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## Paroemiographic interpretation of proverbs and sayings corpus on the material of different structural languages

Within the current linguistics paradigm there is a high interest in studying proverbial collections of different ethnic groups. Paroemiographic collections serve as an informative resource for linguistic studies. Along with this, it is necessary to pay attention to the issues of paroemiography. The theoretical bases of this area of lexicography have already found practice in compiling various types of proverbial dictionaries. The article presents an overview of some dictionaries of Russian and English proverbs and sayings. The authors considered the lexicographic principles used in the compilation of the studied sources of proverbs and sayings. The article provides a comparative analysis of the representation and description of proverbs and sayings in such collections. In addition to distinctive features, the obtained results revealed a general trend in the arrangement and description approaches of paroemias in the considered dictionaries. Studying the concepts applied in the presentation, comparison, meaning interpretations, illustrative examples of usage and origin of the proverbial units in lexicographic practice determine the outlooks in the compilation of new dictionary publications and further cross-cultural linguistic research in contemporary paroemiography.

*Keywords:* paroemiography, dictionaries of proverbs and sayings, lexicographic analysis, manner of arrangement, lexicographic interpretation

### Introduction

In the current linguistic science, the object of the study is quite frequently various kinds of language units expropriated from lexicographical collected books. The material recorded in dictionaries is a huge informative source for the communication of surrounding language reality.

It should be noted that within the anthropocentric paradigm, there is a growing interest in the inquiry about the linguistic worldview. Such resources for these studies, undoubtedly, are collected books of paroemias which are considered part of the cultural heritage. Proverbs and sayings, contained in them, illustrate the traditional virtues and worldview of each ethnus.

Dictionaries of paroemias take a special place in lexicography, that makes it possible to spin off them into a certain category. They represent the fastidious work result of several scientist generations, who by bits collected proverbs and sayings. Collected books of this type have their own specifics in the presentation of such expressions, which is formed under influencing the main directions of the general theory of lexicography.

Paroemiography is a new branch of lexicographical practice that engages in the development of proverbs and sayings dictionaries. The scientific and methodological activity of paroemiography includes the collection, systematization, and fixation of proverbs and sayings, taking into account a certain principle of describing them in collected books [1; 316-317]. The works of scientists G.L. Permyakov, V.P. Zhukov, A. Taylor, W. Mieder are devoted to the classification issues, typology and presentation of paroemiological units in lexicographic collections [2-5]. Paroemiography also involves the investigation of the origin, history, and cultural significance of proverbs and sayings. It offers valuable insights into the working of human communication and thought. The researches study linguistic and cultural aspects of this expression. They use a variety of methods to study proverbs, including comparative analysis, linguistic analysis, historical research, and ethnographic studies.

The present discussion point in paroemiography in recent decades has been the use of a linguistic approach to lexicographic parameters in the modeling of proverbs and sayings dictionaries [6-8]. The systematization of proverbial units in collected books is of utmost importance, but the interpretation of using them in oral and written speech is equally important. Using the accumulated experience makes it possible to consist-

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ently implement the principles of lexicographic parameterization of the language units. The lexicographical analysis allows us “to consider different approaches to the problems in a certain time length” [9; 35].

Working with dictionaries of paroemias includes not merely acquaintance with an extensive text corpus of proverbs and sayings but also the following aspects such as analysis of reference list contained in lexicographic publications, study of composition issues, choice of a manner for arranging entries, and ways of explaining them.

#### *Materials and Research methods*

This paper presents a review of paroemiological dictionary publications. The study materials are collected books of proverbs and sayings, the resources of which serve for many linguistic studies. The purpose of the article is to study the special characteristic of this material presentation in Russian and English paroemiography. Presenting proverbs and sayings in dictionaries needs careful consideration of methods to ensure accuracy and comprehensiveness. The procedure of comparative lexicographical analysis of presentation includes studying arrangement manners, and ways of description of proverbs and sayings in dictionary publications. The arrangement and description of proverbs and sayings are important for improving access and understanding of them.

The present article aims at studying lexicographic approaches that are used to order a list of expressions in reviewed dictionaries of proverbs and sayings.

