Specific features of phraseological units

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ABSTRACT

The article is an attractive object of study of the phraseological system of any language: it is the most expressive field of literacy, albeit indirectly, given information about seeing the world and reflecting the cultural authenticity of native speakers.

Keywords: phraseological system, cultural authenticity, idioms, phraseological unit.

I. Introduction

As "encoded" elements are not transparent for a no-native speaker, we understand that many French idioms are not rather clear for people learning the French language. That justifies the necessity to understand their meaning as well as their functioning in the sentence for their best use.

It is a word combination consisting of at least two words, very frequently used together and got "fixed" in the language, and these two words form an "indivisible block" which native speakers use spontaneously. The concept of 'phraseological unit' applies to a collocation, a stable phrase or even to a proverb.

It is well known that the phraseology is a phenomenon in perpetual evolution. The change of the system becomes especially obvious if we compare lexicographical sources edited in different periods, or if we address to recent texts which allow to see the actual functioning of idioms and probably to find newly formed phrases (9, 150).

II. Literature review

The phraseology units of the Uzbek language have also been studied in more detailed way. The researches done by Ch. Rakhmatullaev, Y.D.Pinkhasov, A. Chomaksoudov, M.Khusaïnov may be included in the list of preliminary works on the Uzbek phraseology. As for Ch. Rakhmatullaev, he has taken the relay of research scientists by its work on the study of the grammar characteristics of verbs in Uzbek language in his doctorate thesis, in 1966. Then was published his monograph "Some problems of Uzbek Phraseology" dedicated to the study of idiomatic units in the Uzbek language as lexical units. In this work, the phenomena of multiple meanings, synonymy, variety, antonymy, disambiguation of idiomatic units was investigated in more detailed way on the basis of large material, which allowed to look for other ways of expressions as lexical units.

III. Analysis

The study of the French phraseology, which requires a particular approach in our research, dates back to far. Its forming as a science is obviously a result of many studies, steady and continuous work of French linguists and researchers (M. Bréal, P. Giraud, M. Rat, A. Rey, etc.) in the selection, the analysis and the systematization of idiomatic expressions of the French language. Particularly, we must mention the Franco-Swiss scholar Charles Bally, who, for the first time in the history of the language, theoretically and scientifically justified the phenomena of phraseology by stating the need for a special study of stable compounds in the language. So he explains the theory of the phraseology: if, in a group of words, a graphic unit loses totally or a part of its individual meaning, if the combination of these elements is only present with a clear sense, we can call this a phraseological unit (1, 65-66). As a result, the linguists have long studied the quality of idioms as object of research in syntax, lexicography and semantics. However, Ch. Bally has scientifically proven the need for a systematic study of these units of language as a new discipline, the phraseology. Some examples in his "Précis de stylistique" (1905) and "Traité de stylistique française" (1909) develop the concept of phraseology.

In the field of phraseology, an idiomatic unit, known as the phraseme or phraseologism, is a more or less stable combination of words that is opposed by this feature to a free association of words. Concerning this notion, it has no unitary vision among researchers: names of various kinds of idiomatic units, definitions of their types, principles of their bounding and their classification are controversial. For the various combinations of words that are partially or totally fixed, there is a multitude of terms. First, we use numerous terms for the same kind of combination, second, a single term for several kinds of expressions. In his research work in French, Rotislav Kocourek (1982) has found 27 terms. And also in French, we noticed various authors who cite or employ themselves other terms. By alphabetical order, we the have put them in our data table (see Table N1).

| Names of various types of idiomatic units | According to Rotislav Kocourek | According to our research |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. composé syntagmatique                 | 1. adage                      |
| 2. dénomination complexe                 | 2. aphorisme                  |
| 3. groupe de mots                        | 3. apophtegme                 |
| 4. groupe lexical                        | 4. axiome                     |
| 5. groupe lexicalisé                     | 5. cliché                     |

* Data table No 1
Phytophraseologisms or phytophrasemes as a part of phraseology have always attracted and still attract the attention of researchers thanks to their ability to reflect the spiritual and cultural universe, and the knowledge of different communities. We find that linguists have not yet separately studied these notions as a scientific research object. During the last decades, many research works have focused on the extraction and analysis of phraseological units (fixed expressions, phrases, collocations, etc.) for two major reasons: on the one hand, the realization of corpora and unilingual and bilingual explanatory dictionaries; on the other hand, more and more works are being done on enriching and perfecting the methods of teaching a language as a foreign language and in this way, phraseology is a privileged field.

