

PHRASEOLOGICAL REPRESENTATION OF CONCEPTUALIZATION OF SPACE IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Abstract:

The article analyses the English phraseological units with the concept of space and represents universal characteristics and national peculiarities of the category of space in the phrase system of this language.

Keywords: spatial semantics, phraseosemantic, microfields of location, axiological, sociocultural, perceptual aspects.

Introduction

Space, as the first aspect of existence that is perceived and differentiated by a human, has more than once become the object of linguistic study. Modern linguistics is characterized by a significant number of works devoted to the analysis of certain groups of phraseological units with spatial semantics in Slavic, German and Romance languages. However, a gap in the study of phraseological units with the means of spatial nomination remains and is still an unexplored branch of linguistics. In this regard, the establishment of a systemic organization of the category of space in English phrase fund with the identification of its universal characteristics and idioethnic features, determination of the relationship between the general and the national specific in the phraseological representation of this category in the English language. The material for the study was: 787 English phraseological units selected from dictionaries (Kunin, 2005; Muller, 1995; Cowie, 2000; Daphne, 2001; Freeman, 1982; Kirkpatrick, 1983; Long, 1987; Sinclair, 1995, 2002; Spears, 2011; Wood, 1979), as well as 1375 contexts from works of fiction of the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries in English.

Materials and Methods

English phraseological units with phraseosemantic spatial fields 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 study established that English phraseological units (PU) form phraseosemantic spatial fields (PSF), which have the same polycentric structure and consist of micro fields of movement, location, metric, and topology.

Microfields of movement include the following semantic parameters:

“phase”, “direction”, “subject”, “environment”, “means”, “character” and “speed” of movement. “Phase” is manifested by phraseosemantic subgroups: the beginning of movement, end of movement, arrival/arrival/appearance, departure/departure/disappearance. Compared to the beginning (9 English phraseological units), the end-of-movement parameter is characterized by significant representativeness (55 English phraseological units). The end of displacement is perceived negatively and may be due to: strong emotions, stress; fall (from the top, to be swept off one’s feet “to fall, to fall”); limitations in body resources (not being able to stand on one’s feet, being ready to drop “not being able to walk, moving from fatigue, weakness, illness”); inability to move due to unfavorable conditions external circumstances (neither here nor there, stick fast “without movement, without change, without moving forward”); danger of movement for the subject (not move/budge/give/yield an inch to be in the same position, not to move); arrangement for permanent residence (cast/come to / drop an anchor - stop, settle down somewhere for permanent residence).

Analysis of English phraseological units of the phraseosemantic subgroup arrival/appearance showed that the arrival, or appearance of a subject without warning in the English linguistic culture is undesirable. This is evidenced by lexemes with the semantics of negative mythological phenomena the Christian antipodes of God hell, dickens, devil, heck in the structure of English phraseological units (what the hell/devil/deuce/dickens/blazes brings/has brought someone here?).

It has been established that the “direction” of movement in the English phrase system is of three types: from where (from all sides “from everywhere”), where, follow one’s nose “to go wherever you please”) and from where / where (here and there yes, hither and thither – in different directions, in different directions; then one way, then the other’). The starting point from where and the final point where are places characterized by remoteness and uncertainty, where the subject ends up not of his own free will (to the devil, to the middle of nowhere “very far away, to very remote or inaccessible places”). The identified quantitative asymmetry of the initial (8 English phraseological units) and final points (48 English phraseological units) is due to the direction of the human perception organs forward and the greater communicative significance of the final destination as the goal of the movement.

Moving from / to can be carried out within an open, continuous (hither and thither “here and there”), and limited, closed space in a horizontal (from end to end) or horizontal-vertical plane (restriction and cross, the length and breadth of something).

Together with the semantics “direction of movement” in English phraseological units the following are represented: a) taboo areas of human life – physiological processes of the body (take a leak “to go to the toilet, run”), imprisonment (get behind bars – to prison’), b) ways of socialization of a person in society (to leave the nest and fly / leave the nest - to leave the parental home and become independent in life’).

