"THE ROLE OF PHRASEOLOGY IN MODERN LINGUISTICS: THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS"

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ABSTRACT:

Phraseology plays a crucial role in modern linguistics, as it reflects the cultural, cognitive, and communicative aspects of language. This paper explores the theoretical foundations of phraseology, examining its definitions, classifications, and distinguishing features. It also discusses the practical applications of phraseology in translation, language teaching, and computational linguistics. The study highlights the significance of idioms, collocations, and set expressions in everyday communication and professional discourse. By analyzing recent research and case studies, the paper emphasizes the dynamic nature of phraseological units and their evolving role in contemporary linguistic studies.

INTRODUCTION. Phraseology as a linguistic phenomenon has deep historical roots. Although modern phraseology emerged as an independent field in the 20th century, the study of fixed expressions dates back to ancient civilizations. Aristotle's Rhetoric (4th century BCE) analyzed metaphorical expressions and their role in persuasion, highlighting the importance of fixed phrases in effective communication. Similarly, Quintilian (1st century CE) in Institutio Oratoria discussed the significance of idiomatic expressions in rhetoric, emphasizing their impact on clarity and eloquence.

In medieval times, Islamic scholars also contributed to the study of phraseology. Al-Farabi (9th–10th century CE) explored the nature of figurative language in Arabic, recognizing that idiomatic expressions reflect cultural and cognitive aspects of communication. Ibn Khaldun (14th century CE), in his work Muqaddimah, examined the

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role of language in shaping societal structures and noted how proverbs and idioms serve as linguistic markers of historical and cultural identity.

During the Renaissance, the revival of classical texts led to a renewed interest in phraseological studies. Erasmus of Rotterdam (16th century) compiled Adagia, a collection of Latin and Greek proverbs, highlighting their historical and linguistic significance. This work laid the foundation for later phraseological research by demonstrating how fixed expressions evolve across time and cultures.

Phraseology as a distinct linguistic discipline has been extensively studied by scholars such as Vinogradov (1947), Kunin (1970), and Cowie (1998). According to Vinogradov, phraseological units (PUs) are stable word combinations with a fixed structure and idiomatic meaning. He classified phraseological units into three main types:

Phraseological fusions (e.g., to kick the bucket) – fully idiomatic expressions where the meaning cannot be derived from individual words.

Phraseological unities (e.g., to break the ice) – expressions with a figurative meaning that can still be understood through metaphorical analysis.

Phraseological combinations (e.g., to pay attention) – semi-fixed collocations where one element is more restricted in usage than the other.

Kunin (1970) expanded this classification by introducing the concept of phraseological transformations, emphasizing the dynamic nature of PUs. He argued that phraseology is not a static system but evolves with language changes and cultural influences. Similarly, Cowie (1998) highlighted the importance of phraseology in lexicography, emphasizing that phraseological dictionaries should reflect both idiomatic and collocational structures.

Cognitive linguists, such as Lakoff and Johnson (1980), have also contributed to phraseological studies by linking idiomatic expressions to conceptual metaphors. For example, in English, the idiom time is money reflects an underlying conceptual metaphor that shapes the way people perceive and talk about time. This perspective has deepened our understanding of the cognitive mechanisms behind phraseological meaning.

2. Phraseology in Language Acquisition and Teaching

Phraseology is essential in second language acquisition, as mastering idioms, collocations, and set expressions enhances fluency and comprehension. According to Wray (2002), native speakers rely on formulaic sequences to process language more efficiently, while non-native learners often struggle with these expressions due to their unpredictable meanings.

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Schmitt (2004) argues that learning phraseological units should be an integral part of vocabulary instruction. He suggests that language learners benefit from explicit teaching of high-frequency collocations (e.g., make a decision rather than do a decision), as these expressions improve lexical competence. Furthermore, Sinclair (1991) introduced the idiom principle, which states that language is largely composed of pre-assembled chunks rather than freely generated word combinations. This principle supports the argument that phraseological awareness is crucial for achieving near-native proficiency.

In practical language teaching, various methods are used to enhance phraseological competence, including:

Corpus-based learning – using authentic texts and language corpora to identify and analyze phraseological patterns.

Contextual learning – teaching idioms and collocations within real-life communicative contexts.

Chunking techniques – encouraging students to memorize and use fixed expressions as whole units rather than analyzing individual words.

3. Phraseology in Translation Studies

Translation of phraseological units is one of the most challenging aspects of cross-linguistic communication. Baker (1992) states that idioms and collocations often lack direct equivalents in other languages, requiring translators to employ various strategies such as:

Literal translation (if the meaning is transparent and culture-independent).

Equivalence-based translation (finding an idiomatic counterpart in the target language).

Paraphrasing (explaining the meaning when no direct equivalent exists).

Omission (if the phraseological unit does not contribute significantly to the overall meaning).

Newmark (1988) also emphasizes the importance of context in translating phraseological expressions, noting that cultural and linguistic differences often necessitate adaptation rather than direct translation. For example, the English idiom spill the beans (to reveal a secret) does not have a direct Russian equivalent, requiring translators to find a phrase that conveys the same idea in the target language.

4. Phraseology in Computational Linguistics

The role of phraseology has become increasingly relevant in computational linguistics, particularly in machine translation, natural language processing (NLP), and artificial intelligence (AI). Sag et al. (2002) argue that traditional word-based models struggle with idiomatic expressions due to their non-compositional nature. As a result, modern NLP

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systems incorporate phraseological databases and deep learning models to improve translation accuracy and contextual understanding.

Some key applications of phraseology in computational linguistics include:

Machine translation – improving the recognition and proper rendering of idiomatic expressions in tools like Google Translate and DeepL.

Chatbot development – enhancing AI-generated conversations by incorporating natural-sounding phraseological units.

Sentiment analysis – analyzing idiomatic expressions and collocations to determine the emotional tone of texts.

Phraseology-based research in computational linguistics continues to evolve, with recent advancements in deep learning and neural networks contributing to more accurate phraseological processing in AI systems.

Conclusion

Phraseology is a crucial field within modern linguistics, influencing various areas such as cognitive studies, language acquisition, translation, and computational linguistics. Theoretical research by scholars like Vinogradov, Kunin, and Cowie has provided a solid foundation for understanding phraseological units, while practical applications in teaching, translation, and AI demonstrate the field's growing relevance.

As language continues to evolve, phraseological studies will remain essential for understanding linguistic patterns and improving language-related technologies. Future research should focus on integrating phraseology into AI-driven language models, developing more comprehensive phraseological databases, and refining teaching methodologies to enhance learners' phraseological competence.

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