

# Phraseology in Multilingual Society



# Phraseology in Multilingual Society

Edited by

Elena Arsenteva

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**P U B L I S H I N G**

Phraseology in Multilingual Society  
Edited by Elena Arsenteva

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## PREFACE

*In fact, the field of phraseology is remarkably  
little known outside of northern Europe.*

Koenraad Kuiper

In comparison with other branches of linguistics with many centuries of development phraseology can be considered a young child though rather intelligent and shrewd. Its domain is constituted by picturesque and vivid elements termed phraseological units (PUs), which are characterized by a certain transference of meaning.

The term “phraseology” was introduced by a prominent Swiss scholar of French origin Charles Bally at the beginning of the twentieth century. The first to raise the question of phraseology as a linguistic subject was Professor Ye. D. Polivanov, a well-known Russian scientist (Polivanov 1931). Academician V. V. Vinogradov was the first to work out the classification of Russian phraseological units, which gave rise to extensive investigation of phraseology in other languages (Vinogradov 1974).

Since that time much has been done in the field of phraseology. The sole scholarly society for the furtherance of research in phraseology, the European Society of Phraseology “Europhras” was founded at the end of the twentieth century to coordinate the investigations of scientists from different countries and even continents. Each year international conferences are held which are devoted to the problems of phraseology. These are organized by members of “Europhras” in different European countries.

This book is based on the best presentations of the international conference “Phraseology in Multilingual Society” organized in partnership with “Europhras” and held at Kazan Federal University, Russia, in August 2013.

The main goal of the book is to give a rich understanding of phraseology and to present the work of scholars from different countries investigating phraseological units in many languages. That is why different aspects of phraseological research are presented in the book: semantic, pragmatic, comparative, etc.

The **first part** of the book is devoted to the description of the role of the Kazan School of Phraseology and the contribution of the well-known Polish-Russian scientist, the founder of the Kazan School of Linguists Jan

Baudouin de Courtenay. The Kazan School of Linguists is famous for its contribution in world science, especially in the field of phonology and morphology. Baudouin de Courtenay was the first to pay special attention to the so-called stable expressions including proverbs, the practical implementation of his theoretical studies was his participation in the remaking and enriching V. Dal's dictionary (Dal' 1903-1909). He was also the first to speak about the most typical features of stable expressions such as stability and inseparability, which are considered nowadays the most important criteria of phraseological units.

The Kazan School of Phraseology has been established for several decades from the end of the 1960s. It is notable for some important theoretical investigations as well as the compilation of bilingual and monolingual phraseological dictionaries. Among the most important aspects of phraseological research are comparative studies of the phraseological units of different groups and families of languages the result of which can be found in the determining of isomorphous and allomorphous characteristic features of the phraseological units compared.

The problem of the meaning, and semantic structure of PUs may be considered to be the focus of attention for many specialists of phraseology in many countries. So **the second part** of the book is devoted to the investigation of some semantic aspects of phraseological units in different languages.

The outstanding role of Alexander Kunin in the establishment of English phraseology as an independent branch of linguistics is shown in the work opening the second part of the book. It also analyzes connotation as one of the basic inherent phraseological components treated by Kunin, namely its main components: emotivity, expressivity, evaluation and the stylistic component. The conclusion made is that phraseological units are considered to be the expressive means of the phraseological system of the language thanks to their connotation.

An insight into the cognitive mechanisms of creating conceptual models of expressions with figurative meaning (including idiomatic compounds) connected with sea life is presented in the work of Spanish scholars from the University of Granada. Several metaphoric meanings with the archi-metaphor "fish is a successful result" are distinguished in different languages, cultural models including social behaviour and social hierarchies. Aesthetic canons are also under study.

Phraseological units with an onomatopoeic component and transparent inner form in English and Russian present an interesting subject for investigation, especially from the semantic point of view. Such units are characterized by transparent (or partially transferred) meaning, which is

easily deduced from the meaning of their components, and the weakest cohesion between them. The study of connotation components of meaning including value, emotion and expressivity, and stylistic reference is also of interest.

The reflection of society in professional idioms is another aspect of investigation in the second part of the book. The term “professional idioms” is used as a semantically broad term to refer to different types of expressions such as phraseological units, phrases, idioms, collocations and formulae coined by professionals in a professional or quasi-professional discourse. Among the most important results of the investigation is the conclusion that the meaning of professional idioms is predominantly negatively connotated.

