Adjectival Phrases and their Specific Features

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A B S T R A C T

This article focusses the learning and investigating of Adjectival phrases and their specific features in the English language. In addition the different types of phraseological units represented with examples. Plenty of scientists and researchers works on the phrases give clear understanding about this issue. Adjectival phrases make our speech colorful and supply diversity of phrases. Moreover, these phrases are used in written English as in essays, novels, poems, articles and descriptions.

A RTICLEINFO

Article history:
Received 07 March 2022
Received in revised form
10 April 2022
Accepted 14 May2022

Keywords: Phraseological unit, phraseology, unity, fusions, word-combinations, adjectival phraseological unit.

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Existence of phraseological units makes their study and description an important part of linguistics. There are many opinions in modern linguistics claiming phraseology to be an independent branch of linguistics due to specificity and complexity of issues related to the study of phraseological units. The term "phraseology" was introduced into linguistics by Swiss linguist Charles Bally in the following meaning: the section of the stylistics studying stable combinations". After Ch. Bally many linguists began to advance their opinions and give their own definitions of the term "phraseology". If Ch. Bally included phraseology to stylistics. Altenberg B. states that "phraseology is a fuzzy part of a language. It embraces the conventional rather than the productive or rule-governed side of language, involving various kinds of composite units and "pre-patterned" expressions such as idioms, fixed phrases, and collocations". **[1. Altenberg B. Phraseology in spoken English: presentation of a project: Amsterdam 1990, - p. 65]**

But more suitable for our work and the most comprehensive approach to phraseology was suggested by Russian linguist Koonin A.V. By phraseology Koonin A.V. meant "the branch of linguistics dealing with stable word- combinations characterized by a specific transference of meaning". Phraseological units are used by the speaker in a ready form, without any changes. The whole phraseological unit has a meaning which may be quite different from the meaning of its components, and therefore the whole unit, and not separate words, has the function of a part of the sentence.

Following Koonin's definition, the term phraseological unit is defined as follows: "A phraseological unit is a stable combination of words with a fully or partially transferred meaning". **[2. Kunin A.B. Фразеология современного английского языка. Москва. 1978- p. 45]**

Phraseological units can be classified according to the ways they are formed, according to the degree of the motivation of their meaning, according to their structure and according to their part-of-speech meaning. In linguistics there are three classification principles of phraseological units. The synchronic (semantic) classification of phraseological units is the most popular and it was distinguished by Vinogradov V.V. He gave a strong impetus to a purely lexicological treatment of the material. It means that phraseological units were defined as lexical complexes with specific semantic features and were classified accordingly. His classification is based upon motivation that is the relationship between the

meaning of the whole and the meanings of its components. The degree of motivation is correlated with the rigidity, indivisibility and semantic unity of the expression that is the possible change of the form or the order of components and substitution of the whole by a single word though it can be done not in all the cases. This classification was based on semantic criteria and was suggested by Academician Vinogradov V.V. for Russian phraseological units. He pointed out three types of phraseological units: ***fusions*** where the degree of motivation is very low, we cannot guess the meaning of the whole from the meaning of its components, they are highly idiomatic and cannot be translated by word for word translation into other languages. For example: Red-dog-kredit qog'ozi. Phraseological fusions represent the highest stage of blending together. The meaning of the components is completely absorbed by the meaning of the whole, by its expressiveness and emotional properties. Sometimes phraseological fusions are called idioms under which linguists understand as a complete loss of the inner form. Explanation of the meaning of idioms is a complicated etymological problem. For example: *tit to tat* means to revenge, L but no one can explain the meaning of the words *tit* and *tat.* In phraseological ***unities*** the meaning of the whole can be guessed from the meanings of its components, but it is transferred (metaphorical or metonymical), for example: *to play the first fiddle (to be a leader in something), old salt (experienced sailor)* etc. The meaning of the whole word combination is not the sum of the meanings of its components, but it is based on them and the meaning of the whole can be inferred from the image that underlies the whole expression, for example: *to get on one's nerves, to cut somebody short, to show one's teeth, to be at daggers drawn.* The meaning of the significant word is not too remote from its ordinary meanings. This meaning is formed as a result of generalized figurative meaning of a free word-combination. It is the result of figurative metaphoric reconsideration of a **word-combination**. Phraseological unities are characterized by the semantic duality. One can not surely define the semantic meaning of phraseological unities taken separately from the context, because these word-combinations may be used as free in the direct meaning and as phraseological in the figurative meaning. Phraseological unities are equivalents of words as only one of components of a phraseological unity has structural forms, for example: *to play (played, is playing, etc.) the first fiddle (but not played the first fiddles); to turn (turned, will turn, etc.) a new leaf (but not to turn newer leaf or new leaves);* the whole unity and not its components are parts of the sentence in syntactical analysis, for example: in the sentence *He took the bull by the horns (attacked a problem boldly)* there are only two parts: he - the subject, and took the bull by the horns - the predicate. Phraseological *collocations* are often called traditional phrases because words are combined in their original meaning but their combinations are different in different languages, for example: *cash and carry (self-service shop), in a big way (in great degree)* etc. It is usually impossible to account logically for the combination of particular words. It can be explained only on the basis of tradition, for example: *to deliver a lection (but not to read a lecture).*