Another important aspect of presenting paroemias in dictionaries is their description. In the dictionaries, proverbs and saying can be described in a number of ways. It includes the following:

- the definition of the expressions that clarifies its meaning and interpretation to give a reader a deeper understanding of their significance;
- example sentences are provided to show how the expression is used in context;
- information about the etymology of the expression.

The comparative study of lexicographic approaches in the organization and description of proverbs and sayings makes it possible to identify the tendency, specific approaches, and characteristic features of their presentation in given dictionaries.

#### *Results and Discussion*

The collection of Russian proverbs and sayings in dictionaries has been recorded for several centuries. As is commonly known, the dictionaries compilation of this type was mainly done by folklorists and ethnographers. The Russian lexicographical tradition has considerable experience in the dictionary presentation of proverbs and sayings. The systematization of proverbs in collections began at the end of the 17th- beginning of the 18th centuries. [1; 318]. There is a review of some editions of proverbs and sayings dictionaries.

One of the most widely known sources of the paroemias for linguistic studies is the collected book of V.I. Dal *Пословицы русского народа* (1862) (Proverbs of the Russian People), which includes not only proverbs and sayings, but also rapid speeches, witticisms, superstitions, etc. In this paper, one of its later editions is considered [10]. The main approach to presenting proverbs in the collected book is their arrangement according to the general subject matter. V.M. Mokienko has noted that such an approach in systematizing the material of V.I. Dal contributed to the further using the thematic manner of arrangement in the compilation of many collections of Russian proverbs and sayings [11; 6]. The presentation by listing proverbs by thematic sections is main in the collected books of authors M.A. Rybnikova, V.P. Anikin, V.D. Sysoev [12-14].

In the dictionary *Русские пословицы и поговорки* (Russian proverbs and sayings), paroemias are grouped according to the manner of thematic similarity, for example: “труд” (labour) section includes the following subsections “работа” (work), “благосостояние” (prosperity), “изобретательность” (ingenuity), “мастерство” (handicraft), “орудия труда” (tools), “хозяйственность” (housekeeping), “осмотрительность” (prudence), “бесхозяйственность” (bad housekeeping), “плохая, бесполезная работа” (bad and useless work), “лень” (laziness), “безделье” (idleness), “болтовня” (idle talk) etc. [12]

In the collection *Старинные русские пословицы и поговорки* (Old Russian Proverbs and Sayings), paroemias are ordered by thematic sections, the name titles of which are proverbial expressions: “жизнь прожить — не поле перейти” (life is not a bed of roses), “хлеб — всему голова” (bread is the staff of life), “ученье — свет, а неученье — тьма” (learning is the eye of the mind) etc. In the author’s opinion that such manner of arrangement more accurately conveys the meaning of proverbs and sayings [13; 3].

The basic manner of systematizing proverbs and sayings in dictionaries is alphabetical which involves the arrangement of proverbs according to their first word. This approach to the material organization can be

found in the well-known collected books of V.P. Zhukov, V.P. Anikin [3], [15]. It should be noted that in the dictionary of V.P. Zhukov, the proverbs and sayings are followed by their interpretation, for example: “*утро вечера мудренее*” (an hour in the morning is worth two in the evening) — *говорится тогда, когда откладывают решение, исполнение чего-л. до утра в надежде, что утром на свежую голову все будет яснее, виднее* (refers to when a decision is delayed till the morning in the hope that in the morning with a fresh mind everything will be clearer). Then illustrative quotations from literary works with using paroemia are given: «*Полно грустить заранее, хозяин, утро вечера мудренее, авось, все пройдет ладно*». Н. Некрасов и Н. Станицкий. «Три страны света ...» [3; 338].

In Russian lexicographic practice, proverbs and sayings can be also arranged according to the thematic-alphabetical manner. For example, in the dictionary *Народная мудрость в пословицах и поговорках* (Folk wisdom in proverbs and sayings) its thematic sections and the proverbs and sayings listed in them are ordered alphabetically. For example, “*бедность и богатство*” section — “*а́ль я виновата, что рубаха дыривата?*” “*беден, как церковная мышь*”, “*в семи дворах один топор*”, “*где вода была, там и будет; куда деньга пошла, там и скопится*” etc. [16; 3-6].