English spatial phrase system is characterized by anthropocentricity, since the main “subject” of movement is a person who moves in a suitable “environment” - the earth’s surface - with the help of a “means” of transportation - on foot (beat the legs and beat the hoof “to walk somewhere for a long time’). The “character” of movement is a movement that leaves the impression of lightness or heaviness, gracefulness or clumsiness, strength or relaxation, freedom or constraint. In the English phrase system, movement is manifested on the toes (on hind legs, on one’s tiptoe), on the arms and legs at the same time (all fours and on all fours "simultaneously on both arms and legs"), in a state of alcoholic intoxication, clumsily (like a bully and like a bull in a China shop - move awkwardly'). The clumsiness of movement is figuratively connected with the habits of

animals and birds: in English, it is a bull and elephant.

Objects move in space at a certain speed. It has been established that "speed" is the most important kinetic characteristic the British, as evidenced by the quantitative content of this phraseosemantic group: 120 English phraseological units. Objects can move "fast", "slow", or, if there are two or more of them, "at the same speed".

"Fast" movement has a general positive connotation and is figuratively connected: a) with autonomous movements of parts of the human body (in the twinkling/wink of an eye) b) with maximum physical capabilities (with all one's might), c) with an affective mental state; with the forces and phenomena of nature (like a streak of lightning); d) with vehicles (under full sail); e) with mythological phenomena and negative Christian phenomena (run like hell/dickens / hell / the devil); e) very short periods that are not recorded by a person's consciousness (in <just> a moment).

"Slow" movement, on the contrary, is assessed negatively, since it is caused by a) fatigue, weakness, illness (scarcely dragging one foot after the other), b) laziness, reluctance, the disinterest of the speaker in moving (splashing, hardly put one foot in front of the other), c) lack of reasons for haste (not on fire, where is the fire?). The unrepresentativeness of the phrase semantic subgroup with the same speed (in step with someone) indicates that the maximum or minimum speed of movement is reflected in the English phrase system.

The English ideological and ethnic specificity of the phraseological representation of movement is determined by: the presence of a direction of movement for the fastest covering the distance to the object (across lots 'straight'); representation of the high speed of mechanical vehicles (burn rubber - go very fast; about a car'); active use of marine terminology (give someone or something a wide berth, literally "give someone wide anchor places or a place at the berth"); determining the direction of movement of an object by smell (follow one's nose "to go in the direction of the smell"); explication of various types movements: vertically (up and down the country 'in different directions'), in water and air (tread water 'swim while standing', hit the silk 'jump with a parachute'), due to failure to fulfill financial obligations (do a moonlight flit 'move out' from the apartment without payment), with certain difficulties (worm one's way 'to crawl through').

Microfields of location in English phraseological units represent orientational spatial characteristics "with indication of distance" (close / far, far, high) and "without indication of distance" (being in one place, being in different places, being nowhere). The localization of an object "with an indication of the distance" to it is described by a three-component horizontal spatial model close - not far - far. Meaning a significant number English phraseological units with the semantics "close", their use with actual predicates, the presence in their structure of somatisms arm, leg (eyeball to eyeball), figurative connection with objects and phenomena of human life (right next door to something) indicates a somato-anthropocentric character space close to the speaker.

Phrases with the meaning "nearby" explicate the location of an object outside the tactile space of the observer, but do not exclude the possibility of seeing this object or reaching it in a short period (in three / a few steps away / away from/to).

Phraseologisms with the semantics "far", associated with images of edge, and border (at the end of the earth), indicate the localization of an object beyond the perceptual capabilities of the observer, as evidenced by the absence of somatisms in the structure of phraseological units of this subgroup and their use with irrelevant predicates - Well, let's go to the huts, I live in the middle of nowhere; He lives in some tiny, remote village in the back of beyond (Cambridge Idioms Dictionary).

Native speakers of English determine the distant localization of an object along with vision using

hearing (out of ears short “beyond audibility”). English phraseological units with the meaning “far” are figuratively connected with the back of an object (the back of beyond – literally “behind behind”), devoid of connotation, are neutral, and represent the culturally marked structure of a person’s personal space (keep someone at arm’s length “to keep anyone within arm’s reach”).

