

ENGLISH FOUNDERS OF THE THEORY OF PHRASEOLOGY

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ARTICLE INFO

ABSTRACT:

ARTICLE HISTORY:

Received: 26.11.2024

Revised: 27.11.2024

Accepted: 28.11.2024

KEYWORDS:

Phraseology, English linguists, idioms, cultural linguistics, collocations, semantics, language teaching.

This article examines the contributions of British and American linguists to the theory of phraseology, focusing on their pivotal role in systematizing idioms, analyzing their semantics, and understanding their cultural and historical significance. By exploring the works of foundational scholars such as Logan Pearsall Smith, Henry Bradley, and others, the study highlights key features of English phraseological research and its impact on modern linguistics and language teaching. The findings underline the importance of idioms as a bridge between language, culture, and history.

INTRODUCTION. Phraseology, as a branch of linguistics, has garnered significant attention from scholars in English-speaking countries. The contributions of British and American researchers have been particularly notable in the study of idioms, set expressions, and their roles within the English language. Their work has advanced the systematization of phraseological units and the analysis of their semantics and functions. Founders of English Phraseology

1. Logan Pearsall Smith

Logan Pearsall Smith was among the earliest researchers to systematically study English idioms. His seminal work, *Words and Idioms* (1925), was a groundbreaking contribution to the analysis of phraseological units. Smith explored the origins and evolution of idioms, highlighting their reflection of the cultural and historical characteristics of English society.

2. Henry Bradley

A British lexicographer and one of the editors of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, Henry Bradley made substantial contributions to the systematization of English phraseology. His

studies focused on idioms and set expressions within the historical context of the English language, providing invaluable insights for future lexicographic efforts.

3. Albert Sidney Hornby

Renowned as the author of the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Albert Sidney Hornby significantly influenced phraseography and the practical study of idioms. His work emphasized the inclusion of idiomatic expressions in core language study, particularly for teaching English as a foreign language.

4. John Rupert Firth

John Rupert Firth, a prominent English linguist, contributed greatly to the study of collocations. His concept of "polyfunctional semantics" shed light on how words combine into fixed expressions. Firth's *Papers in Linguistics* (1934–1951) emphasized the importance of context in understanding phraseology.

5. Geoffrey Leech

Geoffrey Leech, an influential figure in semantics and pragmatics, analyzed idioms from the perspective of their meaning and communicative roles. His book *Semantics: The Study of Meaning* delved into how idiomatic expressions convey nuanced and implicit meanings in communication.

6. Richard Cheetham Trager

An American linguist, Richard Cheetham Trager contributed to the structural analysis of idiomatic expressions. He underscored the importance of examining the cultural context in which these expressions arise and operate.

Key Features of English Scholars' Research

English phraseology researchers focused on several critical aspects:

- Etymology of Idioms: They traced the origins of fixed expressions and examined their connections to historical events and cultural elements.

- Collocations: Special attention was given to the combinations of words that result in the formation of phraseological units.

- Functions of Idioms: Scholars analyzed the roles that phraseological units play in spoken and written communication.

Influence on Modern Phraseology

The works of English linguists laid a strong foundation for subsequent studies in phraseology. Their contributions influenced the following areas:

- Systematization of Idioms in Dictionaries: Notably, resources such as the Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms owe much to earlier research.

- Cultural and Cognitive Studies: Researchers increasingly explore the cultural and cognitive dimensions of phraseology.

- Teaching English as a Foreign Language: Idiomatic expressions have become an integral part of English language instruction, benefiting from systematic studies of their use and function.

Conclusion. English scholars have played a pivotal role in advancing the theory of phraseology. Their research not only enhanced the understanding of fixed expressions but also underscored their significance in studying the culture and history of the English language. Moreover, the foundational work of these scholars continues to inform modern studies in cognitive linguistics, cultural analysis, and language pedagogy. By connecting language to its cultural and historical roots, their contributions have deepened the appreciation of phraseology as an interdisciplinary field that bridges linguistic theory and practical application. Future research in this area promises to further unravel the complexities of idiomatic expressions and their role in global communication.

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