

# Research Of Phraseological Units At Language Levels

 Abdullaeva Dilorom Akhmedovna

Candidate of philological sciences, associate professor, department of Uzbek language and Literature, Russian and English languages, Bukhara state medical institute, Uzbekistan

**Received:** 18 October 2025; **Accepted:** 09 November 2025; **Published:** 13 December 2025

**Abstract:** This research explores phraseological units across different language levels, focusing on their structural, semantic, and functional features. The study examines how idioms, collocations, set expressions, and other fixed combinations operate within phonological, lexical, grammatical, and pragmatic levels of language. Special attention is given to the cultural and contextual factors that shape the formation and usage of phraseological units. By analyzing various examples from modern English, the research highlights their role in enriching language expressiveness and improving communicative competence. The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the nature of phraseological units and their significance in linguistic studies.

**Keywords:** Phraseological units; idioms; collocations; set expressions; linguistic levels; semantics; pragmatics; lexical structure; fixed expressions; cultural context.

**Introduction:** In lexicology have different opinions as to how phraseology should be defined, classified, described, and analyzed. The word “phraseology” has very different meanings in this Uzbekistan, Russia, in Great Britain or the United States. In linguistic literature the term is used for the expressions where the meaning of one element is dependent on the other, irrespective of the structure and properties of the unit (V.V.Vinogradov); with other authors it denotes only such set expressions which do not possess expressiveness or emotional colouring (A.I.Smirnitskiy), and also vice versa: only those are imaginative, expressive and emotional (I.V.Arnold). N.N.Amosova calls such expressions fixed context units, i.e., units in which it is impossible to substitute any of the components without changing the meaning not only of the whole, but also of the elements that remain intact. O.S.Ahmanova insists on the semantic integrity of such phrases prevailing over the structural separateness of their elements. A.V.Koonin lays stress on the structural separateness of the elements in a phraseological unit, on the change of meaning in the whole as compared with its elements taken separately and on a certain minimum stability. Research on phraseological units (PUs) across language levels examines their stability, figurative meanings, cultural roots, and function at

different layers of language, from sound (phonetics) to context (pragmatics) and semantics (meaning), revealing how these fixed expressions enrich speech, pose translation challenges, and reflect a people's worldview, often studied comparatively across languages for linguistic insights.

In English and American linguistics no special branch of study exists, and the term “phraseology” has a stylistic meaning, according to Webster's dictionary “mode of words and phrases characteristic of some author or some literary work” [7]. As far as semantic motivation is concerned phraseological units are extremely varied from motivated, e.g., black dress, to partially motivated, e.g., to have broad shoulders or to demotivated like tit for tat, red tape (Lexical and grammatical stability of phraseological units is displayed by the fact that no substitution of any elements is possible in the stereotyped set expressions, which differ in many other respects; all the world and his wife, red tape, calf love, heads or tails, first night, to gild the pill, to hope for the best, busy as a bee, fair and square, stuff and non-sense, time and again, to and fro) In a free phrase the semantic correlative ties are fundamentally different. The information is additive and each element has a much greater semantic independence. Each component may be substituted

without affecting the meaning of the other: cut bread, cut cheese, eat bread. Information is additive in the sense that the amount of information we had on receiving the first signal, i.e., having heard or read the word cut, is increased, the listener obtains further details and learns what is cut. The reference of cut is unchanged. Every notional word can form additional syntactic ties with other words outside the expression. In a set expression the information furnished by each element is not additive: actually it does not exist before we get the whole. No substitution for either cut or figure can be made without completely ruining the following: I had an uneasy fear that he might cut a poor figure beside all these clever Russian officers (Shaw). He was not managing to cut much of a figure. (Murdoch). In some situations phraseological fusions are called idioms under which linguists realize a complete loss of the inner form. To explain the meaning of idioms is a sophisticated etymological problem ("tit to tat" which means "vengeance", but no one can explain the meaning of the aforementioned words). Phraseological unity is a semantically indivisible phraseological unit the whole meaning of which is motivated by the meanings of its components[8]. In general, phraseological unities are the phrases where the meaning of the whole unity is not the unity of the meanings of its components but is based upon them and may be comprehended from the components. The meaning of the significant word is not too remote from its ordinary meanings. The meaning is formed as the consequence of generalized figurative meaning of a free word-combination. It is the result of figurative metaphoric reconsideration of a word-combination. To come to one's sense-to make up one's mind; To come home-to hit the mark;

