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## THE PHRASE-SEMANTIC FIELD «HUMAN'S CHARACTER» IN THE SPHERE OF PHRASEOLOGY

*The article studies the theoretical foundations and practical application of phraseological units that form the phrase-semantic field «human's character» in the English language in the context of their lexical meaning.*

*In English, there are many idioms that denote human's character through verbalization of emotions in general and emotional vocabulary in particular. Human emotions are reflected on all language levels as they are able to depict almost all spheres of human life. People introduce certain positive or negative emotions to even neutral word combinations. Thus, such aspect of human's description as character proves to be quite emotional. That is why this topic is relevant and requires further research.*

*The experience of emotional states – joy, love, friendship, sympathy, affection, pain, amount, fear, hatred, contempt, disgust, etc. – is always accompanied by appropriate external or internal expressions. Depending*

*on the circumstances and psychological state of a person, emotions and feelings can be expressed differently and cause either active (stenic) or passive (asthenic) reactions. Forms and intensity of identifying a person's character largely depends on his/her upbringing, the level of an individual's culture, traditions and customs.*

*The scholars' views on the components of the character are rather heterogeneous, and therefore there is a problem in formulating the areas in which to explore English idioms in the area of the topic of our study. Thus, basing on the researches of different scientists, we decided to combine crucial structural elements of human character into four groups as follows.*

*The research of the phrase-semantic field «human's character» carried out in the article is based on the phraseological units of the phrase-semantic groups «Temperament», «Volitional qualities», «Intelligence», «Emotions and feelings».*

We studied about 1,000 idioms while 337 of them were selected in the context of the discussed problem. Also, the article offers a selection of the most commonly used idioms of the phrase-semantic field «human character».

**Key words:** the phrase-semantic field, the phraseological picture of the world, the linguistic picture of the world, the lexical unit, the phraseological unit.

У статті розглянуто теоретичні засади і практичне застосування фразеологічних одиниць, що відображають в англійській мові фразеосемантичне поле «характер людини» в аспекті їх лексичного значення. У відсотковому співвідношенні відображено фразеологічні одиниці фразеосемантичних груп «темперамент», «вольові якості», «інтелект», «емоції та почуття». Представлено вибірку найбільш уживаних фразеологічних одиниць фразеосемантичного поля «характер людини».

**Ключові слова:** фразеосемантичне поле, фразеологічна картина світу, мовна картина світу, лексична одиниця, фразеологічна одиниця.

В статье рассмотрены теоретические основы и практическое применение фразеологических единиц, отражающих в английском языке фразеосемантическое поле «характер человека» в аспекте их лексического значения. В процентном соотношении отражены фразеологические единицы фразеосемантических групп «темперамент», «волевые качества», «интеллект», «эмоции и чувства». Представлена выборка наиболее употребительных фразеологических единиц фразеосемантического поля «характер человека».

**Ключевые слова:** фразеосемантическое поле, фразеологическая картина мира, языковая картина мира, лексическая единица, фразеологическая единица.

**The actuality of the problem.** Firstly, it should be noted that idioms are an important part of any nation's culture in general and this nation's language in particular. Idioms were created by folks themselves and, thus, they depict ethnic ideas on the environment, everyday routine, people's characters, and so on.

Today, the research of idioms in the context of cross-cultural studies is quite topical because such combinations of words are a vivid reflection of a national character of a particular folk and the depository of its cultural values. Idioms provide verbal embodiment of various cultural concepts, both universal and ethnic.

There are many English idioms that denote the human's character and emotions. They stipulate communicative activity of a personality, are present in all spheres of human's life, and are reflected on all language levels. That is why this topic is relevant and requires further research.

**The object of the article** is the variety of idioms that depict human's character in modern English language.

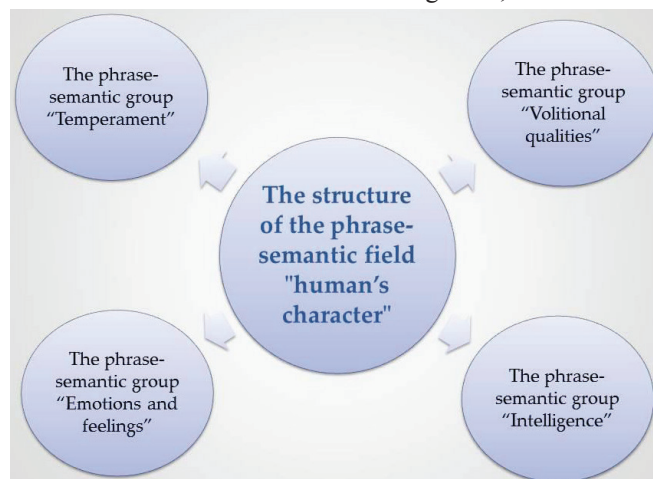
**Presenting the main material.** Lexical units obtain their complete and comprehensive description in their semantic field, which can be described as a part of lexicon that consists of words connected by the context (for instance, the semantic fields of colour, time, etc.) The semantic field is the system which helps in learning the semantic language changes. The field theory is more than a hundred years although it does not mean the less scientific interest to its investigation.