It has been established that location “without indicating distance” includes the following phraseosemantic subgroups: being in one place, being in different places, and being nowhere. Being in one place is realized in the English phrase system through a three-component vertical spatial model: good, dear, known place / specific location / bad, foreign, unknown place. Belarusian and English phraseological units of the phraseosemantic subgroup good/native /famous place, associatively associated with the mythological phenomena of God, the heavenly kingdom, have an approving connotation and indicate an understanding of the developed, known, and safe space in the Christian cultural tradition (the kingdom of heaven, the kingdom of heaven “paradise, afterlife in paradise”).

The constituents of the phraseosemantic subgroup “specific location” represent the coordinate-oriented localization of an object in the field of view (at the very sight and in full view of everyone), in open space (fall naked bam and in the open air), on the right (on the right hand and at the right-hand side) or the left (on the left hand and at the left-hand side). They are neutral and characterized by the absence in their structure of lexeme-toponyms. At the same time, English phraseological units contain cultural and historical information about the social structure of English-speaking society. So, the phraseological units sit above the salt “to sit at the upper end of the table” and sit below the salt “to sit at the lower end of the table” reflect the long-standing English tradition of placing people in meal times: noble guests were seated closer to the salt shaker “above the salt”, and rootless guests, poor relatives, and servants were seated further from the salt shaker “under the salt”(below the salt).

The metric micro field in English phraseological units indicates metric spatial properties represented by the following phraseosemantic groups and subgroups: size (large, small, same size), length (short), depth (shallow), and continuity (continuity, limitedness). It has been established that English phraseological units with metric semantics reflect gender stereotypes. The standard of femininity in the English linguistic culture is harmony: Although they were happy as if they were good, there were good days...; Stephanie had always been on the heavy side for her 5 ft 4 ins (1.6 m) frame feet 4 inches or 1.6 meters (The British National Corpus). The standards of masculinity are broad shoulders and tall stature: He ate till he was as big around as a molasses barrel; he ate until he became as fat as a barrel.

Nationally-specific features of the representation of parametric characteristics are manifested in the discrepancy between a) objects to be measured: the nose in the Belarusian phrase system (God bears the seventh of God for Adam’s sake “very big; about the nose”) and the buttocks in the English (broad in the beam), b) core components associated with national cultural realities (as a block “large in size”, where a block is a piece of log split along its length; as fat as an alderman “thick, full, with a belly”, where alderman “a member of the district council”), c) metric prototypes (toad, dog and duck, grasshopper, jackrabbit, cat).

The continuity of space in the English phrase system is determined by the perceptual capabilities of the observer to cover the boundaries of an elongated object with a visual analyzer: as far as the eye could see. Continuity is associated with freedom and receives a positive connotation. In the English phraseophone, it is determined by the boundaries of the observer’s personal space, the violation of which is perceived negatively and receives a negative assessment: sit bodkin “to sit sandwiched between two passengers.” English phraseological units represent the parameters “round” (as round as a ball), “flat” (flat as a board “flat, even”), “straight” (be as straight as a

ramrod “very straight”), and also characterize objects of indeterminate shape (like a sack of potatoes 'shapeless').

Concerning parts of speech, verbal and adverbial units quantitatively predominate among English spatial phraseological units, which indicates the procedural-adverbial nature of the spatial model in the English phrase system. This model reflects the connection between space, time, and movement.

Conclusion

Thus, English spatial phraseological units implement the universal characteristics of the category of space, based on the patterns of thought processes common to speakers of these languages: anthropocentricity, continuity with time, and adverbial-procedural character. English nationally specific markedness of the phraseological representation of the category of space is manifested in linguocultural, axiological, sociocultural, and perceptual aspects. Linguistic and cultural differences are determined by the mythologization of space in the English language and the comprehension of spatial characteristics in the Christian cultural tradition by native English speakers. Sociocultural specificity is manifested in the precise structuring of the speaker's personal space for English.

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