

S. Bigunova, M. Zubilevych  
Rivne

## THE STRUCTURAL AND GRAMMATICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ENGLISH PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS OF LATIN AND FRENCH ORIGIN

*This article analyses the structural and grammatical characteristics of English phraseological units of Latin and French origin. The attempt of their division into groups has been done. The cognitive level of the inner form of phraseological units has been determined.*

**Key words:** *phraseological units, Latin and French origin, etymological investigation, cognitive structure, borrowing.*

*В статье анализируются структурные и грамматические характеристики английских фразеологических единиц латинского и французского происхождения. Была сделана попытка их разделения на группы. Был определён когнитивный уровень внутренней формы фразеологических единиц.*

**Ключевые слова:** *фразеологические единицы, латинское и французское происхождения, этимологическое исследование, когнитивная структура, заимствование.*

*У статті аналізуються структурні та граматичні характеристики англійських фразеологічних одиниць латинського і французького походження. Була здійснена спроба їх поділу на групи. Було визначено когнітивний рівень внутрішньої форми фразеологічних одиниць/*

**Ключові слова:** *фразеологічні одиниці, латинське і французьке походження, етимологічне дослідження, когнітивна структура, запозичення.*

**The applicability of the article.** It goes without saying that any language of the world is a fusion of the native and the borrowed. And English language is not an exception as the borrowings enrich it during the whole history of its development. The extent of the borrowings in the lexico-graphic stock of the language is rather big. And besides, the English phraseological stock is characterised by the great number of the Romance elements due to the certain historical conditions of the development of England.

The problem of the phraseological borrowing is not worked out properly in the linguistic literature. As a rule, the results of the study of the linguistic borrowings are shifted automatically on the material of phraseology. Very few researches of the phraseological borrowings come to the historical and etymological analysis (A.V. Kunin, S.I. Nazarian). The linguists retrace the way of the phonetic, grammatical or the semantic evolution of the borrowings in correlation with the development of these units in the language-source (E.M. Soloduh). The problem of the borrowing of phraseological units remains an unstudied sphere within the cognitive linguistics. Thus, by way of the bibliographical search no scientific works dealing with the study of the phraseological units from the position of cognitive linguistics were found. However, at the same time the phraseological units are highly informative units which keep the knowledge and experience of different nations. That is why it remains pertinent to study the phraseological units from the position of cognitive linguistics the main statement of which is that the linguistic unit is the reflection of the cognitive structures.

That is why **the object of the article** is the structural and grammatical characteristics of English phraseological units of Latin and French origin and **the subject-matter** is the cognitive structures of the borrowed phraseological units.

**The tasks** of the research:

1. To give the general characteristics of the cognitive structures of the borrowed phraseological units of Latin and French origin.

2. To make the etymological investigation of the borrowed phraseological units of Latin and French origin.

3. To carry out the structural and thematic analysis of phraseological units borrowed from Latin and French.

4. To investigate the cognitive level of the inner form of phraseological units.

The classification on the structural and grammatical principles is widely used in the analysis of the factual material [2; 4]. The syntactical structure is called in most cases the concrete linguistic embodiment of the structural model of the phraseological unit [5, p. 41]. Thus, E.F. Arsentieva suggests that in the aspect of expression the phraseological units are presented as a certain structural and grammatical construction, created after the models of the free word-combinations or sentences which exist in this or that language [2, p. 9].

The structural and grammatical characteristics of the borrowed phraseological units are intended for the description of the syntactical constructions, according to which the borrowed phraseological units are built. The basis of the analysis is the structural and grammatical classification proposed by A.V. Kunin [3, p. 137].

The structural principle of classifying phraseological units is based on their ability to perform the same syntactical functions as words. In the traditional structural approach, the following principal groups of phraseological units are distinguishable:

### **Substantive phraseological units.**

In the substantive phraseological units the key component is a noun. They are subdivided into the following groups:

– Substantive phraseological units with the structure of the subordinating word-combination. The characteristic structural and grammatical type in this group of the phraseological units is **the prepositional nominal construction**.

The prepositional subordinating connection is expressed by the prepositions: *after, among, at, between, by, for, from, in, on, to, with, of*.