Phraseological creativity as a phenomenon rooted in the conceptual basis of language imagery which finds its way into the semantics of language units and texts is analyzed in the work completing the second part of the book. It is shown that phraseological creativity is the ability of macro-metaphorical conceptual models, on the one hand, to systemically create phraseological images, on the other hand, to individually adapt any phraseological image to the communicative process. Eleven macro-metaphorical conceptual models are proposed on which images of all English phraseological units are generated.

The **third part** of the book contains comparative research of phraseological units of different languages. The problems investigated concern different aspects in the sphere of phraseology: componential structure, the role of components and their symbolism in PUs of biblical origin, finding PU counterparts in languages belonging to different groups and even families of languages, phraseological borrowings and international phraseological units.

Biblical PUs have been in the focus of scholars’ attention for several decades. Yet there is still much to discover. The present investigation shows that the oppositional pair of “white – black” has acquired numerous conventional and symbolic senses which are reflected in the meanings of English, German and Russian phraseological units of biblical origin, playing the leading role in the whole metaphorical meaning and preserving the emotional-evaluative connotation.

The components “fire” and “water” being universal in different cultures and religions, and preserving their symbolic meaning of destruction and rebirth play an important role in the formation of English, Russian, Spanish and Tatar phraseological units, as a case study here confirms. Full and partial phraseological equivalents and analogues as types of phraseological counterparts as well as PUs having no counterparts

in another language/other languages, and the ways of their translation are under study.

The phraseological stock of any language can not but be enriched by borrowings from other languages. The English language as the source of borrowings currently ranks first in the list of donor languages. That is why the analysis of direct and translated loan phrases in German has shown a lot of similar features between the English and German versions of the same PU including their stylistic potential and semantic changes, although the percentage of such borrowings varies. One of the striking features of some loan translations is that they are often used along with their English sources in modern German.

The investigations of Elisabeth Piirainen from Germany are widely known by the majority of specialists in phraseology. Her paper presents research on some of the so-called “widespread idioms” with a similar lexical structure and figurative core meaning in many European and non-European languages. It is suggested that various widespread idioms (or international phraseological units, using other terminology) which are well developed in the major European languages are hardly shared by minority languages though a small number of idioms exist both in standard languages and the lesser-used ones.

Phraseology as a dynamically developing stratum of language gives rise to numerous pragmatic investigations of phraseological units. These are presented in **the fourth part** of the book. It starts with the study of the international PU “подливать масла в огонь” (“add fuel to the fire”) having many phraseological counterparts in many European languages, thus continuing the direction of previous research. Comparative analysis has proved there is a close coincidence in contextual variation of forms in Russian, English and Spanish among which the introduction of genitive attribute, morphological modifications and lexical substitutions are widely used. Some specific features of contextual variations of the Russian PU and its counterparts in English and Spanish are also enumerated.

The paper of Kazan scholars devoted to the ways of using phraseological units in teaching English as a foreign language deals with two main problems: the use of authentic video materials in teaching English idioms, and ways of using phraseological units in a course on English phonetics. Teaching English idioms via selected TV commercials is proposed as a most effective and efficient way of solving the first problem, the use of English proverbs and sayings with their typical rhythmic and phonetic organization in some cases different from that of Russian is recommended both in the study of segmental and suprasegmental phonetics.

Formulaic genres as cultural artefacts are under investigation in the paper of Koenraad Kuiper from New Zealand. Taking into consideration the ideas of Bakhtin and Goffman, concerning the connection between linguistic form and social context, or genres and the extra-linguistic social order, Kuiper analyses formulaic genres as accompaniments to social action or as formative elements of social action. The conclusion that monolingual users of the language are multilingual at a lower level of abstraction and multicultural at the same time is of great interest and value.

Instantial stylistic use of English phraseological units from the point of view of a cognitive approach is the focus of attention of Latvian scholar Anita Naciscione. Such an approach helps her to show that certain cognitive mechanisms are applied in such cases of stylistic use of phraseological units as, for example, extended metaphor, pun and phraseological allusion. The multimodal use of phraseological units also proves the importance of a cognitive approach in understanding a figurative network created in the case of the visual representation of a PU presented as a vivid example.

