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Comparative Phraseological Problems in Modern Linguistics

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Comparative Phraseological Problems in Modern Linguistics

Abstract

Comparative phraseology in modern linguistics attracts attention with the introduction of new types of problems. Comparison, contrast and generalization of language units and language phenomena on the basis of linguistic facts of two languages formed a method of comparative research. The comparative study of related languages and languages of different systems on the basis of different linguistic phenomena has become an important and topical area of research in linguistics. This includes problems such as universality of phraseological phenomena, typological research issues of phraseology, the observation of hierarchical relationships within the system of phraseological units. Comparative research based on the phraseology of different languages began in the 70s of the last century and gradually became more widespread. The main part of the issues of comparative phraseology in modern linguistics is focused on what generalizations the studies lead to. The aim of this research is to investigate comparative phraseology in modern linguistics. It is concluded that The phraseology of English, in general, the most common German and Roman languages, Russian, as well as Turkish and a number of other languages, has been studied from descriptive, comparative-descriptive aspects. Addition to this, Modern comparative phraseology expects serious and accurate results from research within the field of phraseological semantics.

Key words: Phraseology, Comparative, Contrastive, Linguistic Typology, Semantic Transformation, Universality.

1. Introduction

The involvement of language units and relatively later linguistic phenomena in the research process, particularly in the process of comparison, contrast was manifested in the study of scientific research, more precisely, research conducted on the basis of materials of different languages, transformation of their scientific hypotheses, provisions and conclusions into facts of another language. Gradually, identifying similarities and differences between the same language units on the basis of two linguistic facts and generalizing them formed a method of comparative research. A comparative study was also conducted on materials of the same language in different historical periods. The comparative study of related languages and languages of different systems on the basis of different



linguistic phenomena has become an important and topical area of research in linguistics.

In linguistics, comparative research in the field of phraseology has been conducted in all directions - in the internal historical aspect, on the basis of materials of related languages and languages of different systems. In phraseology, the first such studies were semantic, and then covered the structural-semantic, structural-grammatical and other areas.

2. Comparative phraseology

Comparative phraseology in modern linguistics attracts attention not only by combining the whole range of previous comparative studies, but also by introduction of new types of problems.

The comparative study of phraseological units of different languages has become one of the most intensively developed directions in phraseology. Studies of linguistic typology have given a strong impetus to the comparative study in phraseology. Since the late 1960s, comparative studies, including interesting scientific research in the field of phraseological comparative studies, have been conducted in Soviet linguistics. The work of V.D. Arakin in the field of linguistic typology has led to new research in this direction and has left his mark on the writing of fundamental works on the problem of comparison. In this research work, comparative and typological analysis of units of phraseological fund of English, German, Russian languages with units of other national languages was carried out. In addition to covering a wider range studies on the materials of Russian-English, Russian-German, Russian-French languages played an important role in the creation of the theoretical basis of the scientific direction, the development of scientific methodology. One of the highlights of such research was the description and identification of foreign language units based on the authors' native language material. Since the structure of national languages differs from each other, the comparison of phraseological units of different languages has also led to different results. This confirmed V.D. Arakin's opinion that *"comparison with the mother tongue conditionally chosen as a standard is not necessarily characteristic and leads to relative conclusions that do not allow to draw any reliable conclusions"* (Arakin, 1979, p.33).

The period of formation of linguistic typology lasted a long time. At the beginning of the nineteenth century researches dealt more with mythology. Much later, typology focused on syntax and only then on lexical characteristics. Towards the end of the twentieth century, we are witnessing the emergence of work on phraseology in typology. Among such works, contrastive studies of genetically close Germanic languages took the first place.



In the early period of its formation phraseology was isolated from other fields and tried to establish itself as an independent field. However, any description of a phraseological phenomena goes beyond one language and includes other languages in which it is possible to observe. *"In addition, the study of the language system must be based on a fundamental dialectical contradiction. Because the description of a specific language in general means the description of a language"* (Kolhansky, 1985, p.13). So, when describing and studying the phraseology of any language, we generally try to study the system of this language. The same thing happens when you transfer this phenomena to the same phenomena of another language. The only thing that changes is the language material, in this case the phraseological units. The materials collected in the process of phraseological analysis of set phrases of the language confirmed the existence and possibility of semantic transformation and realized the transition of phraseology to a new level of development.