Adjectival phraseological units and their specific features: The subject of analysis in the work is one type of phraseological units - adjectival phraseological units. We follow Arsentyeva E. F., who distinguishes the following types of phraseological units:

I Phraseological units with structure of a word-combination:

1. Substantive phraseological units;
2. Adjectival phraseological units;
3. Verbal phraseological units;

- Phraseological units with the structure of a sentence. **[3. Arsenteva E. F. Сопоставительный анализ фразеологических единиц. Казань: Изд-во Казанского Университета, 1989 -с 124]**

Both in English and in Russian languages the most numerous class is the class of verbal phraseological units, and then go substantive and adjectival phraseological units and phraseological units with structure of a sentence. ***Adjectival*** phraseological units are units where rod component is adjective. In total amount of researched phraseological units the part of adjectival phraseological units is very insignificant. It is necessary to distinguish two basic structural subclasses among English adjectival phraseological units.

- ✓ Adjectival comparative phraseological units. These are the phraseological units incorporating comparing component. Adjective as a rod component and dependent is a noun: *(as) green as grass; (as) white as a chalk; (as) red as lobsters.*
- ✓ Phraseological units with the structure adj + prep + n: *green with envy; full of beans; true to one's word* (expansion of a dependent component comes from the expense of a possessive pronoun). "I'm already saved but you can save him.

He's a real stinker and *too big for his britches"* (F. O'Connor).

Adjectival phraseological units usually serve as the qualitative characteristic of:

- ➢ Person *(to be dull, hard of hearing, not to be born yesterday);*
- ➢ A subject *(you will lick your fingers, flimsy).*

In both compared languages there are phraseological units which correspond ***with the structure of a sentence***. However their number is insignificant. Phraseological units with the structure of a simple sentence are typical for English language and their components correspond as a subject and a predicate.

For example:

... I felt I could not play him such a dirty trick. It was like *taking candy off a child* (W. Maugham).

Such phraseological units' components are interdependent and that is shown in the form of connected components. Phraseological units with structure of a simple sentence can be presented by following types:

- ➢ Not closed a two-member sentence: *he (it) has no guts (in him, in it).* Uncleanness is shown in the certain incompleteness of phraseological units demanding distribution of the given phraseological unit in a context by a noun, or by a personal pronoun. As brought above examples show, phraseological unit of the given type can be also constructed on the model of the negative sentence.
- ➢ In English language the most numerous type of studied phraseological units-sentences is the type of closed phraseological units, organized on the model of the two-member sentences: *he thinks himself God Almighty; grass does not grow under one's feet; one's blood turned to ice; one's bowels yearned.* As we can see from the brought examples, phraseological units of this type can be organized on the model of personal; indefinite-personal, impersonal sentences, and also can include different number of members in their structure. In some cases phraseological units of this type incorporate comparing component: *one's (the) eye is bigger than one's (the) belly.*

As a rule, phraseological units based on the model of compound sentences are proverbs. Here again it is necessary to differentiate figurative and not figurative proverbs. In not figurative proverbs if word - components are used in their literal meaning, then in figurative proverbs literal meanings of word - components are altered. As examples it is possible to bring the following units: *all is grist that comes to his mill; all is fish that comes to his net.* A number of units have not a typical structure for phraseological units of compared languages. For example: *a bit off; cousin seven (several) times removed; a deep one; all dressed up and nowhere to go; second to none.* As we see from the above, phraseological units represent a wide variety of word combinations.

Sometimes phraseological units can be confused with a free word combination; that is why it is important to know that set expressions are similar to word combinations by their structure. In that way, phraseological unit can be distinguished as peculiar unit of the language which possesses semantic integrity; though this unit does not differ from usual word combination by its structure. As for example: *to turn yellow* means *to be coward* but at the same time it can translated *–to become yellow* as a free word combination.

As a conclusion we can say irrespective of the different systems of languages and therefore various ways of expressing syntactic relations between components of phraseological units in English. They can include unities, fusions and word- combinations. One of the productive type of phraseological unit is adjectival phraseological unit which express quality, colour, age, size and etc of things. This increased the opportunity of finding an equivalent and other conformities of phraseological units in different languages.

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