Different types of instancial use of phraseological units in English media texts as well as difficulties in the translation of phraseological units used in the press are presented in the next paper. The author gives examples of several transformations of PUs such as cleft use, addition, ellipsis, phraseological reiteration, etc. The conclusion is made that national and cultural peculiarities of phraseological units can be found on several levels simultaneously.

The pun as a semantic way of transforming phraseological units, and ellipsis and substitution as types of structural semantic transformations, are analyzed in the paper dealing with the contextual use of PUs in advertising slogans. It is proposed that the motivation for transformations is as follows: the structure of the phraseological unit, its inner form, pragmatics and extra linguistic realities.

The so-called wide approach to phraseology adopted by the majority of specialists in phraseology dictates the inclusion of paremiological units into their sphere of interest. **The fifth part** of the book contains works devoted to the study of paremiology, the study of proverbs.

Russian proverbs and weather-lore with discrete and non-discrete quantified sets expressing quantitative appraisal are under investigation in the paper of Kazan scholars. One of the most important conclusions deals with the reflection of the non-homogeneity of quantitative appraisal in heterogeneous linguistic means which are represented in paremiological

units by numerals, quantitative-nominal collocations and adjectival and adverbial markers of quantitative appraisal.

While analyzing proverb translation within a literary context the author of the paper from Italy points out that it necessarily results in finding formal, semantic and pragmatic equivalents which better correspond to the source language. Four important strategies are offered to overcome the difficulties in the translation of proverbs.

The sociopolitical use of biblical and folk proverbs by two great American fighters for women's rights, namely Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, is the object of investigation of Wolfgang Mieder, a well-known paremiologist. He stresses the fact that proverbial communication appears with considerable frequency in the works of these great ladies and gives vivid illustrations of such proverbial expressions with colourful metaphors in his paper.

The last paper completing the fifth part of the book is a paper devoted to the representation of moral values in Russian and Brazilian proverbs. Moral values which are considered to be superior ones in the human society are represented by different types of Russian and Brazilian proverbs among which the following groups are distinguished: with and without personal indications, bearing critical or binding moral message, with generalized interpretation, with neutral or indefinite properties, rhyming and contradictory proverbs.

The last **sixth part** of the book contains papers dealing with the applied character of phraseology – namely phraseography – as the science involved in compiling phraseological dictionaries, and corpus-based studies.

Five types of phraseological unit definition and their occurrence in different unilingual and bilingual dictionaries are under study in the paper of Kazan researchers. The following conclusion can be made: the choice of definition type is motivated by some objective factors among which the degree of abstraction of the phraseological unit and isomorphism between the form and the meaning of it play the most important roles.

The next paper is devoted to the problems of compiling a new kind of phraseological dictionary – the dictionary of transforms, or the dictionary of occasional transformations of phraseological units. The macro- and microstructure of such a dictionary as well as the main principles of lexicographic description of phraseological units are under investigation.

The structure and principles of compiling a new German-Russian dictionary of idioms based on the analysis of corpus data are discussed in the next paper. The author presents four basic parameters of the dictionary: the idiom-list, the body of illustrative authentic examples, dictionary

macrostructure, and dictionary entry structure including headword, lemma, valencies (both obligatory and optional), and prepositional forms, stylistic labels, translation into Russian and illustrative examples. If possible the dictionary entry also contains the variant field, indications of polysemy and the commentary field.

The problems of creating the cumulative computer database of Tatar proverbs and sayings in the realization of the project “Computational Corpus of Tatar” are analyzed in the paper of Kazan scholars. The advantages of such a database are discussed.

One of the problems of compiling bilingual dictionaries is the problem of presenting “true” equivalents and not formal ones. Corpus data help to reveal some typical features of the contextual restrictions of PUs such as their use in declarative/imperative contexts, in the past/non-past tense, etc., in the case of formal phraseological equivalents, proves the study of cross-linguistic equivalence of the Russian unit “братъ (взять) руки в ноги” and the German idiom “die Beine in die Hand (unter den Arm) nehmen”.

