

Sources of Origin of Phraseological Units with Proper Nouns in the English Language

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Abstract

The article analyses various sources of origin of phraseological units with proper nouns in the English language. Proper noun as a component of a phraseological unit is one of the representatives of culture and performs the function of storing and transmitting traditions, history, and culture of people, that is why it is a special linguistic sign. Etymology being one of the crucial issues in studying proper names in phraseological units, it is closely related to semantics of such phraseological units. From the perspective of nature of their genesis the phraseological units in this article are classified into deterministic and indeterministic phraseological units. Etymological and semantic analyses conducted in this article indicate that proper names in phraseological units have historical, literary, and cultural associations.

Keywords: Phraseological unit, etymology, deterministic phraseological units, indeterministic phraseological units, toponym.

Introduction

Phraseology is closely connected with history, traditions and literature. This peculiarity of Phraseology is especially apparent in phraseological units with proper nouns. Etymology being one of the crucial issues in studying proper names in phraseological units, it is closely related to semantics of such phraseological units.

T.V. Likhovidova notes that "there is no doubt that from diachronic perspective, all phraseological units with a proper name are etymologically motivated, since at the time of their origination, language users were clearly aware of the connection between a proper name and the meaning of a phraseological unit. However, from synchronic perspective, most of them lost their motivation [Likhovidova, 1971].

The phraseological fund is constantly changing and updated with new phraseological units. New names constantly emerge in the life of society and hence new associations that give life to new phraseological units emerge.

The origin of phraseological units has been attracting researchers' attention for a long time.

S.I. Abakumov, for example, identifies two groups of sources of origin of phraseological units: native and foreign. The native sources are titles or images of literary works, speech used by people of various professions, folk art, biblical myths, historical facts and legends, scientific terminology; the foreign sources are literally translated expressions and expressions used without translation [Abakumov, 1936].

L.A. Bulakhovsky distinguishes the following sources of phraseological units:

- 1) proverbs and sayings;
- 2) professionalism;
- 3) expressions from jokes;
- 4) quotes and images of a biblical nature;
- 5) reminiscences of antiquity;
- 6) translations of foreign expressions;
- 7) popular expressions created by writers;
- 8) striking phrases of prominent people [Bulakhovsky, 1952].

V.N. Telia identifies eight sources of phraseological units:

- 1) ritual forms of folk culture;
- 2) paremiological fund; proverbs are a powerful source of cultural interpretation as paremiological fund has been formed for centuries;
- 3) a system of images - standards imprinted in set comparisons;
- 4) word-symbols or phrases that have a symbolic meaning;
- 5) religion with its theosophy, moral principles and rituals. Phraseological Units formed from this source can represent different types of citations: direct quotation (for example, the weaker vessel, the salt of the earth;
- 6) intellectual property of the nation as a whole and individuals: philosophy, history, literature, etc.;
- 7) realities, explicitly expressed in words - components of phraseological units. This group includes the majority of phraseological units with proper names;
- 8) figurative content of phraseological units. This source includes intralinguistic sources of national-cultural interpretation. [Telia, 1996].

Materials and Methods

English phraseological units with a proper name served as material for the study in this research article and the following methods were applied:

- semantic analysis of language material;
- etymological analysis of the studied phraseological units with a proper name;
- elements of quantitative calculation;
- descriptive method (when interpreting and classifying).

Discussion and Results

The phraseological units in this article are divided into two classes according to their nature of genesis:

- 1) deterministic phraseological units (phraseological units, which include proper names that genetically go back to a certain denotation);
- 2) indeterministic (phraseological units, that do not possess primary denotation).

We shall look the origin of phraseological units of both these classes.

In the English language proper name is a common component among indeterministic class of phraseological units.

For example, the name Jack, which appears in more than 40 phraseological units, is most often associated with a cheerful guy, agile and cunning, sometimes roguish. Also, this name is used instead of the word "man". [Zagirova, 2003].

Phraseological units with the name Jack have been included in this article. Here are some examples: climb like a steeple Jack; Jack in the low cellar - an unborn child, a child in the womb; Jack Drum - crowded party [this. because sounds like a drum beat in recruiting time; Jack Adams - a fool, Jack of both sides - one who tries to be neutral; before you can (could) say Jack Robinson - (colloquial) immediately, instantly; right away, immediately; Jack among the maids - ladies' man, gentleman.

Etymologically, the name Jack has the same roots as the name John. The name John is used in numerous phraseological units. The analysis of such phraseological units revealed that most phraseological units with the proper name John are of American origin. Here are some examples: big John (military slang) - recruit; dear John letter - note or letter from a woman with a message about a breakup [came into use during World War II]; John Barleycorn - John Barleycorn [personification of beer and other malt drinks; John (Jack) Blunt - a rude person; John Citizen - an ordinary citizen, an average person; John (Tom) Collins - a drink made from soda water with gin, sugar, lemon juice and ice.

The name Tom derived from Thomas, is also often used in phraseological units: aunt Tom (colloquial) - a business woman who made a professional or business career; blind Tom - the name of the game " blind man's buff "; Tom Long - very tall and thin, lanky man, resp; Tomfool - fool, jester, Tom and Jerry - strong punch; Tom and Jerry shop - cheap, low-quality inn.