In the learner’s dictionary *Русские пословицы и поговорки (Russian proverbs and sayings)* of the authors-compilers V.I. Zimin, S.D. Ashurova, V.N. Shanskii, Z.I. Shatalova, the proverbs and sayings are presented both thematic and alphabetical manners [17]. In the first part of the dictionary paroemias are grouped by thematic sections and in the second part they are arranged by their first word according to the alphabetical order. In the main body of this dictionary, some proverbs are supplied with short explanations that provide a better understanding proverbs and sayings, for example: “*один за всех, и все за одного*” (one for all, all for one) — *говорится о взаимной поддержке, взаимопомощи, взаимовыручке* (said about mutual supportiveness and mutual help) [17; 15]. Some words of proverbs can be provided with etymological and linguistic notes. For example, the proverbs “*мал золотник, да дорог*” (a little body often harbours a great soul), the comments are given to the word *золотник* — *самая малая русская мера веса, равная 4,266 грамма, употребляется в основном при взвешивании золота и серебра; небольшой по величине, но ценный по качествам* (*zlotnik* — the smallest Russian measure of weight, equivalent to 4, 266 gr., mainly used while weighing gold and silver; small in size but valuable in quality) [17; 15-16].

The lexicographical work *Большой словарь русских пословиц* (The Great Dictionary of Russian proverbs), edited by V.M. Mokienko, was firstly compiled according to the European model [11; 7]. This method implies the material presentation by the significant word of proverbs in alphabetical order. The arrangement according to this manner contributes to the quick search for the needed proverbial expression. Another feature of this dictionary is the information of proverb fixation in lexicographic sources indicating the publication data which are presented according to the chronological order of the record: “*азбука — к мудрости ступенька*” — Сн. (Снегирев) 1848, 2; Раз. (Разумов) 1957, 41; Рыбн. (Рыбникова) 1961, 134; Тан. (Танчук) 1986, 15; Ан. (Аникин) 1988, 14 [11; 16]. Some of the proverbial units can be provided with geographic marks, a comprehensive list of which is presented at the beginning of the dictionary, for example, “*апрель водою славен*” Кубан. (Кубанская область) [11; 20]. Some proverbs are followed by etymological notes: “*атва белью найдет — бухмар беть наведет*” (*atva beliu naidet — bukhmar bet navedet*), where *атва* (*atva*) — *один из видов чайки* (*gul species*); *бель* (*bel*) — *волнение на море при сильном ветре*; *белые гребни* (*rough sea with a strong wind; white combs*); *бухмарь* (*bukhmar*) — *пасмурная погода* (*cloudy weather*); *беть* (*bet*) — *буря на море* (*storm on the sea*) [11; 23].

In Russian paroemiography, great attention is paid to compiling bilingual dictionaries of proverbs and sayings. They include paroemias of the Russian language and their equivalents in another language or their translation equivalents that convey the meaning of these statements. Particularly, the dictionary of Yu.V. Bodrova collected more than a thousand Russian proverbs and sayings with their English equivalents, which are provided with a literal translation. Thus, the proverb “*аппетит приходит во время еды*” is followed by English version “*appetite comes with eating*” that is translated into Russian “*аппетит приходит вместе с едой*” [18; 4]. The proverbs in collected books of this type is arranged by the first word according to the alphabetical system of the first language (L1): “*бабушка надвое сказала — we shall see what we shall see.*”; “*беда не приходит одна — misfortunes never come singly.*” [18; 5].

In some bilingual dictionaries, proverbs and saying are also provided with illustrative data. For example, dictionary entry of *The Russian-English Dictionary of Proverbs and Sayings* has the following structure: *a heading unit* (proverb/saying), *interpretation* (in case of the absence of English equivalent), *the suitable English variants of the Russian proverbs/sayings*, *a description of their meanings* (if it is necessary), and *quotations* from literary sources illustrating the use of proverbs. For example, the proverb “*все познается в*

*сравнении*” is followed by English descriptive translation “*cognition comes through comparison*” and quotes from literary sources with translation into English “*Все познается в сравнении. Соотношение вашего опыта к моему — это единица к тысяче. Cognition comes through comparison. The correlation of your experience to mine is one to a thousand*” (Ю. Герман. «Дорогой мой человек») [19; 52]. The proverbs in this dictionary can be also followed by: English analogue — “*всему свое время*” / “*everything is good in its season*” [19; 53]; English equivalent — “*игра не стоит свеч*” / “*the game is not worth the candle*” [19; 97].