Phraseological units of the Carinthian dialects in Slovenia presented in the “Thesaurus of Slovenian National Languages in Carinthia” constitute the object of investigation by the Austrian scholar Heinrich Pfandl. The results of the research may be summarized in the following way: of the large number of phraseological units, first of all proverbs and sayings existing in the Carinthian dialects most derive from the general European phraseological complement, while only a limited number of vivid and picturesque expressions are characteristic solely of Carinthian dialects.

As is shown the book presents different approaches to phraseological unit study, and we hope that it will enrich and broaden the knowledge of all those working and interested in the vast field of phraseology.

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## **PART I**

### **PHRASEOLOGY AT KAZAN UNIVERSITY**

## CHAPTER ONE

### KAZAN SCHOOL OF PHRASEOLOGY

ELENA ARSENTEVA<sup>1</sup> AND RIMMA SAFINA<sup>2</sup>

#### 1. Introduction

The Kazan School of Phraseology has become one of the leading schools not only in Russia but also in European countries. It may be considered that the first contribution was made by Badouin de Courtenay, the well-known scientist of the nineteenth to the beginning of the twentieth century, who spent more than fifteen years working at Kazan University. The great achievements of Kazan phraseologists at the end of the twentieth century were due to their close contacts with Moscow and St. Petersburg scientists and the influence of these two leading linguistic schools in Russia.

A great role in the successful development of the Kazan School of Phraseology was played by two Scientific Councils which opened at the former Kazan State University and Kazan State Pedagogical Institute (now united into one Federal University) in the last decade of the twentieth century. More than one hundred dissertations in the field of the comparative and typological study of phraseology have been defended at the sessions of these two Councils since that time. It is worth mentioning that phraseological stocks of many languages were under study: Russian, English, German, Spanish, Tatar, Arabian, Turkish, Vietnamese, etc. Postgraduate students not only from Tatarstan and Russia but also from other countries defended their dissertations under the supervision of well-known specialists in phraseology at Kazan thus increasing the area of influence of the Kazan School of Phraseology.

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## **2. Main Part**

### **2.1. Baudouin de Courtenay and his Contribution to Phraseology**

Baudouin de Courtenay started working at Kazan University in 1875 and only left it in 1883. It was he who along with phrases and sentences distinguished inseparable units from the syntactic point of view to which he attributed stable expressions, or unchangeable combinations of several words (Baudouin 1917). So it may be stated that he pointed out the two main characteristic features of phraseological units (PUs) – their inseparability and their stability, which are now considered the most important criteria of phraseological units.

While analyzing words he also stressed the fact that without language creativity, only by automatically repeating the same combination of words, even whole sentences may acquire the quality of syntactic inseparability. Among such sentences he also distinguished proverbs and sayings, again pointing out their inseparability from the syntactic point of view.

Another contribution to phraseology by Baudouin de Courtenay was his remaking and enriching of V. Dal's dictionary in which we can find many examples of Russian phraseological units including proverbs and sayings. A lot was done in this respect during his "Kazan period".

It is also necessary to stress the importance of Baudouin de Courtenay's perception of language not as something static but as a dialectal unity of statics and dynamics. Such an approach to language on the whole, and its units (among them unchangeable combinations of several words) in general gave rise to numerous etymological investigations in the field of phraseology, including the study of the prototypes of phraseological units and their inner form.

### **2.2. The Development of Phraseology at the End of the Twentieth Century**

The first two doctoral dissertations in phraseology were defended at the Scientific Councils of Moscow and Leningrad in 1983.

E. Solodukho's dissertation was devoted to the problem of international phraseology (Solodukho 1983). Three groups of languages were under analysis: Slavonic, Germanic and Romanic. The sources of international phraseological units were distinguished as a result of a profound and deep analysis of the material, and it was proved that the

majority of inexact units appeared through translation loans composed according to the norms of the receiving language.

One of the vital problems solved by the majority of researchers in bilingual comparison is the problem of interlanguage phraseological counterparts. The coincidence of meaning is considered by E. Solodukho to be the main indicator of interlanguage phraseological equivalence. In this respect he disagrees with many other linguists who also take into consideration some formal indicators of phraseological equivalence. Such an approach helped him to propose his own classification of phraseological conformities and non-equivalent conformities consisting of the following groups: full equivalents, limited equivalents, identical equivalents, direct equivalents, synonymic equivalents and interlanguage phraseological homonyms. The classification is characterized by the detailed study of the slightest distinctions between different types of phraseological equivalents.

