

LANGUAGE AS A STORAGE MEANS OF CULTURAL INFORMATION

Abstract

The article deals cultural information that the natural language contain. The relevance of the research is to study and compare lexical units like proper names, phraseological units that contain cultural information in their content and how are they used in the modern English, German and Russian languages. The authors consider some example of the use of native phraseological units of three languages and conclude that they reflect the old national traditions and customs.

Key words: culture, language, phraseological unit, comparative analysis, semantics, realia.

Ключевые слова: культура, фразеологическая единица, сравнительный анализ, семантика, реалия.

In the modern world the successful interaction of different cultures and nations is defined by the knowledge of foreign languages. Learning foreign languages people with language skills gets concepts of culture, traditions and customs of the country the studying language, there is a comparison of the native language to the foreign one, and comparison of two or more cultures. Man becomes spiritually richer, more tolerant towards other nations with different traditions, customs, rules of behavior, and attitudes towards the surrounding world.

Language is a mean of cultural expression. Two concepts - language and culture - are intertwined with each other. The language reflects not only the particular conditions or culture, but also the life of society, history and mentality of the people. All of the above reflects the peculiarities of perception of the surrounding reality, every ethnic group, which finds its expression in the language.

Collection and informational content are essential properties of the linguistic sign, which lie at the basis of its most important functions along with communication - the cumulative function. The language in this function acts as a link between the generations; it is the "repository" and the means of extra-linguistic collective experience transmission.

The cumulative function is clearly manifested in the branch of vocabulary, as it is directly linked to the reality of the human objects and phenomena. Lexical system is caused by categories of the material world, and social factors.

"The Word" - the name of a specific thing, a specific phenomenon is definite, but it is not just a sign of things or phenomena. Word can tell about the time and environment in which it exists [1, 43].

First of all, the fragments of social experience are reflected in vocabulary, due to the main activity of the certain ethnic group. The existence of certain lexical items can be explained by practical needs.

For example, residents of Chukotka have up to ten names of snow, appropriate to the different states; Arabs use the number of names of various breeds of horses; representatives of Liberia black tribes distinguish various grades of rice, each of which corresponds to its name.

Different nations have different denotations of things. One and the same physical things can fit completely different semantic descriptions depending on whether this thing is being examined under civilization. Therefore, the assertion of A.A. Leontiev about the existence of "national meaning" is quite relevant. It is impossible to deny "that the two words in two different languages, denoting the same thing in the culture of the two peoples and non-transferable equivalents, inevitably associated with non-identical content" [1, 57].

Наглядным примером может служить осмысление такого слова как «собака».

A good example is the interpretation of such words as "dog".

- Dog: 1. (gear animals) among the Eskimos;
2. (a sacred animal) from the Persians;
3. (a despised pariah) in the Hindu language.

Proper names acquire the certain national connotations in language. Their specific content is determined by persons wearing these names, but they tend to carry not only denominative function, and denote any quality, property, personality traits in general.

Proper names are language specific mark. They take special place in the system of language and lexical resources have a special purpose in the communication process [2, 86].

Proper names are the part of the history of a particular people. They are closely connected with the culture of the country and have a pronounced national flavor, often they cease to be the only proper names, and move into the category of common nouns [3, 27].

Proper names of people, used in the quality of individual denotations have a number of features specific common nouns. For example, some proper names have defined semantics, such as Russian names: Вера, Надежда, Любовь and equivalents in English - Faith, Hope, Love Rose. German names: Rose, Heide, Erika.

Other names have definite meaning augment, for example proper names in the German language: Lieschen Müller – common noun of middle-aged Philistine; Herr Meier, Onkel Karl – ordinary middle-age people; Heini – silly, simpleton ; Suse – melancholic woman [2, 18]. In the English language: according to Cocker – i.e. precisely, in a right way, according to all rules. E Cocker, 1631–1675, the author of arithmetic textbook, widely spread in England in XVII century;. King Charles's head – obsession, the subject of insanity (the expression of the novel "David Copperfield").

Names of people appeared before the surnames, and eventually some of the names have been used as names, for example Abraham, Arnold; in the Russian language there are such names like Иванов, Петров and others.

The most widely used names that have been associated with the professional activity of the person: German names - Müller, Schmidt, Schneider; Russian names – Конюхов, Кузнецов; English names - Grooms, Smith, etc.

The use of names is connected with to the fact that in each village had its own miller (Müller, Мельников), a blacksmith (Schmidt, Smith, Кузнецов). These names also carried the information on the social situation of families, the media, since the choice of names, as well as the name, is in direct relation to the socio-economic status of its bearer.

Correlation of history and culture with the language is particularly evident in the phraseological level. A great number of proverbs reflect the specific national character; possess the linguistic imagery, which is rooted in the history of the people, their way of life, customs and traditions. Many proverbs are translated word for word, for example: German – Der Appetit kommt beim Essen – Appetite comes with eating; Zeit ist Geld – Time is money; Alle Wege führen nach Rom – All roads lead to Rome.

