ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЗМЫ АМЕРИКАНСКОГО И БРИТАНСКОГО ПРОИСХОЖДЕНИЯ В КУЛЬТУРОЛОГИЧЕСКОМ АСПЕКТЕ

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ABSTRACT

Title of the Qualification Graduation Paper: “Some British and American English Phraseological Units with the National-Cultural Component in Their Semantics in the English Language”.

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Research relevance. English is particularly rich in idiomatic expressions, particular phrases in terms of expression which from long usage have become stereotyped in English. Representing the most colourful, terse and vivid part of the language they are at the same time the most difficult part of the language for a foreigner to master and use safely in his speech. It adds to the difficulty that often no reason is given as to how or why a particular phraseological unit has assumed its present form. Despite the fact that a good dictionary or a reliable book explaining English phraseological phrases can be of valuable help, very often explanations in them are not sufficient enough to say what phraseologisms can exactly be referred to the nation’s customs, traditions and prejudices, which ones can be regarded as recollections of the nation’s past history, scraps of folk songs and fairy tales.

In American English as well as in British English there are many phraseological units which have drawn their resources from the very depths of popular speech. In their effect to make up explanations for their origin people have devised their own ones, in some cases rather curious and different from the linguistic detective work that scholars do. Many common words and phraseological units have been shaped in form and meaning by mistaken notions about their origins. Moreover there are a number of idiomatic phrases for which
linguists have not been able to find a completely certain explanation. Nevertheless
the linguistic phenomenon is found in the daily speech of the English people.
Likewise, in novels, newspaper and magazine articles, in other functional styles of
the language idiomatic turns of expressions abound. In standard spoken and written
British and American English today a phraseological unit is an established
universal and essential element, that used with care, ornaments and enriches the
language. Being created in years gone by, phraseologisms do not only tell the
reader about the history of their appearance in language in the countries they were
born, but they also tell him about how they came into the history and culture of
another country where they still have an independent life of their own. In this
views stress in the work has been made on making a detour into the past to find a
source for some British and American phraseological phrases, their origin, their
link with the history and culture of the country that once created them or borrowed
from other cultures.

**Aims.** The aim of the work is to carry out the linguo-cultural and
etymological analysis of some British and American English phraseological units
with the national-cultural aspect in their semantics and to define the degree of their
assimilation in each other as a cross-cultural process in the historical development
of both languages.

**Tasks set up in the work:**

1. To determine the linguistic status of phraseological units as the most
picturesque, colourful and expressive part of the English vocabulary.

2. To carry out the linguo-cultural analysis of phraseological units in modern
English as the reflection of national identity of people’s history and culture.

3. To give the origin and history of some phraseological units and to state
the connection between their origin and current use in both languages – British and
American English.

4. To identify the sources of borrowing of phraseologisms and the way they
penetrated into the language.

5. To analyse the borrowings of the language units from classical and
foreign languages and their assimilation in the English vocabulary.

6. To analyse the traditional “thematic” principal for classifying set phrases which is based on their original content in British and American English.

7. To give information on American phraseological phrases, having to do with social customs and conventions.

8. To analyse the incorporation and differentiation of phraseologisms in British and American English at lexico-semantic level.

9. To analyse the role of etymology in giving information on the origin, history and meaning of phraseological units and the way they are interpreted in defining and specialised American-English dictionaries.

10. To give an etymological analysis of some anglo-american phraseological phrases with the national cultural aspect in their semantics,

   **Scientific novelty.** The given British and American English phraseological units with completely and partially transferred meanings have been investigated at etymological level to bridge the gap between making up explanations for the origins and historical development if phraseologisms with the national-cultural component in their semantics in folk etymology and linguistic science, Knowing the origins of phraseological units will help to reveal the fact that their meaning can change and they can acquire a new one which then takes on life of its own in both languages.

   **Theoretical and practical significance.** From the theoretical point of view the work presents the study of phraseological phrases as language units with transferred meaning and as a reflection of national identity of people’s history and culture with detailed information on their origin and usage in linguistics and etymology. From the practical point of view the work has a primary utility for people who find phraseologisms in their reading, or who overhear them in spoken English and need help with their meaning. It can help those people who just plan enjoy them and are curious about how and when they came from.

   The results of the investigation can be used in the courses of lectures and seminars on the theory of phraseology, culture and etymological studies,
Results of the research. The results obtained from the analysis of the matter under review will help scholars make an important contribution to further development of linguistics and etymology. Etymological dictionaries are popularly thought to have strong influence on a scholar with their explanations on historical development and origin of a word or phrases. Theoretically in linguistics any body of vocabulary is worth recording and all are equally worthy. Linguistics is a science which values have to do with accuracy, completeness, demonstrability rather than with history and origin of their linguistic elements. The new emphasis on the fortunes of British and American English phraseological units in the work points to one of their important distinctions: the phraseological unit is a matter of stylistic choice, it can change in the flux of history, acquire a new meaning, proves to be useful for people who are learning how to understand Idiomatic English, who want to know more about the language and who know that any language would be dead without it.