It is also necessary to mention the fact that phraseological units were analyzed from the point of view of common phenomena existing in the life of language users of three groups of languages which might have accounted for the appearance of parallel phraseological units.

Phraseology in the works of V. I. Lenin and the manner of their translation into Tatar was the object of the doctoral dissertation of L. Bairamova (Bairamova 1983). The researcher marked out different types of semantic and grammatical classes of phraseological units with the structure of both word combinations and sentences. L. Bairamova proposes another type of classification of phraseological conformities with both semantic and formal indicators of phraseological equivalence: she takes into consideration the coincidence in meaning, style (stylistic reference), lexical (componential) structure, grammatical forms and morphological and syntactic structure. In this way she distinguishes absolutely identical equivalents, full equivalents, partial phraseological equivalents and phraseological analogues. One of the most important and valuable features of this classification is taking into account typological characteristics of the Russian and Tatar languages.

All of the above-mentioned types of phraseological conformities were found and analyzed in the translation of phraseological units used by V. I. Lenin in his works. Descriptive translation also occupies a prominent position in this list. L. Bairamova comes to the conclusion that it is quite possible to render the meaning, the lexico-grammatical characteristics, and the stylistic and communicative-informative reference of Russian phraseological units into Tatar without any loss in the case of applying different types of phraseological conformities suggested by her.

The third dissertation defended at the Scientific Council of Moscow State University in 1993 was the doctoral dissertation of E. Arsenteva which was devoted to the problem of the comparative analysis of Russian and English phraseological units of anthropocentric character (Arsenteva 1993). Phraseological units are studied as a system of paradigms; much attention is paid to the description of the complicated structure of phraseological meaning which includes signification-denotational and connotational components. The detailed analysis of the structure of phraseological meaning made it possible for the researcher to advance the theory of identity/difference of the phraseological meaning some organization of phraseological units of different languages as the basis of finding out different types of interlanguage semantic conformities. Two other levels (lexeme structure and the structural-grammatical organization of Russian and English phraseological units) necessary for the process of distinguishing interlanguage phraseological conformities were also under study.

The last chapter of the dissertation deals with the main problems of compiling a Russian-English phraseological dictionary such as the presentation of Russian phraseological units and all their forms including variations in the dictionary, the types of connotation labels, ways of translating Russian units into English, and the structure of a dictionary entry, etc. The part of the compiled bilingual phraseological dictionary served as the supplement to the dissertation showing the practical implementation of the problems solved.

### **2.3. The Development of Phraseology at the Beginning of the Twenty-first Century**

It has been shown that only three doctoral dissertations were defended by Kazan specialists in phraseology at the end of the twentieth century. The beginning of the twenty-first century witnessed a large increase of such researches in the field of phraseology.

The doctoral dissertation of N. Fattakhova devoted to the comparative analysis of the semantic and syntactic peculiarities of Russian and Tatar weather-lore was defended in Kazan in 2002 (Fattakhova 2002). The scientist is brave enough to consider weather-lore not only as folklore texts but also as language units with their own semantic and structural peculiarities. Great attention is paid to revealing explicit and implicit senses of weather-lore for comparison. The definition of the semantic structure of such units and their main syntactic patterns may be considered to be the most important results of the investigation.

Proverbs of the Russian language as a part of phraseology are the object of research by T. Bochina in her doctoral dissertation (Bochina 2003). Antithesis, acrothesis, misidentification, oxymoron and irony as generalized and typified expressive means of the realization of one of the main principles of expanding speech are analyzed by the researcher. Linguistic mechanisms of stylistic modifications of contrast in Russian paremiological units for which contrast is the universal lingua-cognitive and poetical principle are under investigation. One of the most important conclusions of the dissertation includes the substantiation of the dialectal nature of proverbs based on opposition, and of the field structure of the stylistic means system of contrast.