Thus, according to established tradition in Russian paroemiography, proverbs and sayings are arranged by the different manners: *alphabetical order, thematic, thematic-alphabetical*, and less commonly keywords of paroemias. Particularly, some dictionaries aim to present not merely paroemiological units, but also to interpret their meanings. In addition, some proverbs and sayings can be provided with information in the form of etymological and linguistic and regional comments, which contribute to their better understanding by users. Quotations from literary sources serve as illustrative material to show the contexts in which the proverbs / sayings have been used. The lexicographical methods of presenting proverbial expressions, used in *Большой словарь русских пословиц* (The Great Dictionary of Russian proverbs), are significantly distinguished from other considered collected books. The presented data in this dictionary allow us to identify the paroemias origin and to trace the sequence of their fixation in lexicographical sources.

In bilingual dictionaries, the language of the proverbs and sayings can vary considerably. For this reason, proverbs and sayings can be provided with additional interpretative information to help the reader understand their cultural and historical context. To ensure that the expressions are accurately translated, bilingual dictionaries often rely on native speaker of both languages to review and approve the entries. This helps to provide the translations are culturally appropriate, and that explanations and example reflect the way the paroemias are used in each language.

English dictionaries of proverbs and sayings have a centuries-old history of their development. The first collection of English proverbs of J. Heywood *A Dialogue* was published in 1546. The next early proverbial collections of special notes are works of J. Howell (1659) and J. Ray (1670). The former contains the proverbs from other cultures and languages; the latter presents many entries and learned notes. In English paroemiography there have been the dictionaries of proverbs and sayings of real importance.

The most popular and widely used English dictionary is G.L. Apperson’s *The Wordsworth Dictionary of Proverbs* [20]. The book is compiled according to the *Oxford English Dictionary* model and it is an example of an alphabetical approach to organizing proverbs. All paroemias, relating to the *months, seasons of year, days of the week, festivals, animals, birds, insects*, etc., are ordered under the listed headings. Proverbs with such words as the sun, the moon, rain, wind, man, woman, child and other subjects, time, water, money, life, war, etc., are grouped according to the same manner. The other proverbial expressions, which do not fall into these groups, are arranged either their first word or under their significant word. The approach purpose in grouping English proverbs and sayings is to classify them into certain categories. These dictionary entries present historical data indicating literary sources, the original spelling of proverbs, the author’s works, edition number, chapters and pages. For example: “*an apple a day keeps the doctor away*” 1913: E.M. Wright, *Rustic Speech*, etc., 238, *Ait a happle avore gwain to bed, An’ you’ll make the doctor beg his bread* (Devon); or as the more popular version runs: *An apple a day keeps the doctor away*. 1921: F.E. Baily, in *Royal Mag.*, Aug., p. 310 [20; 23].

The method of presenting proverbs and sayings in alphabetical order by their significant word is preferable for the dictionaries of recent decades. For example, in “*Dictionary of Proverbs and Their Origins*” [21], the authors used a noun or a verb within paroemias as key words. Each entry is given a definition that conveys its current meaning. This need is due to the fact that the sense, after a long existence of a proverb, may not be clear. Almost all proverbs are provided with one or more quotations listed in chronological order. These illustrative entries also serve as examples of using proverb. For example, “*actions speak louder than words*” — what people do reveals more about them than what they say.

*The gallant foreigner, who could not tell them how he sympathized with them, but whose actions spoke louder than words* (F. McCullagh, *With the Cossacks*, 1906).

*A man of words and not of deeds.*

*Is like a garden full of weeds* (James Howell, *English Proverbs*, 1659) [21; 14].