The names Peter and Betty are also widely used in English phraseological units. Here are some examples: black Betty (slang) - a beer mug; kiss black Betty

(slang) - to drink; brown Betty (colloquial) - apple pie, cousin Betty - weak-minded, fool; for the Pete's sake - for God's sake! sure Pete (slang) - definitely; to pass (to go) through St. Peter's needle - to be punished; receive a punishment, a good scolding; long Eliza - a tall Chinese porcelain vase; aunt Emma - a sluggish, lack of initiative croquet player; little Mary (colloquial, joking) - stomach; old Nick (or Harry) - (colloquial) - a person who always causes troubles, problems; naughty; bad; tin Lizzie - cheap automobile.

Further, we shall look at the sources of deterministic phraseological units, which represent a large group in the English language. In this article we will mainly consider phraseological units with geographical names. Geographical names are part of the history and culture of the people, because they represent realities that reflect national country features.

Considering the phraseological units collected in this article, we propose to classify the phraseological units into the following groups:

- 1) phraseological units with a toponym component, which are based on historical events associated with a given geographic location;
- 2) phraseological units with a toponym component, which are based on features of economic development.

First, we shall consider phraseological units that are related to the first group: phraseological units with a toponym component, which are based on historical events associated with a given geographic location.

Go to Canossa - an act of penance or submission. To "go to Canossa" is an expression that describes doing penance, often with the connotation that it is unwilling or coerced. Canossa is a castle in northern Italy, famous for history of the struggle between secular authorities and Pontifical theocracy. In this castle the German emperor Henry IV begged forgiveness from Pope Gregory VII in 1077, with whom he had previously conducted political war; the Delphic oracle - a person who expresses himself incomprehensibly; someone stating his position but unable or unwilling to explain his point of view. Delphi - a city in ancient Greece, religious center of the

ancient Greeks, famous for the sanctuary of Apollo – the oracle, whose sayings were proclaimed by the priests. The sayings of the oracle were always intricate, ornate and allegorical, so that everyone could interpret them in their own way. [Korzyukova, 2003]; to cross (pass) the (one's) Rubicon - take the final and irreversible step that may have irreversible consequences; cross some important milestone. In 49 B.C. despite prohibition of the Roman Senate, Julius Caesar with his legions crossed the Rubicon - the river that served as the border between Umbria and Cisalpine Gaul. This was the beginning of the war between Julius Caesar and the Senate, as a result of which Caesar took possession of Rome and became the dictator; Spartan life - a life full of difficulties and hardships. When in IX-VIII centuries BC. Lycurgus came to power in the Greek city of Sparta, he introduced new wise and firm laws. Lycurgus believed that disorder occurs because of inequality, wealth and poverty, pride and envy. Therefore, he ordered that all the lands and income from these lands to be allocated to each Spartan equally. The Spartans were to eat the same food together with other people [Korzyukova, 2003].

The second group comprises phraseological units with a toponym component, which are based on features of economic development.

In the following phraseological units, the toponym is formed on the basis of the name of a product: Arkansas (California) toothpick (slang) - a long hunting knife; Bombay duck- "Bombay duck" [curry made from a bun mallow fish that dwells in the Indian Ocean. Its taste is similar to duck, and this dish was often sold in India during the British Empire, therefore, was called by the British "Bombay duck". Carry (bring) coals to 'Newcastle – *to supply something to a place or person that already has a lot of that particular thing*, not for all the tea in China (colloquial) - Not at any price, never, to go for a Burton (colloquial) - 1) die; 2) disappear; 3) go bankrupt.: Burton: -the town in the county of Staffordshire, famous for its production of beer. British pilots first used this expression during World War II remembering their fallen comrades in the army.

Analysis of English phraseological units showed that a component of some phraseological units is a street name: all Lombard Street to a China orange – to be absolutely convinced. This refers to the financial position of the business district in London, including Lombard Street, where the banks are located; Coronation Street – a street inhabited by workers; Lombard Street - money market, finance center. Lombard Street in the city of London has a row of largest banks; Fleet Street - English press. The editorial offices of the largest newspapers are located in Fleet Street in London; Throgmorton Street- London Stock Exchange. The stock exchange is located on Throgmorton Street; Wall Street – an American financial oligarchy. The largest banks are located on Wall Street in New York; Harley Street- doctors, London medical world. Offices of many famous doctors are located on Harley Street in New York; old lady in (or of) Threadneedle Street - The English Bank.

Conclusion

Proceeding from the above, it can be concluded that the toponyms have many associations (historical, cultural, literary), which are familiar to any native speaker, but unknown to learners of the language. Without semantization of the cultural component of the meaning of the toponym in a phraseological unit, the cultural value of the toponym will be limited to information about a particular geographical feature, but a vast layer of historical, cultural and socio-economic associations will remain unperceived. The conducted etymological analysis of phraseological units with a proper noun in the English language enabled us to classify the studied material according to their source of origin into deterministic and indeterministic phraseological units. In indeterministic phraseological units the names Jack and John have the highest degree of phraseologisation. While, indeterministic phraseological units are mostly connected with life, folklore, history and the literature of the nation.

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