

Adjectival Phraseological Units with the Parametric Component

Olesya A. Yarullina^{1,*}, Albina R. Kayumova¹ and Antonio Pamies Bertrán²

¹Kazan Federal University, Russia

²University of Granada, Spain

Abstract: The article is devoted to the comparative study of the Tatar and English adjectival phraseological units with the parametric component. Structural and semantic peculiarities are taken into consideration. The main methods of research are those of general linguistic methods and special linguistic methods. The purpose of the article is to find out common and specific features of the adjectival phraseological units with the parametric components in the English and Tatar languages. The investigation is based on the material from English and Tatar monolingual and polylingual dictionaries. The adjectival phraseological units of the Tatar language have not been studied enough. The Tatar and the English languages are structurally different and the study of the adjectival phraseological units with the parametric component is of great interest.

Comparative and non-comparative adjectival phraseological units with parametric components have been analyzed in the article, the frequency of the structures in both of the languages was found out and the explanation of the phenomenon was searched for. Semantically the adjectival phraseological units with the parametric component may express a negative or positive attitude to reality, spheres of life, communicative process, or to a person, and that depends on the usage of this or that parametric adjective of the antonymic pair. General and specific features have been found out as well as exceptions. Based on the data got from the research the conclusions on the structure and semantics of the adjectival phraseological units with the parametric component are presented in the article.

Keywords: Adjectival phraseological units, parametric component, comparative units, non-comparative units, subordinate structure, coordinate structure, antonymic pair, negative connotation, positive connotation.

INTRODUCTION

Phraseology is the source of information about phenomena, actions, and events; it contributes to keeping and conveying the cultural wealth of the nation. The main methods of research are those of general linguistic methods and special linguistic methods. Phraseology is one of the spheres of linguistic knowledge that has reflected the mentality of nations. In their works, linguists pay special attention to the structure and semantic peculiarities of phraseological units, their inner form and the problems of translation (Bushnaq, T. A)

Phraseological and paremiological units make up a special part of lexicology of any language reflecting historical and cultural experience of the ethnos most brightly (They are endowed with a different much more complex meaning than lexical units. cated meaning than lexical units. Phraseological meaning has peculiar bonds with the meaning of parts (Arsenteva, & Kayumova, 2014).

The study of phraseology has grown considerably during the last two decades especially after the foundation of the European society of Phraseology (Europhras) which later became the centre of research

in the field of phraseology by developing world wide meetings and periodical conferences (Cowie, (Ed.). 1998).

A phraseological unit is a source of background knowledge connected with history, geography, and the way of living of the nation. In the range of contemporary linguistic paradigms the comparative research of different languages phraseological systems is given a special role (Fedulenkova, Adamiya, & Chamashvili, 2014). Phraseological units reflect the wealth of a language displaying the cultural paradigms of the speakers of a particular language. They reflect the cultural archetypes of an ethno-linguistic community and help to make explicit the peculiarities of its world perception (Jansone, A).

1. Phraseological system (as any other subsystem of language) is characterized by unity of the general and special, and from this point of view, its research in the field of theory of language universals is very relevant and opens new perspectives both for linguistics of universals and for phraseological theory (Wright, Heinle, 2002).

The purpose of the article is to find out common and specific features of the adjectival phraseological units with the parametric components in the English and Tatar Languages. The investigation is based on the material from English and Tatar monolingual and polylingual dictionaries. The adjectival phraseological

*Address correspondence to this author at the Kazan Federal University, Russia; E-mail: o.a.yarullina@mail.ru

units of the Tatar language have not been studied enough. The Tatar and the English languages are structurally different and the study of the adjectival phraseological units with the parametric component is of great interest.

The Tatar language is one of the two state languages in the Republic of Tatarstan. The republic is situated in the centre of Russia. Tatar people constitute the greatest part of the republic population. The English language is learnt at schools and universities, it is widely spread as a foreign language. That is what makes linguists analyse the common and different features of the two compared languages.

Before we start, we must define what is considered to be the adjectival phraseological unit. In our study we refer to the classical definition of the adjectival phraseological unit (after Kunin) Adjectival phraseological units are related to adjectives since their core component is the adjective; e.g. *as high as the sky* (which means very high) (Wright, Heinle. (2002).

After we have defined what the adjectival phraseological unit is, it is necessary to consider what a parametric component is. A parametric component is a component which is relating to the parameters of something; e.g. the length, height, width or depth of an object. In the phraseological unit *as high as the sky* 'high' is a parametric component.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

To realize the study the researchers selected material from the monolingual and polylingual dictionaries and other literary sources in the Tatar and Russian languages. Among the methods of data analysis are the following ones:

- the descriptive method, based on observation;
- oppositional analysis of the English and Tatar proverbs;
- etymological analysis;
- method of comparative analyses (used to identify and to distinguish main peculiarities and differences of the studied object in the compared languages);
- statistical method;
- method of generalization.