G. Bagautdinova's doctoral dissertation may be considered to be the first attempt to investigate Russian, English and Tatar phraseological units from the point of view of axiology (Bagautdinova 2007). Such an approach to studying phraseological units of languages with different structures from the point of view of basic systems of values of different nationalities helped G. Bagautdinova to systematize universal and unique values and anti-values functioning in different societies. The author of the dissertation comes to the conclusion that the phraseological duality system is the unity of two subsystems of phraseological units the meaning of which correlates either with conventional values or anti-values of native speakers of the languages being compared.

Distinguishing several cultural codes of Russian, English and Tatar anthropocentric phraseological units such as anthropomorphous, biomorphous, objective, temporal, quantitative, etc., is also of great importance.

L. Sakaeva investigates Russian, English, Tatar and Tajik phraseological units of anthropocentric character in her doctoral dissertation (Sakaeva 2009). One of the distinguishing features of the dissertation is a large amount of analyzed units in four languages also including proverbs and sayings. The detailed analysis of the material made it possible to reveal typological similarities and distinctions as well as semantic, structural and grammatical peculiarities of phraseological units of the Russian, English, Tatar and Tajik languages conditioned by linguistic and extra-linguistic factors.

The last chapter of the dissertation connected to the main problems of compiling a multilingual phraseological dictionary is of great practical value.

The analysis of Tatar, Russian and English phraseological units from the point of view of a structural-typological approach is presented in the doctoral dissertation of G. Gizatova (Gizatova 2010). The use of some

methods of structural and quantitative typology helped the researcher to prove the hypothesis of the coincidence of ideographic classifications of phraseological units belonging to different languages. The typology of phraseological universalities including both lexico-phraseological and phraseological universalities proper was worked out. It was also proved that authors' occasional phraseological transformations are of systematic character.

The practical implementation of the dissertation is the compilation of an ideographic dictionary including phraseological units of three languages.

One more doctoral dissertation also defended in 2010 was devoted to the phraseographic description of the Tatar, Russian and English languages (Ayupova 2010). The main tendencies in the organization of the microstructure and macrostructure of phraseological dictionaries as well as the phraseographic description of all aspects of phraseological meaning were under deep study. The elaboration of recommendations for the practical implementation of presenting signification-denotational and connotational components of phraseological meaning in different types of phraseological dictionaries is of great value.

Much attention was paid to the analysis of Tatar phraseography which should keep pace with the latest achievements of other schools of phraseography including English and Russian ones.

One of the valuable features of the dissertation is also the study of some problems of electronic (computer-based) phraseography from the theoretical point of view.

The analysis of German and Russian weather-lore is presented in the doctoral dissertation of M. Kul'kova (Kul'kova 2011). It was proved that these units belong to paremiological discourse, and that their meaning structure consists of propositional-cognitive and communicative-pragmatical components. The researcher also pays special attention to the axiological aspect of German and Russian weather-lore characterized by the predominance of the positive orientation over the negative one, which proves again and again the positive orientation of the language norm.

One of the main results of the investigation is the confirmation of the hypothesis suggested by the researcher concerning the coincidence of an intentional sphere of concepts in the ethnocultural societies under comparison.

Paremiological units of the Tatar, Russian and English languages were selected as the object of investigation in the doctoral dissertation of F. Tarasova (Tarasova 2012). Paremiological units were analyzed from the point of view of their cognitive and ethnocultural value. The author of the

dissertation vividly shows the asymmetry of the proverbial world picture, which reveals itself in the syntagmatic and paradigmatic disparity of the content structure of paremiological units and the extra-linguistic realia expressed by them.

One of the most valuable results of the dissertation is the establishment of the resemblance of conceptualization in the system of paremiological stocks of the languages compared, and of differences in the sphere of their formalization and cultural conditionality.

The comparative study of different types of phraseological transformations in four languages: Russian, English, French and Turkish, is carried out in the doctoral dissertation defended in 2012 (Davletbaeva 2012). The structural-semantic, cognitive and pragmatic peculiarities of the process of phraseological transformations, and the factors determining the process of creation of phraseological transforms are under study.

One of the most important results of the dissertation is the elaboration and approbation of the complex method of modelling phraseological transformations. This method is based on the revealing of syntactical, logical, semantic, motivational, structural-semantic, derivational and nominative models of phraseological transforms. It was also shown that phraseological transformations are of systematic character in different languages. The elaboration of a micro- and macrostructure of the multilingual dictionary of phraseological transforms is the practical implementation of the results of the research.

