



ARCHAISMS IN ENGLISH PROVERBS

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ABSTRACT

The article investigates archaisms in English proverbs. The continuous sampling method is used to select some archaic proverbs for further study. These proverbs are classified into three types based on their archaisms: those with lexical archaisms, those with lexical-derivative archaisms, and those with lexical-semantic archaisms.

KEYWORDS

Archaism, obsolescence, poetism, historicisms, derivational, lexical archaisms, proverbs, abbreviated version.

INTRODUCTION

A large number of archaisms can be found in English proverbs. In this article we have selected 101 of them with archaisms for further analysis by the continuous sampling method. These proverbs are divided into three groups, in accordance with the classification of archaisms: proverbs with lexical archaisms, proverbs with lexical-derivative archaisms and proverbs with lexical-semantic archaisms. However, as noted in the first chapter, archaisms can also include obsolete forms of the word, which it was decided to consider in the group of lexical archaisms, since the form of the word gives a certain archaic connotation to the whole word. Lexico-morphological archaisms are considered

in the group of lexical archaisms. Lexical archaisms include words that are obsolete in all their meanings. In this group, 99 proverbs with lexical archaisms are considered, and the occurring archaisms are analyzed in terms of their belonging to different parts of speech, in terms of the type and degree of their obsolescence (according to the classification of I.R. Galperin).

1. A handful of common sense is worth a bushel of learning.
2. Before you make a friend eat a bushel of salt with him.

3. Many words will not fill a bushel.

4. Don't measure other people's corn by your own bushel.

The word bushel in these proverbs refers to an obsolete unit of capacity – 1 bushel is equal to 36.3 liters. Due to the fact that this unit of measurement is outdated along with the subject for measurement and does not have a synonym in modern English, this word is historicism. According to the degree of obsolescence, this is an obsolete word, part of speech is a noun.

5. Better give a shilling than lend a half-crown.

In this proverb, the word a half-crown is historicism, which means half a crown (a coin worth 2 shillings 6 pence, which was in circulation in the UK until 1970). This noun, in terms of the degree and type of obsolescence, is obsolete.

6. Betwixt and between.

The highlighted archaism is an obsolete form of the word between. According to the degree of obsolescence, it is obsolete, part of speech is an adverb. The following proverb also contains an abbreviated version from betwixt.

7. There's many a slip 'twixt cup and lip.

8. There's many a slip 'tween the cup and the lip.

This word is an obsolete form of the word between, which performs the function of poetism. Part of speech is a preposition.

From the point of view of parts of speech, obsolete nouns are most often used in proverbs in the group of

lexical archaisms. Pronouns, adverbs and verbs occur almost equally. Four proverbs with obsolete adjectives were also found. It should also be noted that most of the nouns in the group of lexical archaisms, according to the type of obsolescence, turned out to be historicisms - i.e. went out of use, along with the designated objects and phenomena.

Lexico-morphological archaisms are considered somewhat separately in the group of lexical archaisms. It was in this subgroup that obsolete forms of denominative adjectives and pronouns were presented, which, according to the degree of obsolescence, are only obsolete words.

In the group of proverbs with lexical and derivational archaisms, 73 proverbs are considered. After analyzing them, we came to the conclusion that all of them can be divided into several large groups. So, in English proverbs, verbs with the obsolete affix -th/-eth are often used, which served to form the third person singular form of verbs.

1. Evil that cometh out of thy mouth flieth into thy bosom.

2. Every one basteth the fat hog, while the lean one burneth.

A number of proverbs use verbs with the -st/-est affix, which served to form the verb form in the second person singular. Verbs with such affixes are not recognized in modern English and therefore, according to the degree of obsolescence, they belong to archaisms. However, they all have synonyms in the modern language, therefore, by the type of obsolescence, they are archaisms. Examples of such archaisms can be seen in the following proverbs:

1. Ask thy purse what thou shouldst buy.
2. Measure thrice what thou buyest, and cut it but once.

However, not all lexical and derivational archaisms found by us in proverbs were verbs. For example:

1. Be a friend to thyself and others will be so.
2. Beware of no man more than thyself.

In these examples, the archaism *thyself* is used, in which the root morpheme *thy* is obsolete. This word refers to poetism, therefore it is occasionally used in literature. It is an obsolete synonym for *yourself*. Refers to pronouns. Also archaic is the ending *-t* in such words as *art*, *shalt*.

