal interpretations. For example, *break the ice* is commonly used to describe an action intended to make people feel more comfortable in an unfamiliar social situation. The expression is based on a metaphorical image in which social tension is conceptualised as a physical barrier that can be broken. Similarly, *spill the beans* means to reveal secret information, although its literal components refer to an entirely different physical situation.

The semantic structure of phraseological units is therefore closely connected with figurative conceptualisation. Metaphor, metonymy, comparison and cultural association frequently participate in the formation of idiomatic meaning.

The pragmatic dimension of phraseology concerns the communicative purposes and effects associated with the use of phraseological expressions. In literary discourse, an idiomatic expression may communicate considerably more than its basic semantic content. For instance, the expression “to have a heart of stone” does not simply describe a physical object. It characterises a person as emotionally insensitive or lacking compassion. Depending on the context, it may express criticism, irony, emotional distance or even admiration for someone’s emotional strength.

Phraseological units are particularly important in literary dialogue. The choice of idiomatic expressions can reveal a character's social background, emotional state, communicative style and worldview. A character who frequently uses colloquial idioms may be represented as informal or closely connected with everyday speech, whereas a character who avoids such expressions may be constructed as more

The relationship between phraseology and culture is particularly important because idiomatic expressions often preserve knowledge derived from the historical and social experience of a speech community. Phraseological units may contain references to traditional occupations, food, animals, family relations, social practices, historical events and culturally significant objects.

English idioms such as “bring home the bacon,” “a piece of cake,” “let the cat out of the bag,” “the last straw,” and “a storm in a teacup” demonstrate how everyday cultural experiences can become sources of figurative conceptualisation.

Phraseological units are significant components of artistic discourse because they combine semantic richness, pragmatic functionality and cultural information. Their meanings are often based on figurative conceptualisation and conventionalisation, while their interpretation in literary contexts depends strongly on pragmatic and cultural factors.

From a semantic perspective, phraseological units represent meanings that frequently extend beyond the literal meanings of their components. From a pragmatic perspective, they communicate attitudes, emotions, evaluations and implicit intentions. From a linguocultural perspective, they preserve and transmit elements of collective experience, cultural values and culturally specific models of conceptualising reality.

In literary discourse, the interaction of these dimensions enables phraseological units to perform a wide range of functions: they contribute to characterisation, intensify emotional expression, create imagery, convey implicit meanings and represent cultural identity.

Therefore, the semantic, pragmatic and linguocultural study of phraseological units provides an effective framework for understanding the relationship between language and artistic representation. Phraseological expressions should consequently be viewed not merely as fixed combinations of words, but as dynamic linguistic and cultural units that participate actively in the construction of literary meaning and the representation of the human world.

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