### 3. Main Trends of Phraseological Research

One of the main trends of phraseological research is the development of **comparative studies**, which may be dictated by the bilingual situation in the Republic of Tatarstan (and its capital Kazan) with two official languages: Russian and Tatar. Nevertheless it should be noted that not only phraseological units of these two languages are under investigation. There are a considerable number of works devoted to the comparative study of Slavonic, Germanic, Romanic, Turkic and other families and groups of languages such as English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Turkish, Arabic, Tajik, Polish, Bulgarian, Ukrainian, Byelorussian and Vietnamese, etc. Perhaps the most typical pair of languages under comparison is English-Russian (or Russian-English), less numerous are investigations of Russian-English-Tatar phraseological counterparts. English-Turkish comparative studies of phraseological units are also rather numerous. As a rule, scholars of the Kazan School of Phraseology choose phraseological stocks of two or three languages for

analysis but there are also some works devoted to the comparative study of phraseological units in four or even five languages.

The first profound comparative studies of phraseological units in the Russian language and some Germanic languages may be traced to the end of the 1960s and the beginning of the 1970s (Gatiatullina 1968, Dolgoplov 1973).

The next decade witnessed the appearance of new important researches, which laid the foundation for the further development of comparative phraseology in Kazan (Yusupov 1980, Bairamova 1983, Arsenteva 1983, et al.). The works of E. Soloducko devoted to the investigation of phraseological translation loans and the cause of phraseological parallelism in the languages being compared were especially of great importance (Soloducko 1983).

The main methods and principles of comparative phraseological investigations were further formulated and developed in the 1990s. The analysis of phraseological stocks of different languages became the focus of attention of many scholars during that period, and the number of dissertations defended increased several times. One of the reasons may be seen in the opening of two Scientific Councils working in the field of comparative and typological studies both at Kazan State University and Kazan State Pedagogical Institute.

Comparative analyses of Russian and English phraseological units of anthropocentric character carried out by E. Arsenteva gave rise to numerous researches of vast layers of phraseology in which the main focus was on the investigation of anthropocentric phraseological units in different languages (Arsenteva 1993). In this respect the **anthropocentric approach** has remained the most important one for the last two decades. The focus of attention in phraseology by Kazan specialists is the phraseological description of a person, of his or her main features of character, appearance, physical, moral, emotional characteristics, ways of behaviour, etc. Many works appeared that were devoted to the comparative study of some definite phraseo-semantic groups connected with the categories of the main social values of people of different cultures such as family, religion, money, axiological duality of happiness/unhappiness, etc. (Safina 2002, Bairamova 2012, et al.).

The end of the twentieth and the beginning of the twenty-first centuries also witnessed the intensive development of the theory of phraseological meaning. Much attention was paid to the investigation of such connotational components of phraseological meaning as functional-stylistic, expressive and evaluative ones. The paradigmatic relations of phraseological units as well as the interrelations within the inner form,

motivational basis, the image of PUs, and the process of creating phraseological euphemisms were also the subject-matter of many researches (Makarova 1999, Salieva 2005, Arsentyeva 2012, et al.).

The **linguo-cultural approach** to the study of phraseological units appeared in the 1990s. Its main aim is the establishment of national-cultural specific features of phraseological stocks of different languages. Phraseological units are analyzed from the point of view of the representation of linguo-cultural phenomena of different societies with their own systems of social and moral values, national mentality and reflection in phraseological stocks of languages has become the main issue of researches. As a rule phraseological units with components characterized by the frequency of occurrence are the subject-matter of phraseological studies. Among such components we can find the names of animals, birds, parts of the human body, the names of different colours, proper names, etc. (Ibragimova 1993, Pimenova 2002, Ganieva 2012 et al.).

Among other trends of researches one should name the investigations of phraseological units belonging to a definite grammatical class such as verbal, adjectival, etc., or biblical PUs (Mendel'son 2002, Semushina 2004, Karimova 2005, Zholobova 2005 et al.). The aim of such researches, the majority of which were comparative ones, was to investigate the slightest peculiarities in the grammatical, semantic and componential structure of such units.