In this part of the study, we propose to examine, in a comparative way, the phraseologisms constructed with phytonyms and pharmacophytonyms in Uzbek and in French.

The notion of phraseologism / phraseological unit has been widely studied (G. Gross: 1996, Sh.Rakhmatullaev: 2000, Gonzalez Rey: 2002 et alii.), differently approached and even differently named (cf. Svensson: 2004). The selection of fixed expressions that we made takes into consideration a few criteria: the degree of fixedness of the expressions, their metaphorical character and their idiomatic character.

Our research is based on a corpus taken, for the Uzbek language from 'Etymologic Dictionary of the Uzbek language' (1978) by Shavkat Rakhmatullaev. For the French language, the corpus comes from 'Le Nouveau Petit Robert' (2007), 'Dictionnaire des expressions et locutions' by A. Rey and S. Chantreau (1991), 'Dictionnaire des locutions françaises' by M. Rat (1957).

The main objective of the analysis is to examine and classify the selected units from a grammatical point of view and to determine the number of nominal, verbal, adverbial, adjectival phrases and phrasing constructions specific to each of the languages submitted for comparison. In addition, the analysis proposes to record the semantism of fixed expressions including phytonyms and pharmacophytonyms.

IV. Discussion

The comparative study of fixed expressions built around phytonyms and pharmacophytonyms reflects different collective and personal universes or different approaches to the same universe. It also allows making observations on the structure and semantics of this type of language unit, as well as on their translation possibilities.

Unusual and sometimes funny, these expressions are used to describe a person on his physical appearance (avoir les yeux en amande), to talk about his character and his intelligence (être bonne pomme qui signifie être naïf) or simply to describe his dress (porter un chapeau melon). There are also expressions that are "gentle insults" (espèce de patate!) and others that evoke arguing and annoyance (recevoir une châtaigne).

From the point of view of the semantism of fixed expressions constructed with phytonyms or pharmacophytonyms we are going to group together some examples following our in-depth studies of popular dictionaries of phraseology:

**Phytophraseologisms to qualify a person on his/her physical aspect:**

Avoir les yeux en amande (to have almond eyes). It is based on the transfer of the formal meaning from the
almond tree to the eye.

**Étre rouge comme une tomate** (to be red like a tomato). This expression appeared in 1690s and means 'to be all red'. It therefore refers to the red color of a person's cheeks when they blush due to a strong emotion, for example after receiving a compliment or when experiencing an embarrassing situation.

**Se fendre la poire**, syn. **se fendre la pêche** (split the pear, syn. splitting the peach). The origin of this expression dates back to 1832 when Charles Philipon painted a caricature of Louis Philippe with a pear head. Since then, the pear has taken on the slang meaning of face. In this case, it is split by laugh.

**Avoir une tête de chou**, syn. **avoir des oreilles en feuille de chou** (have a head of cabbage, syn. have cabbage leaf ears). The "cabbage leaf" was an expression used in the world of butchery as early as the 19th century to describe pig ears. In the 20th century, the expression spread to humans.

**Haut comme 3 pommes** (high as 3 apples). This expression is generally used to refer to a child, at least a person of short stature. Indeed, if we stack three apples, the result will not be something very large in size.

**Être une asperge** (to be an asparagus). Here we are talking about a very thin tall person. Obviously this is for the imaginary resemblance to the shape of the stem and the outer part of the plant.

