Structural Models of Phraseological Units Characterizing Power in the English, German and Russian Languages

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Abstract

The article is devoted to the structural grammatical analysis of substantive, verbal, adverbial and the phraseological units with the structure of a sentence characterizing power in English, German and Russian languages. The analysis of phraseological units shows significant similarity of structural-grammatical organization of English, German and Russian phraseological units. Common features are caused by universal laws of thought, physiological and psychological qualities of a person. Structural differences of phraseological units are explained by specific grammatical forms of each language and peculiarities of their functioning.

Keywords: phraseological unit, grammatical structure, substantive, verbal, adverbial

1. Introduction

One of the most actual and developing branches of phraseology is comparative phraseology. Its aim is the comparative analysis of phraseology of different languages. Significant scientific interest is paid to the researches devoted to the exploration of the universal and special (similarities and differences) of related and non-related languages. "The analysis of phraseological units of different languages in comparative aspect is very important" (Yalalova, 2014). This research is not an exception. Comparative typological analysis is made for exploration and description of similarities and differences. In the process of such research national and cultural specific features of languages are continually focalized. It is important because the linguistic factors must be analyzed as well as cultural peculiarities of languages. The necessity and actuality of comparative researches are underlined by such scientists as E. F. Arsent'eva (1989, 1993); G. A. Bagautdinova (2007); Z. A. Biktagirova (2007); N. G. Zajceva (2002); T. V. Zaharova (2011); Ju. V. Nikolaeva (2000); L. R. Sakaeva (2004); E. R. Hutova (2006); N. I. Jakimova (2007). On the one hand the necessity of comparative studies of lexical units of one language is underlined: *It is not possible to work out the meaning of a single word without its comparison with other words' meanings in the language* (Samsonova, 2004). On the other hand it is required to compare the material of several languages.

Phraseology is a unique language material containing very concentrated information about the nation and its considering of this or that notion or object. So the meaning of a PU (phraseological unit) is not formed simultaneously but it is formed together with the development of the language and its history. Researchers of phraseology have pointed out this fact many times. So V. N. Telija considers a phraseological unit to be "the most culture-accumulative component of a language" (Telija, 2004). M. A. Sarjan says that "phraseology condenses the whole complicated combination of culture and psychology of the nation" (Sarjan, 2006). T. A. Novickaja calls PU "one of the brightest significant of national cultural specific features of the language" (Novickaja, 2008). In order to get correct results of a research it is necessary to keep in mind that the meaning is formed not only lexically but also grammatically. "Forming of the completed phraseological meaning is closely connected not only with the semantic structure of the components of a PU but is also connected with their grammatical nature" (Galieva, 2007). The significance of grammatical structure researches of PU is underlined because "diversity of PU as a special unit of language is evident and the grammatical analysis of PU considering its specific form and content is gaining special importance" (Husnutdinov, 2006).

Scientists pay much attention to the research of structural grammatical organization of PU. It is necessary to point the representatives of the Kazan linguistic school: E. F. Arsent'eva (1983; 1993), L. K. Bajramova (1984),

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L. R. Sakaeva (2004; 2009), L. T. Miftahutdinova (2003), E. Ju. Semushina (2004), G. R. Galieva (2007), D. F. Sanlyer (2008), G. K. Gizatova (2010), L. V. Bazarova (2011), E. M. Maklakova (2012), and so on.

2. Method

The research is based on researches in the field of comparative phraseology of such scientists as N. A. Alefrienko, A. I. Alehina, N. N. Amosova, E. F. Arsent'eva, V. L. Arhangel'skij, R. A. Ajupova, G. A. Bagautdinova, L. K. Bajramova, V. V. Vinogradov, V. F. Gumbol'dt, D. O. Dobrovol'skij, Ju. A. Dolgopolov, V. P. Zhukov, M. M. Kopylenko, A. V. Kunin, D. G. Mal'ceva, A. M. Melerovich, V. M. Mokienko, A. D. Rajhshtejn, A. G. Sadykova, L. R. Sakaeva, M. I. Solnyshkina, V. N. Telija, A. M. Chepasova, I. I. Chernysheva, R. A. Jusupova, A. E. Jakimova, V. N. JarcevaThe main methods are the method of complete selection of the material and the comparative – typological method. The method of complete selection is used by selection phraseological units characterizing power from dictionaries according to their meaning. Comparative – typological method is the main method of carrying out comparative analysis of languages of different structures.