It must be noted that our study was conducted within the tradition of the comparative studies of Kazan school of phraseology which has long placed heavy emphasis on comparative studies of phraseology of different languages (including Tatar, a less commonly analyzed language) (Lebedko, 2001 Tarasova, Tarasov, & Chelny, 2018).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

People tend to classify their accumulated experience, then draw some conclusions and generalize this experience (Wright, Heinle, 2002). Parametric adjectives (being universal) are widely spread in both of the languages – English and Tatar. They are often represented by antonymic pairs. Parametric adjectives characterize the size or the form of the object. Such adjective components are rather popular within adjectival phraseological units. The antonymic pairs of the adjective components may be as follows: long-short/ *kyska – ozyn*; big, large – small, little, tiny/ *zyr, olly, olug – byalyakay, keche, kechkenya*; high, tall – low/ *byek – tyabyanyak, tyubyan*; vac – erre; thick – thin/ *kalyn – yuka, nechkya*; wide, broad – narrow/ *king – tar*; shallow – deep/ *sai – tiryman*, round – square/ *tyugyaryak – dyurtkel*. As we see the parametric adjectives are numerous in the English and Tatar languages, but their usage is not of the same frequency in the adjectival phraseological units.

The researchers distinguish comparative and non-comparative adjectival phraseological units. We distinguish proverbs and sayings as the third structural group. All the above mentioned structural groups are represented in both of the studied languages, but the amount of the adjectival phraseological units differs from group to group.

The first structural group is represented by comparative adjectival phraseological units. Within this group comparative conjunctions *as/like* and *kyebek/shikelle/syman* are used in the English and Tatar languages respectively. The examples of the comparative adjectival phraseological units with a parametric component in the English language are as follows: *as thin as a lath* (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 752), *as tall as a steeple* (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 746)., *as big as a barn* (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 80)., *as full as a boot* (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 301)., *as light as a feather* (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 457). The comparative group of adjectival phraseological units with parametric

component is not so numerous in the Tatar language: yuka kyagyaz syiman altyin (Kunin, 1984: 320), vac balyiklar arasynda yozgyan chabak kyebeq – the adjective vac in this phraseological unit means tiny, but as the meaning becomes metaphoric, in this particular unit it means unimportant (Saphiullina, 2001:211): arshin yotkan kebek (Saphiullina, 2001: 26).

The non-comparative group is divided into phraseological units with subordinate and coordinate structures. The examples of non-comparative adjectival phraseological units with parametric component of the subordinate structure are: come short of smth (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 680), make little of smth (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 465), not by a long way (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015:468), full of it (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 301), make little account of smth (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 27). The same structural group is presented by the following examples in the Tatar language: kyeche uchakka ut kapkan (Saphiullina, 2001:211).369], erre ilyaktyan ilyau Phraseologic Syuzlege, 1989: 267), tyugaryak ostyal yaninda (Kunin, 1984: 254), zur yumartli (& Safiullina, 2001: 101) – the adjective zur here means large, but according to the metaphoric changes within a phraseological unit and combines with the word yumartly it means generous). The non-comparative adjectival phraseological units with parametric component of coordinate structure are: little or nothing (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 465), full and by (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 301), high and dry (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 386), high and mighty (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 386), thick and fast (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 751). This group is not represented in the Tatar language.

1. To the third structural group we refer proverbs and sayings. That is a rather rich structural group in the Tatar language, though there are examples in the English language as well: long absent, soon forgotten (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 468), he that is full of himself is very empty (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 301), short acquaintance brings repentance (The Wordsworth Dictionary of Proverbs (2001). Wordsworth Editions. 29). The examples in the Tatar language are much more numerous: tyubyan tokersyam sakalyim bar, yugary tokersyam myiegym bar (Kunin, 1984. 308), yuan nechkyia bulganchi nechkyia ozelya – the meaning of this proverb is as follows: the problems of the poor may seem trifles to the rich, the direct meaning of the antonymic pair yuan –

nechkya is thich-thin, but here it means the rich – the poor (Nadirov, 1987: 313), oly keshegya yuling biklyaner (Nadirov, 1987: 426), zur nyarsyane kechkenya belyan ulchilyar (Nadirov, 1987: 53). king kiskyan tun tuzmiy (Nadirov, 1987:266).

Semantically adjectival phraseological units with parametric component may express attitude to various spheres of human life, convey characteristics of a person or a phenomenon. Let us analyze the antonymic pairs of parametric adjectives in the adjectival phraseological units.

The first antonymic pair is kechkenya – zur/olly, little – large, big. They are widely presented in both of the languages: keche yashtyan uk Phraseologic Syuzlege, (1989). 135), zur yoryakle (Saphiullina, F.S. 2001, 258), little short of (Varlamova, & Safiullina, (2015). 4650, at large (Varlamova, & Safiullina, (2015). 436).

The second largest group of adjectival phraseological units is the antonymic pair long – short/ kyska – ozyn: ozyn akcha (Kunin, 1984. 193), kyska kulli (Saphiullina, F.S. 2001, 434), short and sweet (Varlamova, & Safiullina, (2015) 680), as long as (Varlamova, & Safiullina, (2015) 467).