1. Thou art a bitter bird, said the raven to the starling.
2. Thy secret is thy prisoner; if thou let it go, thou art a prisoner to it.

This archaism is a form of the 2 person, singular of the present tense from the verb *be*. This form was used in combination with the pronoun *thou*.

1. Clothe thee warm, eat little, drink enough, and thou shalt live.

This archaism is a verb. The obsolete form of the 2nd person singular of *shall* was used in combination with the pronoun *thou*. According to the degree of obsolescence - an obsolete word, since it is not currently used.

After analyzing 73 proverbs with lexical and derivational archaisms, we can conclude that in this group all obsolete words by type and degree of obsolescence are archaisms, that is, they have

synonyms in modern English and are “not recognized” by modern English. Moreover, out of 70 proverbs, all archaisms were verbs, and only one - *thyself* - was a noun.

This group of proverbs was the smallest. Only ten proverbs were found containing words obsolete in only one of several of their meanings.

1. Will will have wilt, though will woe win.

In the presented proverb, the “bookish” word *woe* - “grief, sorrow” is of interest. This word is archaism, according to the degree of obsolescence - obsolete. Nevertheless, in a number of its meanings it is still found in the language (“trouble, misfortune”), so it can be attributed to lexical-semantic archaisms.

2. Crafty evasions save not veracity.

The word *veracity* is archaic in the meaning of ‘truth’, used in the meanings of ‘truthfulness, reliability, accuracy’.

3. He that buys a house ready wrought, hath many a pin and nail for nought.

In this proverb, the lexical-semantic archaism is the word *wrought* in the meaning of ‘trimmed, finished’, also meaning ‘forged, chased’.

4. A blunt wedge will sometimes do what a sharp ax will not.

The obsolete word *wedge* is archaic only in the meaning of ‘blade’. However, it is still used in the language in some of its other meanings (‘quoin-shaped wedge’). According to the type of obsolescence, the word is historicism, according to the degree of obsolescence, it is an obsolete word.

5. Bear and forbear is good philosophy.

In this proverb, the verb forbear is archaic in the sense of 'refraining from anything', in modern language it has the meaning 'to be patient'.

6. Every age confutes old errors, and begets new.

The verb begets is archaic in the sense of 'acquire, produce into the world', also translated as 'cause, generate'. According to the type of obsolescence, this word is archaism, according to the degree of obsolescence, it is an obsolete word.

7. All is lost that is put in a riven dish.

The word riven used in this proverb is a lexical-semantic archaism in the meaning of 'split'. The word riven is an adjective, in terms of degree and type of obsolescence - archaism.

8. To err is human; to forgive, divine. (Pope, Essay on Criticism)

The italicized word err is obsolete in its meaning to sin, but is still used in other meanings ('to mistake, to misbelieve').

9. The word that is heard perishes, but the letter that is written abides.

This word has lost one of its meanings – 'remain, stay; live, inhabit. Used in the meanings of 'wait, expect, endure, follow something, accept'. In terms of parts of speech, it refers to verbs.

10. Wine and wenches empty men's purses.

Wench (jokingly 'maiden, girl') has an archaic meaning of a girl, a prostitute. This archaism refers to nouns and is obsolete.

Thus, in the group of lexico-semantic archaisms taken from English proverbs, nouns, which, by the type of obsolescence, were archaisms, quantitatively prevailed. Outdated adjectives and verbs are less represented in this group. It should also be noted that not a single historicism was found in this group of proverbs. According to the degree of obsolescence, only obsolete words are presented in this group.

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