The usage of the field theory benefits not only in a thorough study of the phraseological units' semantic structure but in the analysis of their systematic relations. The basis for constructing a phrase-semantic field is the meaning of the linguistic unit whereas there are specific linguistic units that have certain relations with each other.

The phrase-semantic group is the brightest example of the language system in general. It is a collection of idioms united by a general idea, is characterized by systematic relationships, and has common elements and a particular set of characteristics. The core of the phrase-semantic group is a synonymous series of idioms united by a common invariant.

The word «character» usually means peculiarities that distinguish one personality from another. As for the structure of a character, it consists of five main components: sensory-motivational sphere, intelligence, a person's volitional sphere, a set of a person's individual characteristics, and social and vale-ecological values [7, p. 174]. According to I. Voloshkina, character is a psychic phenomenon, an unreal formation, which exists in a system of congenital and acquired traits manifested in person's behaviour. The human's character as a system is: 1) spatial, 2) dynamic, 3) static, 4) temporal, 5) intensive, 6) active /passive, 7) measurable, 8) controllable, 9) gender-denoted [6, p. 9].

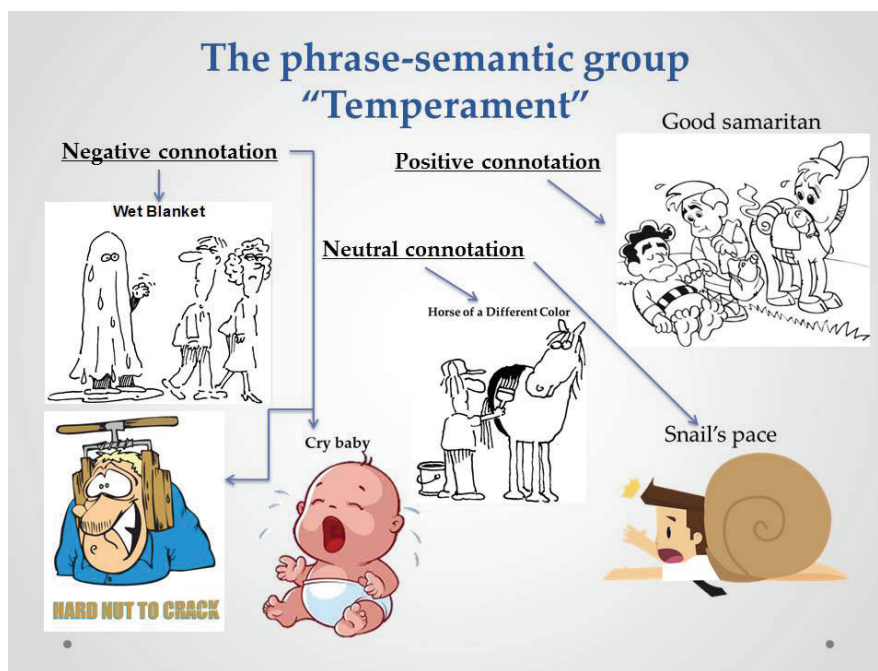
Basing on I. Voloshkina's dissertation thesis, we decided to combine these structural elements of human character into 4 groups: «Temperament», «Volitional qualities», «Intelligence», «Emotions and feelings» (picture 1).



Picture1. The structure of the phrase-semantic field «human's character»

Temperament is the main emotional part of a human character. Scientists L. Matsko and M. Pryschak consider it as the strongest characteristic of the personality, which practically does not change throughout life and is implemented in all spheres of life. The features of temperament definitely influence the development of character.

We have analyzed 138 idioms in the phrase-semantic group «Temperament». They have positive connotation (*good Samaritan* (a kind person) and *high spirits* (optimist), negative connotation (*blind jealousy* (being jealous with sb) and *go mental* (be angry), or neutral connotation. In the latter case the connotation depends on the context (*silence of the lambs* (a silent person) and *snail's pace* (a slow person) (picture 2).



Picture 2. Idioms from the phrase-semantic group «Temperament»

Volitional qualities are characterized as a certain set of mental peculiarities, which reflect the achieved level of conscious self-regulation. These qualities are being formed throughout person's life. Volitional qualities of personality are relatively stable, independent of the situation. They include: purposefulness, determination, courage, initiative, persistence, restraint, discipline, etc.