The third group is the antonymic pair wide, broad – narrow/ king – tar: it's as broad as it's long (Varlamova, & Safiullina, (2015) 111), tar karashly Phraseologic Syuzlege, (1989) 111), king kullanu (Saphiullina, F.S. 2001:386).

The rest of the parametric adjectives antonymic pairs are presented both in the English and Tatar languages as well but they are not so numerous as the three pairs mentioned above or the amount doesn't coincide in two languages.

SUMMARY

As it can be seen from the above mentioned examples the adjectival phraseological units with parametric component may express negative or positive attitude to reality, different spheres of life or to people.

According to the results of the linguistic analysis in the antonymic pair 'kechkenya – zur/olly', 'little – large/big' the negative meaning is usually expressed with the adjectives 'kechkenya' and 'little' and the positive attitude is conveyed through the phraseological

units with the parametric adjectives 'zur/olly' and 'large/big'.

It is rather curious that in the Tatar language the parametric component within adjectival phraseological units doesn't necessarily express negative meaning, though in comparison with its antonymic pair 'zur/olly' it implies that some quality is not enough, but in reality it turns out to be vice versa: kyeche kyungelle bulu (Kunin, 1984: 135). However, they may have negative connotation as well: kyeche telgya da yokmau (Saphiullina, 2001:369).

In the second antonymic group the parametric adjectives 'ozyn' and 'long' colour the adjectival phraseological units positively: ozyn gomerle bulu Kunin, 1984: 193), by a long short (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 468); whereas parametric adjectives 'short' and 'kyska' make them sound negative: kyska koyrik (Saphiullina, 2001: 434), fall short of smth (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 680).

The third extensive group comprises the antonymic pair 'broad – narrow' and 'kin – tar' keeps the same tendency conveying positive and negative connotation within adjectival phraseological units with the parametric component. The components 'wide/broad' and 'kin' are present in the phraseological units with the positive connotation: wide awake (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 820), kin kully (Kunin, 1984:138). The negative connotation is common to phraseological units with the components 'narrow' and 'tar': tar jirgya tana bashi (Kunin, 1984: 227), the narrow bed (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015:526).

The other antonymic pairs of parametric components present in phraseological units are as follows: 'high/tall – low' and 'byek – tyabyanyak/tyubyan': as tall as a maypole (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 746), high and dry (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015: 385), lie low (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015:473), tyubyan avyl atlyare orryu (Kunin, 1984: 254); 'thick – thin' and 'kalyn – yuka': through thick and thin (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015:751), that is too thin (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015:752), kalyn tirrelle (Kunin, 1984:123), yuka bash (Phraseologic Syuzlege, 1989:285).

The English parametric adjective 'round' and Tatar 'tyugyaryak' are a symbol of something positive and almost perfect in both English and Tatar: in the round (Varlamova, & Safiullina, 2015:645), tyugyaryak byahet (Phraseologic Syuzlege, 1989: 183), tyugyaryak kon ityu (Kunin, 1984: 254).

CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the structure of the adjectival phraseological units with a parametric component in the English and Tatar languages we have concluded that the comparative group is more widely spread in English than in Tatar. This may be justified by the fact that in the Tatar language comparisons are rarely realized in the adjectival phraseological units with the help of a parametric component. The group of non-comparative adjectival phraseological units with a parametric component of the subordinate structure is equally frequent in both of the languages. And the group of non-comparative adjectival phraseological units with the parametric component of a coordinate structure is not present in the Tatar language. The structural group of proverbs and sayings is on the contrary quite rich in the Tatar language. It may be connected with the fact that there is great respect of the Tatar nation to the experience of ancestors; the latter is delivered to the younger generations with the help of proverbs and sayings.

As regards semantic peculiarities, several antonymic pairs of parametric components within adjectival phraseological units have been distinguished. We have concluded that the presence of particular components in the structure of a phraseological unit develops either positive or negative connotation of the unit itself. In most of the cases, the negative shade of meaning of the parametric adjective within the antonymic pair results in the negative connotation of the adjectival phraseological unit with this parametric component, but still, there are exceptions; for example, such parametric components as 'kechkenya' and 'little' may be present in phraseological units with positive connotation.

The most numerous semantic groups of the adjectival phraseological units with parametric component are those in which the parametric component is represented by the following antonymic pairs: long – short/ kyska – ozyn; big, large – small, little, tiny/ zyr, olly, olug – byalyakay, keche, kechkenya; wide, broad – narrow/ kin – tar. The less popular groups are those with the parametric adjective components high, tall – low/ byek – tyabyanyak, tyubyan; vac – erre; thick – thin/ kalyn – yuka, nechkyä; shallow – deep/ sai – tiryän, round – square/ tyugyaryak – dyurtkel.

The expressions of the Tatar language are less reserved, more emotionally coloured, especially expressing negative emotions.

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