3. Results

In the process of analysis of structural-grammatical organization of phraseological units we took into consideration peculiarities suggested by E. F. Arsent'eva: Morphological expression of the main component; syntagmatic construction of phraseological units; character of syntactic relations; way of expression of syntactic relation; position of the main component in relation to the dependent component (Arsent'eva, 1989).

According to the grammatical characteristic we distinguish the most frequent groups: substantive (SPU), verbal (VPU), adjective (AdPU), adverbial (APU) and PU with the structure of a sentence. The analysis of the material lets us to assert that the most numerous groups are SPU and VPU.

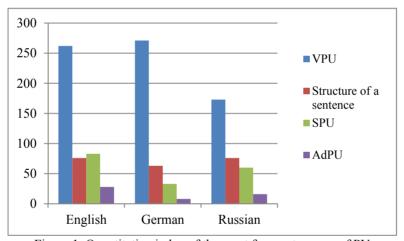


Figure 1. Quantitative index of the most frequent groups of PU

3.1 Substantive Phraseological Units

The main component of SPU is a noun. "Dominating role of nouns in the structure of PU can be explained by ontological causes, i.e. they serve for nomination of objects of subjective reality" (Galieva, 2007). For SPU common structural type is a combination of a noun and a noun: "N+N". The type is attributive - prepositive with contiguity in English: "state boss"; "a paper tiger"; "thought control". Unlike English, in Russian and German there is government of a noun with a noun: "polnota vlasti"; "vlastitel' dum"; "brazdy pravlenija"; "die Macht der Finsternis"; "das Recht des Stärkeren". The presence of the article must be mentioned in the preposition to a noun in SPU of English and German. It must be outlined that there is a specific subgroup "N's + N" in the English language. There is a combination of a noun in a possessive case and a noun: "Balaam's ass"; "John Thomson's man". Proper name is a dependent component in the given examples. But it must be mentioned that in some cases a proper name can serve as a main component: "Brother Jonathan". According to E. Ju. Semushina "Usage of proper names as SPU components is a specific feature of SPU of the English language" (Semushina, 2004). A dependent component of English SPU can be expressed by a compound noun: "carpet-bagger government".

The model "N+Prep+N" is typical of three languages. In this subclass the combination of a noun with a noun is fulfilled by prepositional subordination. In English PU of attributive-prepositional type with postposition and contiguity syntactic relation existing between components has no morphological expression and is fulfilled by a fixed word order: "the man on horseback/on the horse"; "hat in hand". In German and Russian syntactic relations of a main component with a dependent one is expressed by double ways – a case with a preposition: "мальчик на побегушках"; "ein Mann von Gewicht"; "ein Mann von Format"; "ein Mann von Namen". In some English PU there is interchangeability of both main components and dependent components: "the master of one's destiny/fate"; "the man on horseback/on the horse"; "king/man of clouts"; "gentleman/man/person of condition".

The components in the English SPU can be connected by complex connection: "N+and+N": "blood and iron"; "the throne and altar"; "fetcher and carrier". "Characteristic morphological features of double expressions is specified by denotation to the same or close notions" (Potapova, 2008).

In SPU a common structural type is a combination of an adjective and a noun "Adj+N". Specific forms of implementation of this model are different in comparable languages. In English there is no concord of an adjective with a noun: "a blank cheque"; "the gray/grey mare"; "a strong man". Unlike English in German and Russian there is concord in number, case, gender: "vol'nyj kazak"; "melkaja soshka"; "ein grosses Tier"; "ein dienstbarer Geist". This model has an attributive-prepositive type with concord with an adjectival-nominal group in the German and Russian languages, the English language is characterized by adjectival-nominal attributive-prepositive type of connection with contiguity. Constant variable dependence of components is a characteristic feature of this subgroup. Interchangeability of components is characteristic for English and Russian. It includes:

- Interchangeable nouns: "vol'naja(yj) ptica/ptashka/kazak"; "black flesh/stock"; "bigcard/pot/wig/gun/cheese/noise/shot/bug/dog/fish/number"
- Interchangeable adjectives: "vazhnaja/vol'naja ptica"; "mere/remote circumstance"; "soft/easy touch". E. F. Arsent'eva considers that "this tendency is typical just for all anthropocentric PU" (Arsent'eva, 1989).