To fall into a rage-to get furious. Phraseological unities are characterized by the semantic duality. One can't define for sure the semantic meaning of separately taken phraseological unities isolated from the context, because these word combinations may be used as free in the direct meaning and as phraseological in the figurative meaning. Phraseological combination (collocation) is a construction or an expression in which every word has absolutely clear independent meaning while one of the components has a bound meaning. It means that phraseological combinations comprise one component used in its direct meaning while the other is used figuratively. To make an attempt-to try; To make haste-to hurry; To offer an apology-to beg pardon. Thereby a number of linguists who focus on the general view of phraseology and infer to it communicational units (sentences can be pointed out as a good) Still waters run deep. Phraseological expressions are proverbs, sayings and aphorisms of

prominent politicians, writers, scientists and artists. They are precise sentences in their form, expressing some truth as ascertained by experience of wisdom and familiar to all. They are frequently metaphoric in character and elements of implicit information inclusive which are well understood without being formally present in the discourse. The consideration of the origin of phraseological units contributes to a better understanding of phraseological meaning. According to the origin all phraseological units may be divided into two big groups: native and borrowed [9].

The main sources of native phraseological units are: 1.terminal and professional lexis, e.g., navigation: to cut the painter-to become independent, to lower one's colours -to give in; 2.British literature, e.g., the green-eyed monsterjealousy (W.Shakespeare); 3.British traditions and customs, e.g., baker's dozen-a group of thirteen. In the past British merchants of bread received from bakers 13 loaves of bread instead of 12.The 13th loaf was the merchant's profit. 4.superstitions and legends, e.g., a black sheep-a less successful or more immoral person in a family or in a group. People believed that a black sheep was marked by the devil. 5.historical facts of everyday life, e.g., to carry coals to Newcastle-to take something to a place where there is plenty of it available. Newcastle is a city in Northern England where a lot of coal was produced. The main sources of borrowed phraseological units are: 1.the Holy Script, e.g., the kiss of Judas-any display of affection whose purpose is to conceal any act of treachery. 2.ancient legends and myths belonging to different religious or cultural traditions, e.g., to cut the Gordian knot-to deal with a difficult problem in a strong, simple and effective way. 3.facts and event of world history, e.g., to meet one's Waterloo -to be faced with, esp. after previous success, a final defeat, a difficulty or an obstacle one cannot overcome (from the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815). 4.variants of the English language, e.g., a hole card-a secret advantage that is ready to use when you need it (American). 5.other languages (classical and modern), e.g., let the cat out of the bag-reveal a secret carelessly or by mistake, from German: die Katze aus dem Sack lassen. With the exception of the logical direction, all the listed areas can be attributed to the study of phraseology, and it should be emphasized that it was in traditional phraseology that the foundations of culturological and linguoculturological directions were laid (especially in comparative phraseology, in diachronic phraseology, in the study of etymology and the internal form of phraseological units), as well as semantic-cognitive (for example, when studying the specifics of the structure and semantics of verbal, substantive, adjective and adverbial phraseological

units).

#### Key Levels of Analysis

1. **Phonological/Phonetic Level:** Studies the sound patterns and rhythm of PUs, sometimes analyzing how sounds contribute to their expressive quality (e.g., alliteration in "rough and ready").
2. **Morphological/Structural Level:** Focuses on the internal composition, word classes (verbs, nouns), and types of PUs (e.g., verb-based like "give up," or compound like "white elephant").
3. **Semantic Level:** Explores the core meanings, investigating partial vs. complete metaphor, figurative vs. literal senses, and synonymy with single words or other PUs.
4. **Syntactic Level:** Examines the fixed grammatical structure, decomposability (ability to insert words), and how PUs function within sentences (e.g., as nouns, verbs).
5. **Pragmatic/Contextual Level:** Analyzes how PUs are used in real communication, their emotional coloring, cultural connotations, and role in conveying social attitudes or humor.

#### Key Research Areas

- **Figurative Meaning & Integrity:** Investigating why PUs have meanings not obvious from their parts (e.g., "kick the bucket").
- **Stability & Fixedness:** Studying their unchanging nature, resistance to modification, and use as stable lexical units.
- **Cultural Significance:** Connecting PUs to national culture, history, beliefs, and worldview (linguoculturology).
- **Comparative Phraseology:** Comparing PUs across languages to find equivalents, analogues, or unique cultural expressions, crucial for translation.
- **Translation Studies:** Developing strategies (equivalents, analogues, description) for rendering PUs accurately, overcoming linguistic barriers.

#### Significance

Research highlights that PUs are vital for linguistic richness, fluency, and cultural understanding, making them a cornerstone of linguistics, language teaching, and translation studies.

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