In the late 70s of the twentieth century, information about the universality of phraseological events is recorded in the linguistic literature.

The logical development of linguistics requires a combination of efforts in the field of phraseology and typology. There is no doubt about the typological relevance of phraseology. Issues of typological research of phraseology are raised in the work of D.O. Dobrovolsky. For the first time, the researcher created the basis for the structural-typological analysis of the phraseology of modern Germanic languages (Kolshansky, 1985, p.13).

Theoretical generalization of linguistic problems related to the discreteness and coherence of the formal-semantic structure of phraseology, as well as the hypothesis of direct correlation between the regularity of the phraseological system and the degree of analitical structure of the language have been confirmed with linguostatistical analysis of phraseological systems of German, English and Dutch.

Phraseology occupies a special place in the linguistic system with its hierarchical relations, in other words, with the gradually complicated structures of microstructural complexes that are interconnected by semantic functions. Lexical, morphological invariance and structural-grammatical aspects of phraseology are components of the stability of phraseology. The multifaceted nature of the invariance of phraseological units makes it typologically relevant (Fedulenkova, 1984, p.23-24). This allows the observation of important intra-system hierarchical relationships within a phraseological unit, and provides a basis for determining these types of relationships at the interlingual level.

The current state of linguistics shows the rapid development of comparative phraseology. Specific aspects of research in this direction have been identified. Comparative phraseology is currently developing in the areas of



historical-comparative, structural-typological, contentive-typological, contrastive areas and each of these areas has its own research methods and tasks.

In modern linguistics, attention is paid to the comparative study of various issues of phraseology. Comparative studies are devoted to general theoretical issues, as well as special issues of phraseology.

In Azerbaijani linguistics A. Hajiyeva conducted a research in the field of comparative study of somatic phraseology in English and Azerbaijani languages. It is known that the main task of linguistic comparison is to identify similar (integral) and different (differential) features. From the second half of the 60s of the last century interest in the study of phraseology, including somatic phraseology, began to grow. We do not deny the existence of comparative research in phraseology in the 60s of the last century. However, acquaintance with the available scientific literature shows that there was almost no comparative research in phraseology in Soviet linguistics, including Azerbaijani linguistics, in the 60s and 70s of the last century. During this period, a number of articles on the comparison of phraseology of related languages were written, as well as research to clarify the equivalence of phraseological units for the purpose of compiling phraseological dictionaries (Abasgulyev, 1981, p.352). Comparative research based on the phraseology of different languages began after the 70s of the last century and gradually became more widespread. Research on comparative phraseology in Azerbaijan has been on the rise since the early 1990s.

Based on comparative researches of somatic phraseological combinations A.Hajiyeva noted that the issues of phraseological equivalence, interlingual variability, phraseological homonymy, synonymy are investigated in such studies. In her work, the researcher studied the structural and grammatical features of somatic phraseological compounds, their scope, semantics, functional and stylistic features in a comparative aspect on the materials of English and Azerbaijani languages (Hajiyeva, 2004, p.192).

As mentioned, comparative research is also conducted on the basis of the phraseology of related languages. M.Mirzaliyeva conducted a historical-comparative study of the phraseology of Karluk group of the Turkic languages, compared the phraseological units of the Azerbaijani language and other Turkic languages, and defended his dissertation on "Phraseology of Karluk group of Turkic languages in comparison with Oghuz and Kipchak groups of Turkic languages", trying to clarify their similarities and differences (İsayeva, 2012, p.12). In this research work, the lexical-semantic and grammatical features and structure of the phraseological units of Karluq, Oghuz and Kipchak groups of Turkic languages were studied in a comparative aspect. Prior to that, the author used G. Mahmudova's research



work on the phraseology of the Kipchak group of Turkic languages as a comparative material. In her dissertation, which was later published as a monograph of the same name, G.Mahmudova studied the phraseological units of Kipchak group of the Turkic languages in comparison with the phraseological units of the Oghuz group of Turkic languages. She studied in the comparative-contrastive way the principles of characteristics and division, lexical-semantic and grammatical features of phraseological units in two groups of Turkic languages. In this work, the history of research of phraseology of Turkic languages is widely investigated (Mahmudova, 2009, p.296). M.D.Gipchak, who wrote a review of G.Mahmudova's monograph, states that *"while working on the work, the author studied 1008 Azerbaijani, 404 Turkmen, 369 Gagauz, 5886 Turkish, 4031 Kyrgyz, 1039 Kazakh, 670 Karakalpak, 151 Altaic and 200 Nogai phraseological units and was able to summarize the material of this volume"* (Kipchak, 2009, p.21)

In recent years, a number of dissertations have been written in Azerbaijani linguistics on the comparative aspect of phraseology, most of which are conducted from comparative and contrastive aspect of phraseological units of Azerbaijani and English, and some of Azerbaijani and Russian languages .