In English and German PU a noun has a grammatical escort – an article. Unlike English, in German articles are declined and indicate a gender, a number and a case of a noun. The definite article in English – the; in German: for masculine – der; neuter – das; feminine – die: "the gray/grey mare"; "the secular arm"; der "getreue <ein getreuer> Eckart"; "der eiserne Vorhang"; the indefinite article in English – a/an, in German: ein – for male and neuter, eine – for feminine: "a blank cheque"; "a strong man"; "ein grosser Fisch"; "ein grosses <hohes> Tier", and a zero article: "executive board"; "legislative body". In the Russian language there is not a category of an article (Yalalova, 2014).

For some Pussian PU it is possible that a dependent component is in postposition to the main one: "rab bozhij", also a short adjective as a dependent component: "ruki korotki".

There is a participial-nominal group of attributive-prepositive type with contiguity in the English language: "P (I, II) + N": "sleeping charter"; "ruling circles"; "steering committee"; "sacred cow".

3.2 Verbal Phraseological Units

Verbal PU are the units with a verb as the main component (Sakaeva, 2008). Verbal PU with subordination can express objective or objective adverbial relations. Verbal phraseological units expressing objective relations may have different structures. The simplest structure is the combination of a verb and a noun

"V+N". Owing to the fact that in German and Russian the main method of expressing objective connection is government, in English – contiguity, the objective - postpositive type with government in Russian corresponds to the objective-postpositive type with contiguity in English, the objective-prepositive type with government – in German: "take control"; "lead the way"; "boss\run the show"; "брать верх над кем-либо"; "брать в оборот кого-либо"; "держать на привязи"; "Lehre annehmen"; "die Hosen anhaben"; "Ketten anlagen".

The model under consideration can be expanded by prepositional extension by an adjective or an adverb and form the following structures in German and English: "Adj/Adv+N+V": "das goldene Kalb anbeten"; "einen hohen Rücken bekommen\haben"; "die Schraubenmitter <fester> anziehen"; "V+Adj+N": "give smb a free rein"; "gain\get\have the upper hand".

Besides prepositional extension by a participle or a numeral forms the following structure in English: "V+P1/Num+N": "adore\hail\worship the rising sun"; "play first fiddle".

PU with the structure "V+Prep+N" in the English and Russian languages, "Prep+N+V" in the German language are one of the most numerous groups. The main component is a verb, the dependent is a noun: "sit in judgment";

"sit on one's the throne"; "have hold in leash"; "drag pull the ears", "pljasat' pod dudku"; "popadat's ja v ruki"; "jemanden in seiner Gewalt haben"; "etwas in den Fingern haben"; "jemanden an der Strippe haben". The most frequently used prepositions in Russian are: "v, "na": "vhodit' v silu", "derzhat' na privjazi", "derzhat' v tiskah", "polzat' na brjuhe", "popadat's ja v ruki". However there occur the prepositions "nad", "za", "pered", "po", "pod", "k", "za": "brat' verh nad kem-l"; "vzjat' za boka/gorlo/zhabry"; "hodit' po strunke"; "pljasat' pod dudku"; "povergat's ja k stopam"; "pritjagivat' za volosy'.

Depending of the position of the preposition there are the following models in the English language:

- "V+Prep+N": "stand for sipher"; "stake out a claim"; "take smb at a disadvantage"
- "V+N+Prep": "thumb one's nose at smb"; "have a hold over smb"

The most frequently used prepositions in English are "on", "to", "in": "put the arm on smb.", "lay violent hands on", "keep a tight hand on smb.", "come to power", "call smb. to heel", "dance to smb's tune", "take smb in hand", "put smb. in a bag", "bring smb. in one's own bow". Besides there occur prepositions "for", "of", "over", "before", "at", "with", "under", "from": "crouch one's back before smb.", "come the old soldier over smb.", "mop the floor with smb.", "count for nothing", "toad under a harrow", "get the whop-hand of smb.", "stand at the courtesy of smb.", "snatch smb. from the jaws of death".