At the back of this dictionary there is the index list where proverbs are grouped under keywords. In some cases, a proverbial unit can be listed under the several significant words. For example, the proverb prevention is better than cure can be found under following keywords: cure and prevention [21; 265, 270].

The major feature of *The Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs*, edited by J. Speake, is fixation of proverb's occurrence in literary sources listed in chronological order — at starting the earliest known example is given: “*a bad excuse is better than none*” 1551 T. WILSON Rule S6 of Reason *Better a bade excuse, then none at all*. 1579 S. GOSSON Scholl of Abuse 24 *A bad excuse is better, they say, then none at all*. 1821 W. WIRT Letter 29 Aug. in J.P. Kennedy Memoirs (1849) II. vii. The old fellow's look had a glimpse of passing cunning as much as to say, “*A bad excuse is better than none.*” 1981 P. VAN GREENWAY “Cassandra” Bill xii. *What excuse is better than none?* [22; 33].

The thematic approach to the systematization of proverbs and sayings is used in the following English collections “*The Penguin Dictionary of Proverbs*” and “*Little Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs*” [23-24]. It should be noted that *Little Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs* includes proverbs and sayings of different peoples which are presented in English. Each thematic section begins with its brief explanation. For example, the section *ACHIEVEMENT* is highlighted with the following explanation — “Effort and aspiration are both needed for achievement, but even if the goal is reached the outcome may not be satisfactory, since “While the grass grows, the steed starves””. The proverbs are generally provided with information about the meaning and date of their first mention (mostly English proverb: *in a calm sea every man is a pilot* — apparent achievement may not have been tested by circumstances; English proverb, recorded from the early 19th century [24; 35].

In this dictionary there are also Russian proverbs, for example: *the wolves are well fed and the sheep are safe* has the following explanation — when a predator's immediate needs have been satisfied, there is temporary safety for the prey; Russian proverb [24; 103].

Thus, according to the method of the material systematization in the presented Russian and English dictionaries of proverbs and sayings, the following principles can be distinguished — alphabetical and thematic. In paroemiological collections, there is a tendency to arrange in alphabetical order by keyword. Important is the additional information in the dictionaries, which informs about the chronology of paroemias. Such certification of each proverb is useful information for users, since it allows to establish the initial lexicographic chronological fixation of proverbial English expressions and sayings. In some dictionaries, you can get acquainted with the earliest examples of proverbs, which makes it possible to see the historical changes that have occurred in the process of its functioning. It should be noted that when describing proverbs and sayings, some dictionaries offer various comments that complement, explain, and clarify their meanings.

### Conclusions

The analysis of individual mono- and bilingual dictionaries of proverbs and sayings shows that they are mainly used typical principles in the systematization of paroemias. First of all, such approaches are aimed at arranging proverbial units either by thematic sections or by their keywords in alphabetical order.

In the lexicographical description of Russian and English proverbs and sayings, the attention of the compilers is mainly focused on communicating their semantic charge. Extracts from literary sources with using proverbs and sayings, contained in the dictionaries, serve as illustrative usage examples. Additionally, in some dictionaries of the Russian language proverbs and sayings can be supplied with linguo- and ethnocultural explanations.

The information indicating the time and place of proverbs and sayings fixation in the considered dictionaries serves as additional systematizing and reference material. Such data are presented in many English paroemiological collections.

Thus, the review results of Russian and English dictionaries of proverbs and sayings reveal that along with the characteristic features there are also common approaches in the lexicographical processing of paroemias. The paroemiographic publications demonstrate the current practices in lexicographizing proverbs and sayings. The arrangement of paroemias in current lexicographic collections is aimed at a findable the needed unit, and the describing ways of paroemias contribute to the study, understanding of the meaning and their usage in a particular real-life situation. This is especially important when choosing variants of a proverbial saying in another language. Extra information, provided in the dictionary entry, allows obtaining historical data on paroemias, lexicographical material is a resource for further language studies of linguistic and paroemiological worldviews.

