



**LEXICO-SEMANTIC FEATURES OF PHRASEOLOGICAL ANTONYMS IN
ENGLISH**

**ЛЕКСИКО – СЕМАНТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ
ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ АНТОНИМОВ В АНГЛИСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ
INGLIZ TILIDAGI FRAZEOLOGIK ANTONIMLARNING LEKSIK-
SEMANTIC XUSUSIYATLARI**

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Annotation :

This article addresses antonym as a phenomenon that is based on the semantic link between language components which can occur in both phraseological and lexical units. The aim of this work is 1) to investigate the lexicon-semantic peculiarities of phraseological units; 2) to examine the structural features of phraseological antonyms based on antonym pairs; 3) to clarify the role played by the components of phraseological units in the antonym relation system. The methods of description, component, and semantic analysis are used while completing our research.

Аннотация:

В данной статье рассматривается явление антонимии, которое основано на семантической связи языковых компонентов и может встречаться как во фразеологических, так и в лексических единицах. Целью данной работы является 1) исследование лексико-семантических особенностей фразеологических единиц; 2) изучение структурных особенностей фразеологических антонимов на основе пар антонимов; 3) выяснение роли, которую играют компоненты фразеологических единиц в системе





антонимических отношений. При завершении нашего исследования были использованы методы описания, компонентного и семантического анализа.

Annotatsiya

Ushbu maqolada tilning semantik aloqasiga asoslangan va frazeologik va leksik birliklarda paydo bo'lishi mumkin bo'lgan antonimiya hodisasi ko'rib chiqiladi. Ishning asosiy maqsadi: 1) frazeologik birliklarning leksik va semantik xususiyatlarini o'rganish; 2) frazeologik antonimlarning tarkibiy xususiyatlarini antonim juftliklar asosida o'rganish; 3) frazeologik birliklarning tarkibiy qismlarining antonimik munosabatlar tizimidagi rolini aniqlash. Tadqiqotimiz davomida deskriptiv, komponent va semantik tahlil usullari qo'llanildi. Maqolada keltirilgan frazeologik birliklar bir nechta olimlar tomonidan yozilgan frazeologik lug'atlardan olingan. rk quyidagilardan iborat 1) frazeologik birliklarning leksik va semantik xususiyatlarini o'rganish; 2) frazeologik antonimlarning tarkibiy xususiyatlarini o'rganish antonim juftliklari asosida; 3) frazeologik birliklarning tarkibiy qismlarining antonimik munosabatlar tizimidagi rolini aniqlash. Tadqiqotimiz yakunida deskriptiv, komponent va semantik tahlil usullari qo'llanildi.

Keywords: semantic relationship, linguistic units, phraseological units, antonymy, phrases, antonymous components

One of the most important and fascinating aspects of the English grammar is semantic characteristics of phraseological antonyms. Certainly, this aspect of grammar has not been neatly learned so far, but several studies have been done on the subject. Therefore, we must study the semantic characteristics of phraseological antonyms in English. In all languages, phraseological units (PU), their forms, and their semantic characteristics are more intriguing and challenging than in English. It is believed that research in this area will aid every learner or researcher in





understanding the significance of phraseological antonyms. Phraseological antonymy is of particular interest in terms of identifying the causes of them, revealing the criteria for determining the pairs of phraseological antonyms.

The antonyms of the style-specific phrase do not differ in expressive-emotional characteristics, they are distinguished by the following difference sign:

- 1) the structure of parts of an antonym series;
- 2) internal connections between parts of an antonym series;
- 3) the number of parts of the antonym series; [4; p96].

The analysis of the phraseological antonyms reveals the structural meaning and stylistic features of certain PU. The study of antonyms and phraseologies helps to understand several phenomena such as PU variants and the presence of synonymous relations.

Antonym is one of the types of meaning communication, which occurs as a result of contrasting the meaning aspect of one or another word or phrase. [3;p 49]. For example, "soul to soul" (to live in harmony) - "like a cat with a dog" (to live in constant enmity), "cheer up" (gain confidence) - "hang your head" (lose confidence).

Phraseological unit antonyms differ from lexical antonyms as they have their own characteristics. In a lexical composition, phraseological antonyms may partially or completely overlap. In both case, they could include elements that are opposites of free antonyms and they can have a mixed lexical composition or not at all. They may both have elements which that are antonyms in common usage(1;p69): To be as happy as a clam- to be as miserable as sin, the heart of gold- the heart of stone, bitter truth – sweet lie, black day – white day.

It is obvious from our research that some differentiators determine semantical oppositeness in the sphere of phraseological antonyms. Antonym differentiator is a formal expression of phraseological antonyms. The signs of meaning differentiation





are distinguished as a result of the analysis of certain phraseological meanings by checking the context according to several lexicographic sources. They differ according to the following signs:

1) two antonyms which meaning is completely understood or antonyms containing phrases that explain the meaning of phraseology: a hard nut to crack (challenging,hard)- child's play(easy); go to bed (sleep)– get out of bed(wake up);

2) a combination of two words, one affirmative and the other negative: As right as rain-(perfect); as clear as mud (not at all easy to understand.)- as easy as pie (very simple)

3) Two phrases that are semantically opposite to each other - a phraseology or a combination of words and phrases, one of which can be a synonym of a possible antonym, the other one is a free phrase or an independent word: to one's teeth (to show hostility; threaten angrily) - behind one's back (in secret)

4) two antonyms which meaning is not understood easily: bright-eyed and bushy-tailed (healthy) - He's off his rocker (crazy) ; like a dog with two tails (happy) – down in the mouth or down in the dumps (sad)

Such meaning-differentiating symbols are antonymic differentiators of one or another phraseological antonyms, and we can easily include them among phraseological antonyms.

Antonymous fields include units that have both antonymous components and common components: A bed of roses/a bed of thorns; a bird in the hand/a bird in the bush; to fall in love /to fall out of love

Phraseological units in antonymic pairs may express different internal relations according to the semantic aspects and stylistic features, i.e.

- if two semantically equivalent phraseology are contrasted, the internal relations will be the same: come to the right shop-come to the wrong shop, a clever dog – a wooden head;





- if two multi-meaning stylistically unequal and different phraseology, two or more phraseology are contrasted, internal relations will be multifaceted: as cold as stone, keep a calm sough (keep calm)-talk nineteen to the dozen (speak nonstop);

-if unambiguous phraseologies are contrasted with polysemous ones, internal relations are one-dimensional and multi-dimensional, as well as stylistically equal or unequal within the fragments of the antonymic series can be single-meaning or polysemous phraseology used in different ways: be/put in the cart - be in the queer street- bury the hatchet – fall foul of; be at pains – sit on one’s hands; sit on one’s hands – give somebody a big hand; give somebody a big hand – give somebody the bird. [2; 157-159]

To conclude, it can be said that the study of antonymic relations in phraseology demonstrates that the basis of opposite relations is not only semantic differences but also semantic commonality. According to the research the units showing their opposites are somehow dissimilar. We should note that phraseological antonyms are of particular interest in terms of determining the cause and indicating the criteria. Defining phraseological antonyms in English the more challenging. The study shows that the main features of phraseological antonymy can be attributed to the presence of the same semantic structure of the phraseology and the similarity of the lexical-semantic and syntactic combination. Moreover, it is impossible to learn the semantical features of phraseological antonyms in English in one article. To our mind still, the studies in this field need to be scrutinized continuously and developed.

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