*Aid after the war (Lat. Post bellum auxilium) – help offered too late.*

*A circle in the proof (Lat. Circuius in probando) – arguing in a circle, assuming the conclusion as an argument to prove it.*

*An ass among perfumes (Lat. Asinus in unguento) – a person who causes damage or harm by his clumsiness.*

*An ox on the tongue (Lat. Bos in lingua) – a weighty reason for silence.*

*A blow from the wild boar's snout (Fr. coup de boutoir) – a brusque attack in an argument which silences all dispute.*

*Cream of the cream (Fr. crème de la crème) – the very choicest part of anything [6–9].*

To the substantive phraseological units with the subordinate structure also **non-prepositional phraseological units** belong:

*Baculine argument (Lat. Argumentum ad baculinum) – argument at the stick.*

*The devil's advocate (Lat. Advocatus diaboli) – a fault-finder.*

*A white night (Fr. nuit blanche) – a sleepless night [6–9].*

– Substantive phraseological units with the coordinating structure. The main structural type of the substantive phraseological units with the coordinating structure is the phraseological unit with a conjunction *and*: *bread and circuses (Lat. panem et circenses) – means of pacifying the common populace [6].*

– Substantive phraseological units with the partially predicative structure. The partially predicative phraseological units are expressions which contain the grammatical key member – antecedent – and the predicative unit which depend on it – marked by N.N. Amosova [1]: *a sprat to catch a mackerel (Lat. sua murtera mittit cum hamo) – a small gift, favour, etc. that is given or done in the hope of obtaining smth. advantageous in return [8].*

**Adjectival phraseological units.** The key component of the adjectival phraseological units is an adjective. The subordinating structure occurs in the comparative phraseological units:

*More smooth than oil (Lat. oleo tranquillior).*

*As the crow flies (Fr. à vol d'oiseau) – the shortest line between two places [7; 9].*

**Adverbial phraseological units.** Most of the phraseological units of this structural type are characterized by the existence of a formal sign – a preposition as the first component of the phraseological unit: *at, between, by, for, from, of, on, with*:

*Between the hammer and the anvil (Lat. Inter malleum et incudem) – between two opposing forces.*

*By the plumb-line (Lat. ad amussim) – correct in every particular.*

*At a cheap rate (Fr. à bon compte) – at a low estimate [6; 7].*

**Verbal phraseological units.** The key component of the verbal phraseological units is a verb:

*Add flame to flame (Lat. in flammam flammam) – to act foolishly.*

*Bark at the moon (Lat. latrantem curatne alta diana canem) – to speak ill of one's superiors, to express contradiction [6; 7].*

As the result of the structural and grammatical analysis of the phraseological units it should be mentioned that there exist a full correspondence of the borrowed phraseological units with the morphological and syntactical peculiarities of the English language. We could distinguish the substantive (42), adjectival (16), adverbial (28), verbal (56) phraseological units.

From the point of view of cognitive linguistics the meaning of a language unit is regarded as a cognitive phenomenon, a cognitive structure of which reflects certain layers of knowledge and experience fixed in the language and closely connected with the human activity.

The comparative study of the thematic and ideographic groups of native and borrowed phraseological units makes it possible to systematize and compare the knowledge fixed on the cognitive level of the meaning of the native and borrowed phraseological units, to analyze the role of the cognitive structures of the borrowed phraseological units in the cognitive structure of the phraseological stock.

Let us stop on the thematic and ideographic classification of the phraseological units.

In the notional zone «**The human as a living being**» the following thematic groups are distinguished:

1. Perception of the world around: *be gracious with (your) tongue (Lat. favere Unguis) – listen in silence.*

2. Voice, speech: *see (have seen) a wolf (Lat. lupi videre priores) – to be tongue tied; speak French like an enraged cow (Fr. parler français comme une vache espagnole) – to murder the French language.*

3. Death: *pay the debt of nature (Lat. pagare debitum naturae) – to die [6–9].*

The notional zone «**The inner world of the human**» comprises the following thematic rubrics:

1. Peculiarities of behavior: *lend light to the sun (Lat. soli lumen mutuari) – to act foolishly and uselessly; an ass with two panniers (Fr. faire le panier à deux anses) – a man walking the streets with a lady on each arm.*

2. Mental peculiarities: *of wiped nose (Lat. emunctae naris) – of matured judgment; at the end of his Latin (Fr. au bout de son Latin) – at the end of his knowledge [6–9].*

To the notional zone «**The human as a doer**» includes such groups:

1. Human at work: *sand without lime (Lat. arena sine calce) – work that will not endure.*

2. Leisure, interests: *a dry garden (Lat. hortus siccus) – a collection of botanical specimens pressed and dried.*

3. The human and the surrounding world: *with good birds (Lat. cum bonis avibus) – under favorable auspices [6–9].*

The notional sphere «**The human in the world of people**»:

