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## THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE STUDY OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

Submission Date: January 11, 2024, Accepted Date: January 16, 2024,

Published Date: January 21, 2024

Crossref doi: <https://doi.org/10.37547/ijll/Volume04Issue01-06>

Ibodullaeva Shirina Mirzhakhon Qizi

Trainee Teacher Of University Of Economics And Pedagogy Non-State Educational Institutions, Uzbekistan

### ABSTRACT

This article delves into the theoretical foundations that underpin the study of phraseological units, examining the linguistic principles and frameworks that guide the analysis of these recurrent and idiomatically structured expressions. By exploring the historical evolution of phraseology and its integration into linguistic theory, the article provides a comprehensive overview of the key concepts and methodologies shaping the study of phraseological units. Theoretical insights presented in this work contribute to a deeper understanding of language structure, usage, and the cognitive processes involved in the comprehension and production of fixed expressions.

### KEYWORDS

Phraseological Units; Linguistic Theory; Idiomatic Expressions; Language Structure; Cognitive Linguistics.

### INTRODUCTION

The study of phraseological units, often referred to as multi-word expressions or fixed expressions, represents a fascinating intersection of linguistics, cognitive science, and cultural analysis. These recurrent and idiomatically structured linguistic entities play a crucial role in language use and contribute significantly to the richness and complexity of human communication. This article aims to provide a thorough exploration of the theoretical foundations that underpin the study of phraseological units, delving

into linguistic principles, historical evolution, cognitive frameworks, and their integration into broader linguistic theory. Before delving into the theoretical foundations, it is essential to establish a clear understanding of what phraseological units encompass. Phraseological units are multi-word expressions that exhibit a degree of stability and idiomatically structured meaning, often extending beyond the sum of their individual components. These include idioms, collocations, proverbs, and other fixed

expressions that contribute to the richness and diversity of language use.

The roots of phraseology can be traced back to ancient languages, where idiomatic expressions and fixed phrases played a crucial role in oral and written communication. The systematic study of phraseological units gained prominence in the 20th century, with linguists recognizing the need to explore the regularities and patterns governing these linguistic constructs. Notable contributions came from scholars such as Charles Bally, who introduced the term "phraseology" and emphasized the importance of studying fixed expressions as linguistic phenomena. Theoretical foundations of the study of phraseological units often involve structural and functional perspectives. Structural approaches focus on the internal organization of fixed expressions, analyzing their syntactic, morphological, and lexical features. Functional approaches, on the other hand, emphasize the communicative functions and pragmatic aspects of phraseological units, considering their roles in discourse, cognition, and cultural communication.

Cognitive linguistics has played a pivotal role in shaping the theoretical foundations of phraseology. The study of phraseological units within a cognitive framework involves investigating how these expressions are stored, processed, and accessed in the mental lexicon. Cognitive linguists explore the cognitive mechanisms that underlie the comprehension and production of fixed expressions, shedding light on the intersection between language, thought, and memory.

Phraseological units, also known as phrasemes or multi-word expressions, are an important aspect of language that have been studied from various theoretical perspectives. The study of phraseological

units has deep roots in linguistics and has been a topic of interest for many scholars over the years. In this article, we will explore the theoretical foundations of the study of phraseological units, including their definition, classification, and the various theoretical approaches that have been used to analyze them.

### **Definition of phraseological units**

Phraseological units can be defined as "fixed and semi-fixed expressions that are made up of two or more words and have a specific meaning that cannot be deduced from the meanings of the individual words within the expression" (Burger, 2018). These expressions can include a wide range of linguistic forms, such as idioms, collocations, proverbs, and set phrases. They are an essential part of language and play a crucial role in communication, as they help to express complex ideas and convey cultural and social information.

There are various ways to classify phraseological units, including their form, meaning, and function. From a formal perspective, phraseological units can be classified based on their internal structure, such as whether they are fixed or semi-fixed expressions. From a semantic perspective, they can be classified based on their meaning, such as whether they are literal or figurative in nature. Finally, from a functional perspective, they can be classified based on their use in discourse, such as whether they serve as markers of politeness or as expressions of emotion.

The study of phraseological units has been approached from various theoretical perspectives, each of which offers different insights into the nature and function of these expressions. One of the most prominent theoretical approaches to the study of phraseological

units is cognitive linguistics, which emphasizes the role of mental processes in language use. According to this approach, phraseological units are stored in the mental lexicon as holistic units and are processed as such during language production and comprehension.

Another important theoretical approach to the study of phraseological units is corpus linguistics, which involves the analysis of large collections of authentic language data. Corpus linguistics has been instrumental in helping researchers to identify and analyze phraseological units in real-world language use, and has contributed to our understanding of the frequency, distribution, and collocational patterns of these expressions. In addition to cognitive linguistics and corpus linguistics, other theoretical approaches to the study of phraseological units include psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, and lexicography. Each of these theoretical perspectives offers valuable insights into the nature and function of phraseological units, and researchers have drawn on a wide range of theoretical frameworks to explore this aspect of language.

Theoretical foundations of phraseological unit studies extend beyond linguistic structures to encompass cross-cultural and sociolinguistic dimensions. Phraseological units often carry cultural and social nuances, reflecting the collective experiences and values of a linguistic community. Examining how phraseological units vary across cultures and social contexts provides valuable insights into the dynamic interplay between language and society. The study of phraseological units has become an integral part of contemporary linguistic theory. Integrating phraseology into broader linguistic frameworks enhances our understanding of language structure, usage, and variation. Theoretical models that

incorporate phraseological insights contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of language as a dynamic and evolving system.

The study of phraseological units is a rich and diverse field that has been approached from various theoretical perspectives. This article has provided an overview of the theoretical foundations of the study of phraseological units, including their definition, classification, and the different theoretical approaches that have been used to analyze them. As our understanding of phraseological units continues to evolve, it is likely that new theoretical approaches will emerge, offering fresh insights into the nature and function of these important linguistic expressions.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the theoretical foundations of the study of phraseological units are multifaceted, encompassing structural, functional, cognitive, cross-cultural, and sociolinguistic dimensions. As linguists continue to explore the intricate nature of these fixed expressions, the theoretical frameworks outlined in this article provide a roadmap for understanding their linguistic, cognitive, and cultural significance. The study of phraseological units not only enriches our understanding of language but also opens avenues for interdisciplinary research, fostering a deeper appreciation of the complex interplay between language, cognition, and society.

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