



DIFFERENT CLASSIFICATIONS OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

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Abstract: *This article explores various approaches to the classification of phraseological units, which are an essential component of any language. The study presents the most influential classification systems developed by Vinogradov, Arnold, Smirnitsky, and Koonin, highlighting their criteria such as semantic cohesion, structural composition, and functional usage. Each system reflects a unique linguistic perspective, contributing to a deeper understanding of idiomatic expressions and their role in language and communication. The paper emphasizes the importance of phraseological classifications for linguistic research, translation studies, and language teaching.*

Keywords: *phraseological units, idioms, classification, Vinogradov, Arnold, Smirnitsky, Koonin, semantics, phraseology, fixed expressions, linguistic analysis*

Introduction

Phraseological units, also known as idioms or set expressions, represent a significant part of any language's lexical system. They reflect cultural identity, collective experience, and historical background. Due to their semantic complexity and structural stability, phraseological units have been widely studied and classified by linguists. This article aims to explore different classifications of phraseological units suggested by prominent scholars in the field of phraseology.

1. Classification by Vinogradov



V.V. Vinogradov, a prominent Russian linguist, proposed one of the most widely accepted classifications. He divided phraseological units into three main types based on the degree of semantic cohesion:

Phraseological fusions – fixed expressions where the meaning of the whole unit is not deducible from the meanings of its parts (e.g., to kick the bucket = to die).

Phraseological unities – expressions where the meaning of the whole can be guessed from the meanings of the parts, although it still differs from a literal interpretation (e.g., to break the ice = to initiate communication).

Phraseological collocations – semi-fixed expressions where words are used together frequently, but retain their individual meanings to some extent (e.g., make a decision, pay attention).

2. Classification by Arnold

I.V. Arnold proposed a classification based on the structural-semantic principle. She categorized phraseological units into:

Idioms – expressions with a transferred meaning (e.g., spill the beans).

Collocations – expressions that follow lexical restrictions (e.g., commit a crime).

Clichés – fixed expressions often used in standard contexts (e.g., best wishes).

3. Classification by Smirnitsky

A.I. Smirnitsky offered a functional approach. He divided phraseological units into:

One-summit units – consisting of one meaningful word and one or more auxiliary words (e.g., to be late).

Two-summit units – consisting of two meaningful components (e.g., to lose hope, to make friends).

4. Classification by Koonin

A.V. Koonin, another key figure in Russian phraseology, introduced a synchronic approach. He classified phraseological units into:

Nominative – expressing a concept (e.g., a dark horse).



Nominative-communicative – combining naming and communicative functions (e.g., the coast is clear).

Communicative – full sentences expressing a complete thought (e.g., actions speak louder than words).

Conclusion

The study of phraseological units has led to a variety of classification systems, each highlighting different aspects: semantic, structural, functional, or pragmatic. Understanding these classifications is essential not only for linguistic analysis but also for effective language teaching, translation, and cross-cultural communication. As phraseology continues to evolve, further research will enrich our understanding of this complex and fascinating linguistic phenomenon.

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