

# The History of The Development of Phraseology as A Science

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**Abstract:** This paper examines the history of the formation and development of phraseology as an independent linguistic discipline. The main stages in the development of scientific views on phraseological units are analyzed, beginning with early observations of fixed expressions and continuing through contemporary research in the field of phraseology. Particular attention is paid to the contribution of domestic and foreign scholars to the development of phraseological theory, as well as to the specific features of the formation of phraseological studies in Korean linguistics. The paper emphasizes the importance of phraseology as a significant branch of linguistics that reflects the cultural, historical, and national characteristics of a language.

**Keywords:** Phraseology, phraseological unit, fixed expressions, idioms, linguistics, Korean language, development of science, language studies.

**Introduction:** Phraseology (from Greek) is the science of phraseological units (PUs), that is, stable combinations of words with complex semantics that are not formed according to productive structural-semantic models of variable word combinations [1, p. 381]. An analysis of the etymology of this term leads to the conclusion that phraseology is a “science of phrases,” although the term more often denotes not the science itself but rather its material. The scope of phraseological research includes only phraseological units, which are referred to in different sources by various names such as “fixed combinations,” “indivisible combinations,” or “set expressions” [2; 3]. These are close-knit units consisting of several words and expressing an integral concept. They can be divided into component parts only from an etymological perspective when considered in a diachronic aspect.

The term phraseology (from French *phraséologie*) was introduced by the Swiss scholar Charles Bally in the meaning of “a branch of stylistics that studies fixed combinations.” He is also regarded as the founder of phraseological theory because, first, he included a

chapter on phraseology in his textbook on stylistics, and second, he systematized word combinations in his two books, *Outline of Stylistics* and *French Stylistics*. In the first book, he distinguished four groups of word combinations:

- 1. Free word combinations (*les groupements libres*)** – combinations lacking stability and breaking apart after their formation;
- 2. Usual combinations (*les groupements usuels*)** – word combinations with relatively free connections between components that allow certain modifications;
- 3. Phraseological series (*les séries phraséologiques*)** – groups of words in which two related concepts merge almost into one. The stability of these expressions is established through conventional usage. These combinations allow the regrouping of components;
- 4. Phraseological unities (*les unités phraséologiques*)** – combinations in which words have lost their independent meanings and express a single indivisible concept. Such combinations do not permit the rearrangement of components.

Phraseology, as a branch of linguistics that studies fixed word combinations and expressions, has undergone a long process of formation and development. Although phraseological units have existed in languages since ancient times, their scientific study began relatively late.

In the early stages of linguistic development, fixed expressions were not regarded as an independent object of study. They were examined within the frameworks of lexicology, stylistics, and grammar. Nevertheless, observations concerning the peculiarities of fixed expressions and their role in speech can already be found in the works of ancient scholars. Interest in this field increased further with the development of comparative-historical linguistics.

The establishment of phraseology as an independent discipline is associated with scholars such as Charles Bally, who was among the first to draw attention to the expressive nature of fixed expressions, and Viktor Vinogradov, who made a significant contribution to the development of the theory of phraseological units. In particular, Vinogradov proposed a classification of phraseological units that is still widely used in linguistic research today.

In the twentieth century, phraseology developed intensively and was recognized as an independent linguistic discipline. During this period, the fundamental concepts and categories of phraseology were formed, including phraseological unit, idiomaticity, stability, and reproducibility. Research in this field expanded to various languages, contributing to the development of typological and comparative studies.

Of particular interest is the development of phraseology in Korean linguistics. The Korean language contains a large number of fixed expressions that reflect the national culture, traditions, and mentality of the Korean people. Korean phraseological units include proverbs (속담), idiomatic expressions (관용어), and Chinese-derived expressions (사자성어), all of which play an important role in everyday speech and written communication.

The modern stage of phraseological research is characterized by an interdisciplinary approach. Phraseological units are studied not only from the

perspective of structure and meaning but also within the frameworks of cognitive linguistics, cultural studies, and psycholinguistics. This makes it possible to gain a deeper understanding of the mechanisms underlying the formation and functioning of fixed expressions in language.

Thus, phraseology has evolved from an auxiliary branch of linguistics into an independent scientific discipline. Its development is closely connected with the general trends of linguistic science and reflects scholars' interest in studying language as a means of expressing culture and thought.

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