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Phraseological units in which complex and compound numbers are used in English

Abstract

The article deals with phraseological units in English, in which complex and compositional numbers are used. It is noted that studies of phraseologisms are one of the current directions of modern linguistics. From this point of view, the analysis of number-containing phraseological combinations is also important. The author shows that numbers play an important role in the formation of phraseological units as a part of speech. Of them, complex and compositional numbers are less productive than simple quantitative numbers. It is also pointed out that numbers surround us everywhere and that they are information which send some kind of messages to our consciousness. For example, the number of a van, the price tag in a store, the size of a suit we like —these are all numbers. In the article, phraseological units with complex and compound numbers such as 'a million and one', 'twenty-four seven', '\$64,000 dollar question', 'Ninety-nine out of a hundred', 'Eighty-six', 'eight-hundred-pound gorilla', and 'Catch-22' are encountered. The meanings of these phrases are noted and reinforced within the sentence. The author comes to the conclusion that phraseological units containing complex numbers very rarely evoke conventional scenes in the minds of speakers, so the meaning motive of the analyzed expressions is explained not only by cognitive mechanisms such as metaphor, metonymy, and conventional knowledge but also by folk etymology.

Keywords: *phraseological units, number concept, quantitative, complex and compositional numbers*

İngilizcede Karmaşık ve Bileşik Sayıların Kullanıldığı İfade Birimleri

Öz

Makale, karmaşık ve bileşimsel sayıların kullanıldığı İngilizce'deki deyimse birimlerle ilgilidir. Deyimbilim çalışmalarının modern dilbilimin güncel yönlerinden biri olduğu belirtilmektedir. Bu açıdan, sayı içeren deyimse birleşimlerin analizi de önemlidir. Yazar, konuşmanın bir parçası olarak deyimse birimlerin oluşumunda sayıların önemli bir rol oynadığını göstermektedir. Bunlardan karmaşık ve bileşimsel sayılar, basit nicel sayılardan daha az üretkendir. Sayıların bizi her yerde kuşattığına ve bilinçlerimize bir takım mesajlar gönderen bilgiler olduklarına da işaret edilmektedir. Örneğin, bir minibüsün numarası, bir mağazadaki fiyat etiketi, beğendiğimiz bir takım elbisenin bedeni – bunların hepsi sayılardır. Makalede 'a million and one', 'twenty-four seven', '\$64,000 dollar question', 'Ninety-nine out of a hundred', 'Eighty-six', 'eight-hundred-pound gorilla', ve 'Catch-22' gibi karmaşık ve bileşik sayılardan oluşan deyim birimlerine rastlanmaktadır. Bu ifadelerin anlamları not edilir ve cümle içinde pekiştirilir. Yazar, karmaşık sayıları içeren deyimse birimlerin, konuşmacıların zihninde çok nadiren geleneksel sahneleri çağrıştırdığı sonucuna varmaktadır; bu nedenle, analiz edilen ifadelerin anlam güdüsü, yalnızca metafor, metonimi ve geleneksel bilgi gibi bilişsel mekanizmalarla değil, aynı zamanda halk etimolojisi ile de açıklanmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *deyimse birimler, sayı kavramı, nicel, karmaşık ve bileşimsel sayılar.*

Introduction

The actuality of the study: The every language has an important layer made up of phraseological components. "Knowledge, practical experience, and cultural and historical traditions of those who speak the original language are all directly tied to a phraseological unit's meaning. The semantics of phraseological units are intended to characterize a person and his behavior" (Dronov, 2007, s. 7). There are phraseological units that contain numerals in all languages, including English. Not every number in the language, though, is employed in phraseological units. The use of numbers in phraseology is based on an understanding of the linguistic-semiotic and cognitive-linguocultural meaning they carry in the national culture. In our modern globalized world, one of the factors that ensure globalization is language, including languages that are hegemonic due to their functionality in the world. English is such a language. The English nation is a nation that has given great geniuses such as William Shakespeare, George Gordon Byron, Daniel Defoe, and Jonathan Swift to world literature. The works of these listed authors have been and are being translated into languages of the progressive nations of the world. Of course, phraseological combinations occupy an important place in the creativity of those great personalities and in the nation's national and moral wealth. The

translation of phraseological units is of particular importance. In this sense, any research work on phraseological combinations is actual. The object of the study is the phraseological units in which complex and compound numbers are used in the English language.

Methods of the study: In this study language analysis method, and semantic analysis method are used. The materials for language training could be made more universal thanks to these methods.

Body part

One of the current areas of research in modern linguistics is phraseology. From this perspective, it is equally crucial to analyze phraseological combinations that contain numbers. These combinations play a significant role in the phraseological resources of many different languages. Such expressions increase the language's semantic range.