**Avoir la pêche**, syn. **avoir la banane / la frite / la patate** (have fishing, syn. have the banana / the fry / the potato). The origin and its definition in more detail we will already quote above in our examples. To accomplish this we can cite the known origin of the 'banana'. The expression **avoir la banane** was born during the 20th century, this one referring to the smile (the lips then take the shape of a banana). **Avoir la banane** means that you are happy and that the face expresses it.

**Phytophaseologisms to describe character, intelligence, stupidity and behavior of humans:**

**Avoir un coeur d'artichaut** (to have an artichoke heart). The heart here designates the center of the plant, the artichoke base from which many leaves stand out, one for each person, just like someone who has an artichoke heart gives a little love to each person who seems worthy of interest. This expression, which dates from the end of the 19th century, comes from the proverbial form "coeur d'artichaut, une feuille pour tout le monde".

**Être (une) bonne poire**, syn. **être une bonne pomme** (to be (a) good pear, syn. to be a good apple). Since the end of the 19th century, a "pear" has been someone who is easily fooled, by a metaphor coming from the ripe pear which falls on its own from the tree, as the dupe easily falls into the catcher held out to him. The adjective "good" mitigates the contemptuous aspect of making the "good pear" an easy victim of mockery or a person whose kindness is easily abused.

**En avoir dans le chou** (have it in the cabbage). This French expression comes from the slang vocabulary where the head is compared to anything of spherical in shape, especially large and round vegetables. On the other hand, the problem lies in the very meaning of the word 'head' which can mean cranial box and face. However, the majority of vegetables are taken for the head as a reservoir of ideas. **En avoir dans le chou** defines the head as the upper part of the body containing the brain, a full head like cabbage therefore referring to the idea of intelligence.

**Avoir un pois dans la tête, syn. avoir un pois chiche dans la tête ; avoir un grain** (have a pea in your head; have a grain). This expression which tends to define the brain as being a small spherical object because according to the beliefs of the time, there was a relationship between the volume of the brain and the intelligence. Therefore, reducing the brain to the size of a pea largely conveys the notion of stupidity that emanates from this expression.

**Il me court sur le haricot !** (He runs me on the bean!). In French, the expression "courir sur le haricot" means to annoy or exasperate. This phytophaseologism phrase is a bizarre mixture of things from various origins, dating back to the end of the 19th century. On the one hand, we have the verb "courir" which, in this popular and transitive use, already meant in the 16th century "to annoy". On the other hand, we have the verb "haricoter" which, at the beginning of the 19th century, meant either "to be mean in business" or "to haggle over nothings" (which exasperates, of course), or even "to annoy". In slang language, we find the "haricot" which means "toe". And it's normal for someone who gets run on the toe to think of him/herself as a little bothered and to feel exasperation building up inside them, isn’t it?

As a result of our research based on the best known and most noted phraseological dictionaries among Internet users, we found the dominant phytonyms in the French and Uzbek languages. According to recent statistics from online sources Planetscope, 1st world site for real-time statistics, Consoglobe, reference media for ecology since 2005, Consuming Durable, blog of good sustainable plans, Encyclo Écolo, summaries and definitions on sustainable development, Boutique Consoglobe, online well-being and nutrition store, Davlat Statistika Qo'mitasi (State Statistics Committee), Ozbekoziqoqvatxolding, holding company founded in 2016 and available on the site https://oziq-oqvat.uz/ we have classified the most used phytonyms, especially in daily consumption. Note that the world statistics are very close to food consumption in France and Uzbekistan.

**V. Conclusion**

Finally, language is the main vehicle for organizing, producing and transmitting all information in speech. The vocabulary of a language, including pharmacophytonyms, can vary widely as a healing communicative aspect of the language system.

The study of lexical derivatives of oral speech in the medicinal phytonymia system helps to determine the specificity of the image of the world, which is an important layer of human culture. Sentences are one of the most important and unique units of all languages, and through them, of course, they open a wide path for acquainted with the culture and characteristics of people.
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