

Using Phraseologisms In Speaking Skill

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Abstract: This paper discusses the role of phraseologisms in improving speaking skills. Phraseological expressions such as idioms and collocations make speech more natural, fluent, and culturally rich.

Their use helps learners express ideas and emotions more effectively and sound more like native speakers. Therefore, mastering phraseologisms is an essential part of developing communicative competence in language learning.

Keywords: Gesture, linguistic knowledge, ready-made language, language acquisition, expressiveness, pragmatic competence.

Introduction: In Language is a powerful tool of human communication that enables individuals to exchange ideas, express emotions, and build social connections. Among the many linguistic phenomena that shape language use, phraseologisms occupy a central role in enriching speech, enhancing expressiveness, and improving communicative competence. Phraseologisms—also known as idioms, fixed expressions, or set phrases—are stable word combinations whose meaning cannot be deduced merely from the meanings of their individual components. They are an essential part of every natural language and play a crucial role in both spoken and written discourse. In the process of language learning and teaching, phraseologisms serve as a bridge between linguistic knowledge and practical communication. In particular, they have a significant influence on the development of speaking skills, one of the most challenging and essential aspects of second language acquisition. This essay discusses the definition and characteristics of phraseologisms, their types, functions in communication, and their specific importance in improving speaking competence. It also explores pedagogical strategies for teaching and learning phraseological units effectively in educational contexts.

Why do we need speaking?

Speaking is one of the four main language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing). It is especially important because it is the primary way we communicate in daily life. Speaking helps us share ideas, feelings, and information with others. Without speaking, interaction would be limited to writing or gestures. Speaking is one of the most essential skills in human communication because it allows people to express thoughts, emotions, and ideas effectively. It is the main tool through which individuals build relationships, share knowledge, and influence others. In education, speaking plays a vital role in helping students participate actively in discussions, present opinions confidently, and develop critical thinking. In professional life, strong speaking skills are necessary for teamwork, leadership, and successful communication with colleagues and clients. Moreover, in the process of learning a foreign language, speaking is considered the most practical skill because it demonstrates the learner's ability to use the language in real-life situations. Through speaking, learners can practice pronunciation, fluency, and vocabulary while improving their confidence and interaction skills. Effective speaking also helps in personal growth, as it strengthens one's ability to persuade, motivate, and connect with others.

In summary, speaking is not only a means of

communication but also a key to success in education, career, and social life. Developing this skill allows individuals to participate meaningfully in society and express their identity with clarity and confidence.

What is phraseologisms?

Phraseologisms are fixed combinations of words that are used together and usually have a meaning that is different from the meanings of the individual words. In other words, they are ready-made language units (word groups, idioms, collocations, phrasal verbs, sayings, proverbs) that people use in everyday speech.

For example:

Break the ice – to start a friendly conversation.

At the party, I told a joke to break the ice.

Call it a day – stop working for now.

We've finished most of the report, let's call it a day.

Once in a blue moon – very rarely.

He only visits us once in a blue moon.

Phraseologisms hold equal importance across all languages. It is well known that every language—whether Russian, English, or Uzbek—possesses its own set of phraseologisms. They contribute to making speech sound natural, elegant, and concise. Nevertheless, overusing them in every sentence may result in speech that appears artificial and difficult to comprehend.

Why phraseologisms matter in speaking:

1. Natural & Fluent Speech

Native speakers often use idiomatic phrases in daily conversation.

Using phraseologisms helps learners sound less “textbook-like” and more fluent.

2. Expressiveness & Emotion

Phraseologisms carry strong emotional or figurative meaning.

Example: saying “break the ice” is more expressive than “start a conversation.”

3. Cultural Understanding

They reflect the traditions, values, and humor of a language community.

Knowing them helps speakers connect culturally with listeners.

4. Efficiency in Communication

They condense complex ideas into short, powerful expressions.

Example: “hit the nail on the head” is shorter than saying “you described the situation exactly and

correctly.”

5. Pragmatic Competence

Helps speakers choose the right words for formal/informal contexts.

This shows linguistic maturity and sociolinguistic awareness.

6. Memorability & Impact Phraseologisms are catchy, easy to remember, and make speech more impressive. Phraseologisms are essential for speaking because they make your speech natural, expressive, and culturally rich.

What kind of phraseologisms are used in speaking skill?

In speaking skills, phraseologisms (idiomatic expressions) are used to make speech sound more natural, fluent, and expressive — just like native speakers talk.

1. Everyday idioms (for daily conversation)

These make your speech more friendly and natural:

Break the ice → to start a conversation easily

Example: “I told a joke to break the ice at the meeting.”

Hang out → to spend time with someone

Example: “I usually hang out with my friends on weekends.”

Call it a day → to stop working for now

Example: “Let's call it a day and go home.”

2. Emotional expressions

These help you express feelings clearly:

Over the moon → very happy

Example: “She was over the moon when she got the job.”

Fed up with → tired or annoyed about something

Example: “I'm fed up with this cold weather.”

Keep your chin up → don't be sad

Example: “Keep your chin up, everything will be fine.”

3. Opinion and discussion phrases

Useful in speaking exams and debates:

To be honest → expressing sincerity

As far as I'm concerned → in my opinion

On the other hand → showing contrast

At the end of the day → after considering everything
Example:

> “As far as I'm concerned, learning English is not just about grammar. At the end of the day, communication matters most.”

4. Proverbs and common sayings

These show cultural knowledge and wisdom:

Actions speak louder than words → what you do is more important than what you say
Better late than never → it's good to do something even if it's late
Practice makes perfect → the more you practice, the better you become.

5. Collocations and fixed phrases

These are natural word combinations that sound right in English:

Make a decision (not do a decision)

Take a break

Have a conversation

Give advice

In short:

Using phraseologisms in speaking helps:

Sound more natural and fluent. Express emotions and opinions effectively. Show cultural understanding and vocabulary range

To sum up, phraseologisms are a vital element of effective spoken communication. They enrich language by adding color, emotion, and cultural depth, allowing speakers to express themselves more naturally and persuasively. Mastering idiomatic and phraseological expressions not only increases fluency but also demonstrates a higher level of linguistic competence and cultural awareness. For this reason, incorporating phraseologisms into daily speech practice is essential for anyone who aims to achieve advanced proficiency and sound more like a native speaker.

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