ЭТИМОЛОГИЯ, ЗНАЧЕНИЕ И НАЦИОНАЛЬНО-КУЛЬТУРНАЯ СПЕЦИФИКА ФУНКЦИОНИРОВАНИЯ АМЕРИКАНСКИХ КОЛЛОКВИАЛИЗМОВ “THE BIG APPLE” И “THE MELTING POT” В СОВРЕМЕННОМ АНГЛИЙСКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ

Выпускная квалификационная работа

Направление подготовки: 45.03.02 – Лингвистика
Профиль: Перевод и переводоведение

Научный руководитель:
канд. филол. наук, проф. кафедры теории и практики перевода
И.С. Докторевич

К защите в ГЭК допускается
Решение кафедры от __ 20___г.
Протокол №
Заведующий кафедрой

Пятигорск – 2016
ABSTRACT

Title of the Qualification Graduation Paper. The American Colloquialisms “the Big Apple” and “the Melting Pot” as the Reflection of National Identity of American Culture in Modern English: Etymology, Meaning and Usage.

Author of the research paper: D.A. Kundryutskaya, 4th year student, group 401, Institute of Translatology and Multilingual Studies.

Supervisor of the research paper: I.S. Doctorevich, Professor of the Chair of Theory and Practice of Translation and Interpretation.

Sponsor organization: Pyatigorsk State University; 9 Kalinin Ave., Pyatigorsk, Stavropol region, 357532.

Research relevance: The common reader turns to a dictionary for information about the characteristic features of words and word groups, their historical evolution, origin, current usage, in some cases, perhaps, their subsequent development in form and meaning. In American English as well as in other languages there are many fixed non-phraseological phrases with the national-cultural component in their semantics, different stylistically-marked word groups of informal variety and with various possibilities of emotional grading idiomatic phrases and sentences the meaning of which may still be confusing or the difference between which is difficult to pinpoint, or on the contrary so slight that at times differentiation seems superfluous. In such cases defining and etymological dictionaries can be very helpful to those who seek to find answers to problems that linguistically or etymologically hold interest for them. Although American and English defining and etymological dictionaries give various kinds of useful information about the history and origin of the most frequently used words and phrases they don’t often explain language units which have implications quite unconnected with the normal meanings of the words themselves, moreover, they don’t say very much about the historical evolution of their appearance in language; some words and phrases are even regarded by some linguists as not common
enough to deserve inclusion in a dictionary. No or scant information, for example, had been given on the origin and historical development of such American colloquialisms as “The Big Apple” and “The Melting Pot” as non-phraseological phrases the meaning of which implies the facts pertaining to the national life and culture of the nation and which are still active and living in language and viable in all strata of the US society. In view of all this they still remain the subject for further investigation, though one should admit that in so-settled a matter as scientific etymology even a certain lexical lineage cannot always be clear.

**Aims:** The aim of the work is to trace the historical evolution of the American colloquialisms “The Big Apple” and “The Melting Pot” with a view of their origin and appearance in English as expressive nationally-cultural non-phraseological set phrases and their usage in American English through dated quotations taken from some works of literature and American press and from their treatment in etymological dictionaries alongside with the analysis of their semantic structure and types of social speech in which they are used.

**Tasks:** The tasks set in the work are:

1. To give a stylistic classification of the English vocabulary with its division into two large basic groups: Standard and Non-Standard.

2. To study three large layers of the standard vocabulary of Modern English: 1. neutral, including the majority of words; 2. literary-bookish vocabulary of a general character; 3. common colloquial vocabulary.

3. To study two layers of words in the colloquial vocabulary: 1. common colloquial words – part of Standard English and 2. non-literary colloquial words of Non-Standard English.

4. To try to determine the components of a non-standard vocabulary – two lexical layers without any sharp line of demarcation, but a continuum of a) stylistically marked words of informal variety – emotive words used in the common relationship of people and b) socially determined words often restricted in use to social and occupational groups.

5. To determine the stylistic functions of common colloquialisms in their
two meanings – spoken and informal and their distinction from socio-stylistic labels: colloquial, low colloquial, vernacular and general slang.

6. To analyze the role of scientific etymology as an aspect of linguistic study giving information on the immediate origin of English words, their history and changing meaning.

7. To analyze the role of folk etymologies and their genuine counterparts through such categories of word explanations as imaginary eponyms, spurious acronyms, erudite errors, others.

8. To trace the historical evolution of appearance of two Americanisms “The Big Apple” and “The Melting Pot” in sports newspapers and magazines, fiction and spoken language.

9. To find what meanings of the both language units are registered and how they are interpreted in defining and specialized American-English dictionaries.

10. To turn to etymological dictionaries for information about the origin, meaning and proper use of the stated language units.

11. To define the communicative status and language value of the colloquialisms as the units with the national-cultural component and as stylistically marked word groups of informal variety with various possibilities of emotive grading and their functions in speech and text.

**Scientific novelty:** The American colloquialisms “The Big Apple” and “The Melting Pot” have been investigated in the work in the course of their historical development and appearance in the language as stylistically coloured language units with connotations of the national life and culture in the US society and as popular metaphorical names for New York City and the United States accordingly which haven’t lost force and value and can still be found in fiction, historical and legal literature and in spoken language.

**Theoretical and practical significance.** From the theoretical point of view the work presents the comprehensive study of non-phraseological phrases as structurally separable language units with transferred meaning and as stylistically coloured phrases of informal variety with detailed information on their origin and
usage in some styles of the English language and in etymological dictionaries as well. From the practical point of view the results of the investigation can be used in the courses of lectures and seminars on the theory of phraseology, cultural and etymological studies, lexicology, stylistics and practical courses in Spoken English.

**Results of the research.** The results obtained from the analyses of the subject matter under review will help scholars make an important contribution to further development of linguistics and etymology in particular in terms of the linguistic necessity of a more detailed treatment and a more rigorous approach to the study of American English colloquialisms and vocabulary in general especially when they are faced with the need of dealing with the historical development or origin of some linguistic phenomena or met with the challenge by having to identify groups of language sets that don’t possess deeply defined boundaries in the ever changing English vocabulary but have the ability in the course of their development to acquire new meanings – the process that will make linguists once again pay more attention to the language units’ complexity, contemporary use and what information on them is given in a dictionary.