The structure has the model "Prep+N+V" for the German language: "in die Klemme greaten"; "auf den Bauch fallen"; "unter den Waffen halten"; "auf dem Bauche kriechen\liegen".

As in English there two subtypes depending on the position of the preposition in the German language:

- -"N+Prep+V": "den Daumen auf etw. halten\drucken"; "den Prügelknaben für jemanden abgeben"
- -"Prep+N+V": "jemanden unter Druck setzen"; "auf den Bauch fallen".

The most frequenly used prepositions in the German language are: "in", "au", "auf", "unter": "jemanden in seiner Gewalt haben", "etwas in den Fingern haben", "jemanden an der Strippe haben", "hoch ans Brett kommen", "einen Druck auf jemandem ausuben", "auf dem Bauche kriechen", "jemanden unter Druck setzen", "etwas unter sein Diktat bringen". Such prepositions as "für", "zu", "über», "bei", "vor", "mit", "nach" are also used: "den Prügelknaben für jemanden abgeben", "Fug und Macht zu etwas haben", "die Macht uber jemanden haben", "sich lieb Kind bei jemandem machen", "einen krummen Rucken vor jemandem machen", "nach jemandes Geige tanzen", "mit fremdem Kalb pflugen".

The model under consideration is typical of three analyzed languages.

3.3 Adverbial Phraseological Units

A special model among VPU for German and Russian is "V+N+Prep+N": "vypustit' vozhzhi iz ruk"; "taskat' <komu-l> kashtany iz ognja"; "have an opponent on the run"; "tighten the noose around\round the neck of smb"; "put smb\the chestnuts out of the fire".

It is possible to distinguish VPU with complex structure. Such PU with connective-complex connection occur in the English and German languages: "V+V": "fetch and carry"; "bow and scrape"; "divide and conquer\rule"; "binden und lösen"; "schalten und walten"; "sengen und brennen".

APU function as adverbial modifiers and express characteristics of an action and the degree of qualitative characteristic of an object. The expressions with government connection of components begin with prepositions: "n smb's fingers", "by the strong arm/hand", "on one's (bented) knees", "with a heavy hand", "under smb's thumb", "in the grip of powerty"; "pod kablukom", "v kulake", "na ptich'ih pravah\na ptich'em polozhenii", "po shhuch'emu veleniju", "v ezhovyh rukavicah"; "im Recht"; "unter Gewalt"; "in der Klemme".

APU with complex structure can be divided into several types according to the quantity of significant components and due to the presence or absence of a preposition. There are distinguished two-component prepositionless APU with complex connection: "ognem i mechom". Two-component, three-component and four-component PU refer to the units with complex structure: "between Scylla and Charybdis" and structurally and semantically analogical "mezhdu Scilloj i Haribdoj"; "Zwischen Scylla und Charybdis"; "mit Feuer und Schwert", "gegen Wünsch und Willen"; "between the upper and nether millstones"; "between the devil and the deep /blue sea". The analyzed material contains PU with connective-complex connection: "ognem i mechom", "between Scylla and Charybdis", "Zwischen Scylla und Charybdis", "mit Feuer und Schwert". PU "between the upper and nether millstones" represents complex-adversative connection, where the components express antonymic meaning.

3.4 Phraseological Units with the Structure of a Sentence

According to the grammatical structure PU can have the structure of a sentence. The material of PU with the structure of a sentence can be either with the structure of a simple sentence or a complex sentence. PU with the structure of a simple sentence are typical of three languages and numerous in quality: "Somebody's word is law"; "Might goes before right"; "Pochva\zemlja uhodit\ujdet\ushla iz pod nog"; "Vse vedaet Bog i gosudar"; "Jemand(etwas) sitzt ihm im Nacken"; "Es geht über mein Vermögen".

Paroemias are a great part of the material of PU characterizing power. As a rule paroemias have the structure of a sentence and are characterized by structural completion. Two important peculiarities of a proverb as a folklore genre influences the syntax of a proverb with the structure of a sentence. On the one hand proverb is an independent, finished (completed) piece of text oriented on separate existence. So such a piece of text must be semantically and syntactically full. On the other hand proverb is sure to be remembered and quoted that is why it must be laconic and short. According to these peculiarities it is possible to presume that syntactical structure of a proverb must be finished and exhaustive but not too outspread and complicated (Renkovskaja, 2011).