The linguo-cultural approach to the study of phraseological units is closely connected with **cognitive-interpretational paradigms of research** in which different concepts draw the special attention of Kazan scholars. On the whole the cognitive approach has been rather popular among researchers of different schools for the last decade. Such concepts as "space and time", "God", "heart", etc., were of special attraction to Kazan specialists in phraseology (Ignatyeva 2004, Afanasyeva 2007, Bazarova 2011 et al.). In the long run the main aims of such investigations were to find out the national peculiarities of the language "world picture" through the prism of phraseology, to determine universal communicative-pragmatical categories and axiological aspects in different linguo-cultures.

The **contextual or functional aspect** of investigation is becoming more and more popular nowadays. This approach assumes the study of contextual behaviour and the functional significance of phraseological units in different types of texts. Various ways of occasional use of PUs and their different contextual transformations are of paramount importance due to the high emotive-expressive connotational value of such transformations (Davletbaeva 2006, Abdullina 2007, Zykova 2010). The

collective manuscript of Kazan scholars based on the material of several languages (Russian, English, German, Spanish and Tatar) sums up the results obtained and vividly shows the prevailing resemblance of such transformations and of their stylistic effect (Arsenteva 2009).

Another perspective and interesting aspect of investigation is connected with **the problem of translation** of phraseological units used by English and Russian writers and poets from one language into another. Among the most important works it is suffice to mention candidate dissertations of young Kazan scholars in which phraseological units used by W. Shakespeare, W. Collins and English poets of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, on the one hand, and A. Pushkin, on the other hand, and the ways of their rendering from one language into another are analyzed (Ayupova 2001, Shcherbakova 2003, Medvedev 2007, Kayumova 2010). The problem of the adequacy of translation is, as a rule, the focus of attention, as researchers distinguish the most frequent and adequate ways of translating phraseological units typical of this or that author, and the peculiarities of translation of transformed PUs in different types of context. The practical value of such investigations is unquestionable.

**Phraseography** can be named as the last trend in the development of phraseology in Kazan. Several manuscripts devoted to the description and study of the main problems in the field of phraseological dictionary compilation were published during the last decade (Arsenteva 2006, Sadykova 2008, Ayupova 2010). Among the most important problems described are the problems of dictionary entry, ways of proper presentation of phraseological units and reflection of their connotational potential, types of definitions, phraseological counterparts and translation of PUs having no such counterparts, etc. We can name several unilingual and bilingual phraseological dictionaries compiled by the representatives of the Kazan School of Phraseology with different combinations of languages: Russian-English, Russian-Tatar and Tatar-Russian, Turkish-Russian, or with a different orientation: a dictionary of phraseological units of biblical origin, an axiological dictionary of values and anti-values, etc. (Arsenteva 1999, Gatiatullina and Mendel'son 2002, Bairamova 2011, 2012 et al.). The Russian-English-German-Turkish-Tatar phraseological dictionary compiled by the group of scholars of Kazan Federal University under the guidelines of Professor E. Arsenteva and published in 2008 is of paramount importance (Arsenteva 2008). It contains more than 7500 Russian phraseological units and their translations into four languages with all the necessary linguistic information and examples of usage. The first Russian-English online phraseological dictionary based on the

scientific principles of the Russian and Danish schools of lexicography is now being compiled in Kazan.

## 4. Conclusions

The analysis of the most important works as well as the main trends in the investigation of phraseology by Kazan researchers shows the high level of the Kazan School of Phraseology. Its main feature is the comparative analysis of phraseological units of languages belonging to different language groups and families and including even such exotic languages as Tajik or Vietnamese.

Kazan researchers use the so-called wide approach to phraseology, which means the investigation of all types of stable expressions including paremiological stocks of languages. Such an approach helps them to enrich various spheres of language study connected with the stability and variability of language resources.

The study of phraseological units at different levels enables the researchers to distinguish their isomorphous and allomorphous characteristic features and to prove the systemic character of the phraseological stock of the language. The results of the investigations especially of doctoral dissertations are of great theoretical value and open new perspectives in the development of phraseology.

We can also speak about the high practical value of the investigations of Kazan researchers. The elaboration of the main problems of phraseography, and the compilation of different types of unilingual, bilingual and multilingual phraseological dictionaries, some of which have no rivals in the world, are the undeniable proof of it.

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