There are also proverbs that can not be translated word for word, without losing the common sense and then matched them relevant target language equivalents. For example, in translation from German into Russian: Es ist nicht alle Tage Sonntag – Не все коту масленица; In der Kürze liegt die Würze – Краткость – сестра таланта; Es ist kein Meister vom Himmel gefallen – Не боги горшки обжигают.

In German, there are a large number of phraseological units that have literary origins, many of them are widely used in everyday speech. The following words from the books are widely used: Der Mohr hat seine Schuldigkeit getan, der Mohr kann gehen - Moor has done his work – Мавр сделал свое дело, мавр может уходить. These are the words from Schiller's drama "Die Verschwörung des Fiesco zu Genua" (1783). Moor helped Fiesco in the organization of the revolt against the tyrants in Genoa. After that Fiesco is no longer needed him. Instead of the word "Schuldigkeit" Schiller used the drama "Arbeit", but the above mentioned phrase often cited [3, 97].

It is necessary to consider native English and native Russian phraseological units. Unfortunately, it is rather difficult to find the precise historical references how modern idioms of Russian and English came, and how they were adapted. On the other hand, it is still necessary to make an effort to find and analyze the sources of origin of phraseological units. The source of phraseological units is very diverse. By origin phraseological units can be divided into two subclasses: native and borrowed. For example the English expression: Good wine needs no bush – хороший товар не нуждается в рекламе – according to the ancient custom of innkeepers hung ivy branch as a sign that the sale is a wine; Baker's dozen – чертова дюжина. According to an old English custom bread sellers got thirteen loafs of bread from bakers instead of twenty; the thirteenth went to the income of traders; Blue stocking - «Meeting of the blue stocking» - собранием синих чулок- named during his stay in England, the Dutch admiral Boskoven one of the literary salons of the mid-18th century in London since scientist Benjamin Spellingflit appeared in this salon in blue stockings, the phraseological units associated with the British reality; Carry coals to Newcastle – возить уголь в Ньюкасл, the phraseological units associated with

English realia, i.e. to carry anything back to where it has enough. Newcastle is the center of the British coal industry. We can compare with the Russian phraseology: Ехать в Тулу со своим самоваром [4,79].

The German language also has a group of phraseological units, appeared due to the old traditions? Believes and signs. The explanation of such phraseological units is possible, in case when the reasons for the source of their formation are preserved in written records or still used in speech. For example: Das abendmahl darauf nehmen – поклясться в чем-либо – This idiom derived from the medieval tradition when the defendant whose guilt was difficult to prove, often subjected to the “judgment of God”. He had to swallow a piece of stale bread or cheese? And depending on whether he did it with ease or piece of bread stuck in his throat, judges took a decision of his innocence or guilty; Den Stab über jmdn brechen – вынести приговор кому-либо, букв. разломить палку над кем-либо - reach a verdict, coll. to break a stick over someone else, this turn goes back to the old Germanic trial. The verdict was read out again to the person sentenced to death solemnly, and the judge broke a stick into three pieces, threw it at the feet of the convicted, which meant that the trial is over and the offender sentenced.

Some idioms also reflect the grammatical features of language, such as: Habich ist besser als Hättich - Better a bird in hand is worth two in the bush – Лучше синица в руках. Чем журавль в небе. If you know the grammar of the German language, it is easy to explain the choice of the Russian equivalent of German phraseological units. The word "Habich" - the result of the merger of the words "habe ich" - I have, the verb is in the indicative mood. "Hättich" - merging haben verb in the form of the subjunctive and personal pronouns - "hätte ich" - would have.

Comparative study of idioms enriches the theory of general phraseology and helps to make deeper insight into the mechanism of formation of phraseological units, it is better to develop a theory of translation, language teaching methodology. Comparative study of idiom on lexical-semantic and structural levels helps to bring the concept of idiomatic, rethinking and lexicalization of phrasological units, identify the specific features of these languages in all their national identity, that wasn't noticed before [5, 95].

According to results of the analysis of linguistic and cultural features of phraseological units, it could be argued that, like any text, the same lexical units takes place in a culture that defines its appropriate understanding and national specificities in relation to the texts of other cultures. On the basis of this lexical units can be considered as a linguistic and cultural text. Phraseological units present semantic of culture. Variation of emotive meanings of biblical expressions in analyzed linguistic cultures, allows to conclude that the cultural specificity of the language is also found in the peculiarities of emotional perception of specific situations and their reflection in biblical in the form of emotive concretization of semantics of phraseological units.

This review and comparison of lexical units of the German English, and Russian languages is far from complete. In his article, we have attempted to examine the history and culture of Germans and English through language and compare with the Russian culture and history.

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