As a conclusion, it is necessary to point out that presenting proverbs and sayings in dictionaries requires a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach that combines traditional lexicographical methods with modern methods. This includes careful identification and compilation of proverbial expressions, linguistic analysis, accurate definition, etymology and history, and cultural significance. Using these research methods

can provide a comprehensive and accurate representation of the richness and diversity of proverbs and sayings that are an important part of cultural heritage. The bilingual dictionaries of proverbs and sayings are also an important resource in cultural linguistic studies. The presentation of proverbs and sayings in bilingual dictionaries is a main aspect of language studying and cross-cultural communication. By providing accurate translations, explanations, and cultural context, they promote to deepen understanding of the meaning and use of proverbs and sayings in different languages and cultures.

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## Мақал-мәтелдер корпусы құрылымының әртүрлі тілдердің материалдары негізінде паремиографиялық интерпретациясы

Қазіргі таңда лингвистикалық парадигма аясында әртүрлі халықтардың мақал-мәтелдік корпусын зерттеуге үлкен қызығушылық бар. Паремиографиялық жинақтар осы берілген лингвистикалық зерттеулер үшін ақпараттық әлеует қызметін атқаратыны белгілі. Осы орайда паремиографияның өзіне қатысты мәселелерге тиісті көңіл бөлу қажет болып саналады. Лексикографияның бұл саласының теориялық негіздері бойынша әртүрлі мақал-мәтелдер сөздіктерін құрастыру қолданыс тапты. Мақалада

орыс және ағылшын тілдеріндегі мақал-мәтелдер мен мәтелдер жинақтары негізіндегі жеке сөздік басылымдарына қысқаша шолу берілген. Авторлар зерттеліп жатқан мақал-мәтел деректерін, нақыл сөз көздерін құрастыруда қолданылатын лексикографиялық принциптерді қарастырған. Осындай жинақтардағы мақал-мәтелдердің берілуі мен сипаттамасына салыстырмалы талдау жасалған. Алынған зерттеу нәтижелері сипатты белгілер мен қатар қарастырылып отырған басылымдардағы мақал-мәтелдерді, лексиканы жүйелеу және сипаттау тәсілдерінің жалпы тенденциясы анықталғанын көрсетеді. Лексикографиялық тәжірибеде әртүрлі халықтардың мақал-мәтелдер қорының бірліктерінің қолданылуы мен шығу тегі туралы мысалдарды көрсету, салыстыру, мағыналарын түсіндіру, иллюстрациялау кезінде қолданылған ұғымдарды зерттеу жаңа сөздіктерді әзірлеу мен құрастырудың одан әрі перспективаларын, оның ішінде қазіргі паремиографиядағы мәдениетаралық лингвистикалық зерттеулерді анықтайды.

*Кілт сөздер:* паремиография, мақал-мәтелдік сөздіктер, лексикографиялық талдау, жүйелеу принципі, лексикографиялық сипаттамасы.

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## Паремиографическая интерпретация корпуса пословиц и поговорок на материале разноструктурных языков

В рамках современной лингвистической парадигмы наблюдается большой интерес к исследованиям пословичных корпусов разных народов. Информационным потенциалом для данных лингвистических изысканий служат паремиографические сборники. Вместе с тем необходимо уделять должное внимание и вопросам самой паремиографии. Теоретические основы данного направления лексикографии уже нашли применение в составлении различного рода словарей паремий. В настоящей статье представлен обзор отдельных словарных изданий на материале сборников пословиц и поговорок русского и английского языков. Авторами рассмотрены лексикографические принципы, применяемые в составлении исследуемых источников паремий. Проведен сравнительный анализ репрезентации и описания пословиц и поговорок в подобного рода сборниках. Полученные результаты показывают, что, наряду с характерными особенностями, выявлена общая направленность в подходах к словарной систематизации и описанию паремий в рассматриваемых изданиях. Изучение применяемых концепций в представлении, сравнении, интерпретации значений, иллюстрации примеров употребления и происхождения единиц пословично-поговорочного фонда разных народов в лексикографической практике обуславливают дальнейшие перспективы для разработки и составления новых словарных изданий, в том числе кросс-культурных лингвистических исследований в современной паремиографии.

*Ключевые слова:* паремиография, пословично-поговорочные словари, лексикографический анализ, принцип систематизации, словарное описание.

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