If we take into account that recent years the general research model in comparative research on phraseology in Azerbaijani linguistics is more focused on structural-semantic, structural-grammatical features, we can observe a certain lag in the implementation of comparative analysis on modern linguistic requirements. The general level of phraseological research in modern linguistics is far ahead of the research carried out in previous research templates of phraseological units of different languages. At present, priority should be given to comparative research in the framework of phraseological semantics. In Russian linguistics, there is an increasing focus on comparative research taking into account the fact that the phraseological units of different languages belong to the phraseological semantic or conceptual sphere of their component. Studies are being done on comparative, contrastive, comparative-contrastive aspects of phraseological units with components expressing colours in English and Turkish, appearance of a person in English and Russian, sex in English and Russian, evil spirit in English, Russian and Turkish languages (Bijik, 2016, p.22-24) . One of the interesting aspects of this type of research is that researchers identify unique and universal aspects of phraseology in different systems and different structural languages, thus clarifying the phraseological picture of the world on the basis of comparing national landscapes of phraseology.

The study of phraseology from the point of view of the theory of universals is one of the relatively new directions in modern linguistics. Although it is noted that the theory of universals was brought to linguistics from anthropology, there are opinions that it was introduced earlier (Askoldov, 1997, p.267-269).



Linguistic typology is one of the directions of studying language and language universals. Therefore, linguistic typology and language universals are closely related in terms of learning the common features of most languages. On the other hand, typology is inextricably linked with the historical-comparative, comparative and comparative-contrastive methods of linguistics. Approaching the issue from this point of view, there is no doubt that in modern linguistics there is a problem of typology and linguistic universals both in phraseology and comparative phraseology.

D.O.Dobrovolsky draws attention to this issue and shows that the problem of universals in phraseology is, first of all, connected with the fact that phraseology as a linguistic field has left its descriptive stage of development behind and entered a new stage - the era of explanatory theory and concepts (Dobrovolsky, 1990, p.171-195). From this point of view, it is necessary to explain, not to describe, the fact that a number of features revealed in phraseology do not belong to a separate language, but to different languages, especially languages with different systems and different structures. Linguistic universals are the isomorphic expression of systematic relations of language elements in the same way, or *"language universals are revealed fairly often in various languages of the world, and it is the process of the same type due to its nature of giving the same results"* (Serebrenikov, 1972, p.5).

3.Conclusion

The typological description of the language reveals two interrelated features. In the first case, the purpose of the study is a method of comparison. In this case the answer is how to compare different languages. In the second case, the goal is typological empiricism itself. In this case the question «What is in different languages?» arouse. In other words, in the first case, researchers are interested in the met language of the typological description, and in the second case, the results of the typological description. Both approaches complement each other. Thus, typological analysis and the comparative mechanism underlying it, as well as the results of the revealed typological analysis are necessary for the development of the problem towards linguistic universality. E.M. Solodukho involved a comparative analysis of international phraseological units of German, Roman and Slavic languages in order to determine phraseological universals. Using the material of 12 languages in his research, he came to the following conclusion: *"The main features, properties and functions inherent in the phraseology of different languages are universal"* (Solodukho, 2008, p.106). This fact-based conclusion is based on a comparison of international phraseologies. But what generalizations will be made by research in other phraseological fields, or research on the basis of phraseological concepts?



The main part of comparative phraseology in modern linguistics is aimed in this direction. That is, clarifying the semantics and structure of the phraseological units of different languages is a thing of the past. More precisely, they have already been largely studied. The phraseology of English, in general, the most common German and Roman languages, Russian, as well as Turkish and a number of other languages, has been studied from descriptive, comparative-descriptive aspects. Returning to these problems requires serious scientific justification. Modern comparative phraseology expects serious and accurate results from research within the field of phraseological semantics.

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