Relations between people (interpersonal relations): *snap one's fingers at smb./ smth. (Lat. Cicero) – to show that one has no respect (for another person or thing), esp. by making a sharp sound with one's fingers; a black beast (Fr. bête noire) – object of especial aversion [6; 9].*

The notional sphere «**The human in the world of things**»:

Buying, sale: *for a song* (Lat. *pro carmine dona*) – *very cheaply*; *buy a pig in a poke* (Fr. *acheter chat en poche*) – *to buy something without carefully examining it* [6; 9].

Many borrowed phraseological units have synonyms in the phraseological stock of English language. It is interesting to mention some synonymic sets of phraseological units which belong to the thematic group «Relations between people».

The synonymic set with a common meaning «**to suffer offence, abuse and humiliation**»:

1. *Eat humble pie* (native) – *to admit that one is wrong or say that one is sorry for smth. that one has done or said*.
2. *Put one's pride in one's pocket/pocket one's pride* (native) – *to suppress one's pride*.
3. *Beat the dog before the lion* (Fr. *battre le chien devant le lion*) – *to punish a person of lesser degree in the presence of and in order to intimidate one of great* [8; 9].

The synonymic set with a common meaning «**to deceive, misinform smb**»:

1. *Throw dust in/ into somebody's eyes* (Lat. *pulverem ob oculos aspergeré*) – *colloq. – to confuse (someone) or take his attention away from smth. that one does not wish him to see or know about*.
2. *Play someone false* (native) – *to deceive or cheat (a person)*.
3. *Put ideas into someone's head* (native) – *colloq. – to give a person ideas, impression/ or expectations that are false, dangerous, unlikely to be fulfilled* [7; 9].

The synonymic set with a common meaning «**to discomfit, spoil one's plans**»:

1. *Upset somebody's apple-cart* (Lat. *Plaustrum perculi*) – *colloq. – to disarrange his plans and frustrate one's intention; to spoil something that has been carefully planned*.
2. *Queer somebody's/ the pitch* (native) – *to cause trouble for a person, e.g. by ruining or upsetting his plans or arrangements*.
3. *Take the wind out of the sails* (native) – *to deprive a person of his justifiably expected opportunity; suddenly to forestall a person* [7–9].

The synonymic set with a common meaning «**to put someone on the spot, in an awkward situation**»:

1. *Throw smb. to the lions* (Lat. *liberatus sum de ore leonis*) – *to be put in a dangerous or difficult situation*.
2. *Set/ land/put smb. in a hole* (native) – *colloq. – in an awkward or difficult situation*.
3. *Wash one's dirty linen in public* (Fr. *laver son linge en famille*) – *to expose family quarrels or skeletons in public; to reveal and talk about one's hidden faults, mistakes, etc. in public* [6–9].

The synonymic set with a common meaning «**to make an influence on somebody whether intentionally or not**»:

1. *Lead smb. by the nose/ be led by the nose* (Lat. *naribus trahere*) – *colloq. – to be easily influenced; to be able to control completely*.
2. *Have/ hold in the palm of one's hand* (native, Shakespeare) – *to have (a person or thing) under one's complete control or influence*.
3. *Turn the tide* (of public opinion) (native) – *to influence public opinion in a new direction* [6; 8; 9].

The synonymic set with a common meaning «**to discomfit, put someone out of countenance**»:

1. *Be/ throw off one's balance* (Lat. *pensantur eadem trutina*) – *to cause (a person) to become confused or annoyed, e.g. by suddenly asking a difficult question*.
2. *Get/ have one's knickers in a twist* (native) – *to become/ be confused, angry, worry (originally used specifically of women)*.
3. *Knock/ strike all of a heap* (native, Shakespeare) – *colloq. – to throw (someone) into confusion* [7–9].

Making the summary of all above-mentioned it should be said that the cognitive ground for the phraseological borrowings in relation to the level of the meaning is the knowledge fixed on the level of the meaning. From the point of view of traditional semantics it is supposed that the phraseological borrowings specify or exactly define the notions for the adequate expression of which there are not any own intralingual equivalent means.

Speaking about the thematic classification of phraseological units according to their inner form they should be classified in the following way.