The concept of number arose from the counting of separate objects in the practical activities of people. Any object of knowledge is subject to quantitative change. At this time, the main task is to follow some stages of the formation of the quantitative category until the moment when the numbers completely lose their objective meaning and reach a high degree of abstraction. The formation of quantitative category as an abstract, generalized thought is reflected, first of all, in the lexical and grammatical categories of number.

Since numbers have been a part of our lives for so long, we barely notice them anymore. They are all around us, but they are only information that speaks to our consciousness in some way. Examples of numbers include the van's number, a store's price tag, and the suit's size that we prefer.

For ancient people, numbers represented a puzzle they were trying to solve. They saw some kind of hidden meaning in every number. For example, zero was a space for them, and this was reflected in the famous phrase 'zero attention'.

The symbolic language of numbers is the product of difficult process of human consciousness, or rather, the process of going through the essence of things, the mysterious connections between objects and events. Numbers were considered not only quantitative and qualitative indicators but also qualitative reference points or clues at the time of their discovery. Numbers acquire shades of meaning and rich associations according to the contexts in which they were originally used. These connotations are noticeable in locative micro-contexts (Andreici, 2017, s. 93).

Phraseologisms are phrases that do not have a direct literal translation. They are like puzzles; you need to understand the context and the words to figure them out. They are one of

the most fun parts of language learning because they give language learners a window into a culture.

English is a very complex language and is rich in idiomatic expressions. As a part of speech, numbers have a special role in the formation of such expressions. Of them, simple quantitative numbers are more productive, while complex and compositional numbers are less productive.

In one of the studies about phraseological combinations with a number component, it was shown that the numbers do not have any importance for the construction of the paremiology, which is contrary to what some phraseologists claim, namely, for the construction of phrasemes (Andreici, 2017, s.101).

The following are some examples of phraseologisms in which complex and compositional numbers are used:

The phraseological combination 'A million and one' means as much as the world, a herd. *I have a million and one ideas.* The phrase 'twenty-four seven' is used in the sense of day and night, all day, all the time. This combination is a shortened form of twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. *You can call me twenty-four seven when you need help.* It is often written as 24/7. It is the only market in the city that is open 24/7.

If this phrase is used as a determiner before a noun, an additional hyphen may be used between four and seven. *We propose twenty-four-seven customer assistants for everyone whose credit card is lost.*

The combination '\$64,000 dollar question' means a ten-point question, that is, a question that is very important and difficult to answer, a tricky question. The phrase is borrowed from the name of a 1950s television game show based on an earlier radio program (Farlex International, 2017). The phrase is used in quizzes on game shows that offer such sums to contestants who answer increasingly difficult quiz questions. The rivals were asked the sixty-four-thousand-dollar question in the final part of the knowledge competition. *In the final part of the knowledge competition, the competitors were asked a tricky question.* This idiom is given as a matter of life and death in the first volume of the two-volume "Azerbaijani-English-Russian phraseological dictionary" compiled by Nigar Valiyeva (Vəliyeva, 2010, s. 429).

"Ninety-nine out of a hundred" phraseology is translated as ninety-nine percent (Vəliyeva: 2010, 951). If we use this combination or nine times out of ten that are similar to the former, we mean that something happens every time. When people say, I understand how you feel, they are lying ninety-nine times out of a hundred. 'Eighty-six' can be used in the following forms:

1. To exclude or expel someone from an establishment without serving them. *The boss hates this guy and wants to eighty-six him.*
2. To cancel or stop anything. *Why would they eighty-six the plans for renovations? The building is practically falling apart.*
3. To miss anything. *The government will eighty-six on the insurance of new houses.*

The idiom 'Eight-hundred-pound gorilla' is used in the sense of 'a person or organization that is considered dominant, hegemonic, extremely powerful, aggressive, scary, or has an obvious or major problem that people are too afraid to talk about.' *Since the Soviet Union was destroyed in the 1990s, America has been the 800-pound gorilla in the international arena.*

'Catch-22' phraseology is interpreted as an impasse, standing in between, i.e., in a situation where the desired result is impossible or difficult to solve due to paradoxical conditions. Note that this idiom is the name of Joseph Heller's novel *Catch-22* (1961), in which the main character pretends to be crazy to escape dangerous situations in war. Here, the authorities say that if he cares about his safety, he cannot be mad. *The company wants to implement the reduction in cost, but this plan is a Catch-22.* The situation in which this idiom is developed is considered to be an extremely frustrating situation where one thing cannot happen until something else happens.

Conclusion

The number-containing phraseologisms analyzed in English have a high degree of semantic ambiguity, resulting in different accounts and interpretations of meaning and motivation among language users. Phraseological combinations containing complex numbers very rarely call up conventional scenes in the minds of speakers, so the meaning of the analyzed expressions is motivated not only by cognitive mechanisms such as metaphor, metonymy, and conventional knowledge but also by cognitive linguistics, which considers them one of the mechanisms involved in the interpretation of idioms. It is explained by folk etymology.

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