The most numerous group of analyzed PU have the structure of a simple sentence and can include subordinate members: "Might goes before right"; "A new broom sweeps clean"; "Car' goroda berezhet"; "Carskij glaz daleche sjagaet"; "Neue Besen kehren gut"; "Macht geht vor recht"; "Einigkeit macht stark". There are examples that are equivalent to a sentence in the imperative mood: "Divide and rule", "Don't keep a dog and bark oneself", "Sudi menja Bog i gosudar", "Razdeljaj i vlastvuj"; "Schuster, bleib bei deinem Leisten". Russian paroemias are characterized by a variety of syntactic structures of a complex sentence. There distinguished PU with the structure of either compound or complex sentence with asyndetic connection:

"Bez Boga svet ne stoit, bez carja zemlja ne pravitsja", "Man proposes, God disposes"; "Little thieves are hanged, but great ones escape"; "Chelovek predpolagaet, a Bog raspolagaet"; "Car' dumaet, a narod vedaet"; "The race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong"; "Der Mensch denkt, Gott lenkt". There are examples of semi-compound structures typical for the English language: "Laws catch flies, but let hornets go free", "Money is a good servant, but a bad master".

The material of the research represents PU with the structure of complex sentence with different types of clauses. The structure of complex sentence with a subject clause is typical for three languages: "He who pays the piper calls the tune"; "God helps those who help themselves"; "Kto platit, tot i zakazyvaet muzyku"; "Kogo miluet Bog, togo zhaluet car"; "Wem Gott wohl will, der will Sankt Peter nicht übel". "In the English language PU with the structure of a sentence are characterized by necessity of subject clauses" (Bazarova, 2011). The analyzed material proves the fact. Besides English and Russian PU have the structure of a complex sentence with -adverbial clause of place:

"The mouse lordships where the cat is not", "Gde car', tam i Pravda";

-adverbial clause of time:

"Oaks may fall when reeds stand the storm"; "Death when it comes will have no denial"

Adverbial clause of purpose: "Master your temper lest it masters you"

Adverbial clause of condition: "If you cannot bite never show your teeth". There is an example of adverbial clause of concession in the Russian PU: "Gde ni zhit', odnomu carju sluzhit".

4. Discussions

Analysis of structural-grammatical features of phraseological units characterizing power in the English, German and Russian languages allowed to find out common features present in the analyzed languages and the specific features distinguishing them from each other. Substantive phraseological units of the models "N+N", "N+Prep+N", "N+and+N", "Adj+N" are typical of analyzed languages. Verbal phraseological units of the models "V+N", "V+Prep+N", 'V+V" are typical of the three languages. APU function as adverbial modifiers and express characteristics of an action and the degree of qualitative characteristic of an object. APU with complex structure can be divided into several types according to the quantity of significant components and due to the presence or absence of a preposition. There are distinguished two-component prepositionless APU with complex connection; two-component, three-component and four-component PU refer to the units with complex structure. The material of PU with the structure of a sentence can be either with the structure of a simple sentence or a complex sentence. PU with the structure of a simple sentence are typical of three languages. Paroemias have the structure of a sentence and are characterized by structural completion. The most numerous group of analyzed PU have the structure of a simple sentence and can include subordinate members. There

distinguished PU with the structure of either compound or complex sentence with asyndetic connection. There are examples of semi-compound structures typical for the English language. The structure of a complex sentence with a subject clause is typical for three languages. English and Russian PU have the structure of a complex sentence with adverbial clause of place, time, purpose, condition.

5. Conclusions

Thus the analysis of phraseological units characterizing power in English, German and Russian in structural grammatical aspect shows significant similarity of structural-grammatical organization of English, German and Russian PU. The main structural types of phraseological units are substantive, verbal, adverbial and phraseological units with the structure of a sentence. Expansion of the grammatical structure is a characteristic feature of all models of phraseological units characterizing power. Notwithstanding the differences of languages under analysis there are common structural grammatical models of phraseological units. Common features are caused by universal laws of thought, physiological and psychological qualities of a person. Structural differences of phraseological units are explained by specific grammatical forms of each language and peculiarities of their functioning. The main difference between the phraseological units characterizing power in the English, German and Russian languages is a way of expressing syntactic relations that is caused by the different structure of these languages.

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