

The Semantic Features of Using French Expressions and Proverbs in the English and Russian Novels

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Abstract: The present article investigates semantic, stylistic and pragmatic peculiarities of using French words, expressions, proverbs and speech formulas in the English and Russian literary works. Theoretical content of the article is proved by literary contexts, in which French expressions and proverbs are used with specific semantic, stylistic and pragmatic aim due to the communication act and situation. Besides, English phraseological units originated from the French language, have been analyzed in the article.

Keywords: literary works, French borrowings, expression, derivation, speech formulas, noble society, expression, proverb, context.

Introduction

It is known that phraseology is considered as a science that studies the meaning, form and use of permanent combinations of verbal signs that exist in a given language and function in the speech of its speakers, as well as limitations in the compatibility of words and verbal meanings that create these combinations. Moreover, "winged words", proverbs and sayings, fairy-tale formulas, historical aphorisms and other diverse creative works, only decomposing into elements, losing the structural features of the genre, becoming like structural phraseological units, become the property of the phraseology of the language itself. A.V. Kunin notes: "A phraseological unit is a stable combination of words, with a fully or partially reinterpreted meaning." A PhU has a different set of categorical features than a word. These signs are as follows: a) lexical meaning; b) component composition and c) grammatical categories [A.V. Kunin, 2005, p. 12]. The categorical essence of PhU as an independent, non-word equivalent unit of language finds its expression in the specific features of its form, predetermined by the component composition and originality of its semantics, which is composed of the lexical meaning of PhU and grammatical meaning. The signs of PhU include: separateness, reproducibility and stability.

In many works on phraseology, the important role of the internal form in the semantic structure of phraseological units is noted. The inner form is also the center of the image, one of its features, prevailing over all others. The internal form as a component of the semantic structure of the PhU is not always neutral with respect to this structure as a whole. Being a dynamic component of meaning, the internal form in some cases comes to the fore and determines the semantics of PhU [P.Skandera, 2007, p. 144].

Discussion and results

French borrowings-phrases express their stylistic and pragmatic content in the literary text. A single French word can perform an important stylistic and pragmatic function. The main task of French borrowings-phrases in the literary text is to attract the attention of the reader and literary critic. We will give an example:

- *Mais, ma pauvre Catiche, c'est clair comme le jour. Он один тогда законный наследник всего, а вы не получите ни вот этого* [L.N. Tolstoy, "War and Peace", book 1, p.68]. The French phrase gives meaning "as clear as a day".

A person expresses his experiences and inner feelings with the help of language units, therefore, in modern linguistics, more importance is attached to the axiological features of the language system. Language units are directly related to human cognitive-emotional processes. A person expresses a clear attitude and assessment of experience and the world around him during his life. Such relations and evaluations have been transmitted from generation to generation in the structure of language units, that is, paremiological units.

Proverbs describe a specific object in a specific situation at a specific time and place, and give it advice, assessment, approval, etc. means [L.V. Burmistrova, 2017, p. 58].

Various concepts are expressed in paremiological units. They depict various images and objects of the world. From a stylistic point of view, proverbs are distinguished by their rhythmic structure and poetic form. Euphonic devices in proverbs include logical syllables, rhyme, and repetition of similar sounds. It is these features that play an important role in remembering proverbs. The paremiological fund consists of proverbs, sayings, riddles and aphorisms, which have been passed down from generation to generation for centuries.

The next extract from Russian novel contains French proverb:

Пьер смотрел на нее через очки.

- *Allons, je vous reconduirai. Tâchez de pleurer. Rien ne soulage comme les larmes. Она провела его в темную гостиную, и Пьер рад был, что никто там не видел его лица* [L.N. Tolstoy, "War and Peace", book 1, p. 80]. The word-for-word translation of the proverb: "When a person cries, he comes down".

In Russian works of art written in the 18th and 19th centuries, it was observed that the advice or reproach activated in the character's speech is usually expressed by a French sentence:

На другое утро Анна Михайловна говорила Пьеру:

- *Oui, mon cher, c'est une grande perte pour nous tous. Je ne parle pas de vous. Mais dieu vous soutiendra, vous êtes jeune et vous voilà à la tête d'une immense fortune, je l'espère. Le testament n'a pas été encore ouvert. Je vous connais assez pour savoir que cela ne vous tournera pas la tête, mais cela vous impose des devoirs, et il faut être homme* [L.N. Tolstoy, "War and Peace", book 1, p. 80]. It can be seen that this speech act took place entirely in French, and pragmatic meanings such as advice, rebuke, grudge were reflected in it. A French proverb is used at the end of the speech. The translation of the speech is as follows: "Yes, my friend, this is a great loss for all of us, especially for you. But God help you, you are a good man, and I hope you will have a great inheritance. The will has not yet been read. I have known you for many years and I know that you do not lose yourself, but inheritance is a great responsibility; the most important thing is to be human. The last expression is French proverb in English translation.

English phrase *common sense* [A.V. Kunin, 1967, p. 806] appeared from the French expression – *sens commun* "healthy mind". *Safe and sound*, translated as "very healthy" is also derived from the French phraseological unit:

At other times she would ... assure herself that things were not so bad – that certainly she would come out safe and sound [Th. Dreiser, "Sister Carrie", ch. XXVI].

The English expression *at full sail*, which is used to denote sailing, comes from French *a pleines voiles* – "with shoulders up":

If she heard a story about any of her acquaintances, she would forthwith set off at full sail, and never rest until, to use her usual expression, she had got "to the bottom of it", which meant nothing more than telling it to everybody she knew [W. Irving, "Salmagundi", p.87].

Some English phrases with historical content have derivated from French: *revolutions are not made with rosewater* with meaning “revolution can’t be done in a glove”. Let’s compare with French version: *Voulez vous qu’on vous fasse des revolution a l’eau rose* – it is taken from Martmontel’s book «Memoire d’un Pere».

The modern English expression *the new rich* [N.Z. Nasrullaeva, 2018] is also directly connected to the French expression *nouveaux riches* and means “people who became rich recently and are very proud of that”.

The English phrase of political discourse *reason of state* [A.V. Kunin, 1967, p.746] “state affairs” is derived from the French expression *raison d’etat* – state actions or state affairs.

English phrase *have reason* “be right” is registered with French etymology French *avoir raison* [A.V. Kunin, 1967, p.746].

Conclusion

We can conclude that French culture, art, way of life, customs and traditions are reflected in world literature. In the 17th-19th centuries, French culture spread throughout the world and left its mark on world literature. Moreover, French expressions and proverbs in world literature actualize specific pragmatic-semantic content and fulfil communicative-pragmatic functions.

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