### 1. Animal world (animalistic phraseological units).

The phraseological units with animalisms is one of the most numerous and varied groups of the phraseological stock. They reflect the centuries-long observations after the appearance and habits of animals, express the attitude of humans to their smaller brothers:

*Make an elephant out of a fly* (Lat. *elephant ex musca facis*) – *to worry about or become excited about matters that are not really important at all; an ass in a lion's skin* (Aesop's fable) – *a fool who pretends to be wise; a dirty dog* (Fr. *crotte comme un barbet*) – *a low and sneaky person* [6–9].

### 2. Organs and parts of the human's body (somatic phraseological units).

The group of somatic phraseological units includes such units which contain the lexemes (components) that denote different phenomena connected with the human's body as well as the names of parts of the body: *with a short hand* (Lat. *brevi manu*) – *offhand; jump/ leap to the eyes* (Fr. *sauter aux yeux*) – *it is quite obvious, it can not be overlooked* [6–9].

### 3. Human's feelings and emotions, their expression.

*From an angry man* (Lat. *ab irato*) – *unfair, unprovoked; have a double hope* (Lat. *duplici spe uti*) – *to have alternative courses or resources; be blue with fear* (Fr. *avoir une peur bleue*) – *aghast as with amazement or fear* [6–9].

### 4. Things which belong to the living environment.

*Keep open house* (Lat. *omnes benigne mensa occipere*) – *to give free entertainment to all who choose to come* [8; 9].

**5. Realities that belong to the sphere of medicine.**

*Add insult to injury* (Lat. *injuriae qui addideris contumeliam*) – to indicate a second act against a person [8; 9].

**6. Precious things.**

*(The) golden mean* (Lat. *aurea mediocritas*) – the happy medium; a bridge of gold (Fr. *faire un pont d'or à ses ennemis*) – an opportunity of withdrawing from a position without loss of dignity [6–9].

**7. Food and dishes (gastronomic phraseological units).**

*Cabbage twice cooked/served* (Lat. *crambe bis cocta/ repetita*) – to harp on the same string; of the same four (Lat. *ejusdem farinae generis*) – of the same kind, sort; go and plant cabbage (Fr. *aller planter ses choux*) – to retire into the village [6–9].

**8. Phraseological units which go back to the literary sources.**

*Naked truth* (Lat. *nuda Veritas*) – the plain truth. (Aesop «Truth and Falsehood»); pull smb's/ the chestnuts out of the fire (Fr. *tirer les marrons du feu pour qn*) – to act as the tool of another [6–9].

**9. Spiritual culture: customs, traditions and beliefs of Ancient Rome.**

*From (the) egg to (the) apples* (Lat. *ab ovo usque ad mala*) – from beginning to end (in Ancient Rome dinner, as a rule, began with boiled eggs and ended with fruit); with thumb(s) turned down/with thumb(s) turned up (Lat. *police compresso favour judicabatur*) – to receive approval/ disapproval [6–9].

Thus, the analysis of the inner form of the borrowed phraseological units shows that it is closely connected with various spheres of life of different language communities: with the animal world and nature, the spiritual culture and the traditions and beliefs of the people. Interestingly, the system of thematic groups coincides in different languages. Such a coincidence is associated with the social and historical experience of the people.

In the **conclusion** it should be mentioned that as the result of the structural and grammatical characteristics of the borrowed phraseological units we could distinguish the substantive, adjectival, adverbial, verbal phraseological units. The borrowed phraseological units fully correspond to the morphological and syntactical peculiarities of the English language.

The cognitive level of the phraseological meaning contains the knowledge about a human and the surrounding world, about the relations between people, about the moral norms and manners, about the life situations. The comparative cognitive analysis of the phraseological meaning shows that the cognitive structures of the borrowed phraseological meanings bring the new or additional knowledge into the cognitive structure of the phraseological stock.

The thematic classification of the borrowed phraseological units in the one hand is made in correspondence with the extralingual spheres and the objective realities which are reflected in the inner form of the borrowed phraseological units. The most productive thematic rubrics are animalistic phraseological units, somatic phraseological units, the names of the objects and nature phenomena, the names of things which belong to the sphere of living environment, gastronomic phraseological units. There are 9 thematic groups in total.

In the other hand the special group is represented by the phraseological units which run back to the literary sources, traditions, realities of another language community. The cognitive structures (correlated with the inner form of such phraseological units) have no analogues in the cognitive structure of the phraseological stock. Evidently, the acquaintance with the cultural property of another nation caused the borrowing of the given phraseological units.

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