We have divided the phraseological units of the phrase-semantic group «Volitional qualities» into 8 subgroups. They are:

- «Independence»: *put (one's) own foot down / do (one's) own thing*;
- «Volitional passivity»: *take a back-seat / to go with the flow*;
- «Determination»: *take the bull by the horns / go (can) bet your life*;
- «Indecisiveness»: *hang fire / drop (thing) in (one's) lap*;
- «Persistence»: *Herculean efforts / eager beaver*;
- «Stubbornness»: *difficult horse / thick skull*;
- «Endurance»: *keep one's head / angelic patience*;
- «Impatience»: *lose one's head / powder keg*.

We have analyzed 92 phraseological units on the denotation of person's volitional qualities. The majority of phraseological units have negative connotation: 55 units (59,8 % of the general quantity of the subgroup).

Intelligence is the system of all personal cognitive abilities: sensation, perception, memory, representation, imagination and thinking. The concept of intelligence as a general mental ability is used as a generalization of behavioural characteristics associated with successful adaptation to new life tasks. The main criterion for the separation of intelligence as an independent reality is its function in the regulation of behaviour.

This group also consists of 8 subgroups according to the meaning of distinguished phraseological units:

- «Erudition»: *walking encyclopaedia / bright spark*;
- «Non-acquaintance»: *cabbage head / dumb as a rock*;
- «Memory»: *a memory like a sieve / have a memory like an elephant*;
- «Experience»: *be neat-handed / salty dog*;
- «Inexperience»: *fresh hand / green tea*;
- «Talent»: *acting talent / sacred fire*;
- «Thinking»: *to cudgel one's brains (over) / do it (standing) on one's head*;
- «Imagination»: *have in one's eye / spring the mind*.

We have analyzed 58 idioms on the denotation of person's intelligence. The majority of the phraseological units have negative connotation: 32 units (55,2 % of the general quantity in this subgroup).

Emotions are mental processes that reflect the subjective significance and the assessment of external and internal situations for human life; feelings are the generalized experience of attitude to the satisfaction or dissatisfaction of the needs that cause positive or negative emotions – joy, love, pride, sadness, anger, shame, indignation, etc.

In this group we have distinguished 5 subgroups.

- «Fear. Frightening. Horror»: *get cold feet, be afraid of one's shadow, jump out of one's skin*;
- «Doubt»: *to sow the seeds of doubt, to read the tea-leaves*;
- «Surprise»: *make big eyes, out of the blue*;
- «Worry»: *bother one's head about sb, take to heart*;
- «Happiness»: *have the time of one's life, be happy as a clam, (to walk) dance on air*.

We have analyzed 49 idioms on the denotation of person's emotions. The majority of the phraseological units have negative connotation: 27 units (55,1% of the general quantity in this subgroup).

**Conclusions.** Phraseology is a branch of linguistics, which examines lexical indivisible combination of words. It is the study of set or fixed expressions, such as idioms, phrasal verbs, and other types of multi-word lexical units (often collectively referred to as phrasemes). All the studies idioms in the phrase-semantic group «Human's character» could be divided into several subgroups according to their meaning and their connotation. They can be used denote negative emotions (anger, aggression, disappointment, internal feelings of a person, indifference, etc.) or positive emotions (love, joy, happiness). We can conclude that the emotional systems of different peoples and cultures are basically alike: negativity, prevailing in their lexicon, is inferior to the positivity in usage and syntagmatic combination, which could be explained by psychological aspirations of mankind to positivity.

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# СТРУКТУРНІ КОМПОНЕНТИ ВИХОВАНOSTІ ІНШОМОВНОЇ КОМУНІКАТИВНОЇ КУЛЬТУРИ СТУДЕНТІВ ГУМАНІТАРНИХ СПЕЦІАЛЬНОСТЕЙ ЗАКЛАДІВ ВИЩОЇ ОСВІТИ

*У статті розглядаються компоненти, а також визначаються критерії, показники і рівні вихованості іноземної комунікативної культури студентів гуманітарних спеціальностей закладів вищої освіти.*

**Ключові слова:** іноземна комунікативна культура, компоненти, критерії, показники та рівні вихованості іноземної комунікативної культури.

*В статье рассматриваются компоненты, а также определяются критерии, показатели и уровни воспитанности иноязычной коммуникативной культуры студентов гуманитарных специальностей высших учебных заведений.*

**Ключевые слова:** иноязычная коммуникативная культура, компоненты, критерии, показатели и уровни воспитанности иноязычной коммуникативной культуры.

*The article considers the components of the education of the foreign language communicative culture of students of humanitarian specialties and determines the criteria, indicators and levels of education of foreign language communicative culture.*

*Learning the language is inseparable from the process of mastering, perception and knowledge of the world, the surrounding reality. The manifestation of personal grounds (self-expression and self-determination of the student's personality), desire to learn a foreign language depends on the degree of student's motivatedness, desire to be success in the personal, professional and intellectual sense.*

*The result of education of the foreign language communicative culture is the awareness and acceptance by the young man of the value of other cultures, his readiness for foreign communication.*