

## PROVERBIAL PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS AS A REFLECTION OF ENGLISH NATIONAL CULTURE

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**Abstract:** This article discusses phraseological units and features of their use as a way to reflect the features of the national culture of the English people. Phraseological units are a mirror of the nation. They fully reveal the national specificity of the language, its identity. No matter what other means of language, they absorb history best of all, express the mentality peculiar to the people, the way of thinking, the peculiarity of the view; they show everyday life, spirit and character, mores and customs, beliefs and superstitions.

**Key words:** phraseological units, idioms, language means, customs, traditions.

The English language has a thousand-year history. During this time, it has accumulated a large number of expressions that people have found successful, accurate and beautiful. So a special layer of the language emerged as a set of stable expressions that have independent significance. That layer is called phraseology. Each scholar interprets the notion of phraseology and its properties differently. However, the majority of scholars believe that the most consistently distinguished properties of phraseological units are the following. The main purpose of idioms is to give speech special expressiveness, unique originality, accuracy and imagery. However, the use of idioms and phraseological units makes it difficult to understand and translate them from a foreign language. Phraseology has emerged as an independent linguistic discipline relatively recently. The emergence of the theory of phraseology is associated with the name of Ch. Bally, a Swiss linguist, who systematized stable combinations of words and used the term «phraseologie» in his book «French Style» for the first time. The English phraseological foundation is extremely rich. It is impossible to learn English without studying this area of the language since it is very difficult to have a dialogue with a representative of British culture, without using the most commonly used phraseological units. Phraseological units in English for the most part are native. They entrenched in colloquial speech and acquired a characteristic English flavor, which reflects the peculiarities of English culture. All of them are connected with the traditions, customs and beliefs of the English people, as well as with traditions and historical facts. Studying the features of the language lets us understand the whole range of problems related to the mentality and culture of different people. Phraseological units are a mirror of the nation. They fully disclose the peculiarities of

the national language and its identity. These means of language absorb history, express the mentality peculiar to the nation, the method of judgment, the peculiarity of the view; everyday life, spirit and character, morals and customs, beliefs and superstitions are manifested in that kind of language means.

For instance, the British are restrained by emotions, both in public and in a narrow family circle and consider self-control as the main advantage of a human character. Therefore, they believe that it is necessary to raise a child in severity and that excessive manifestation of love and tenderness does irreparable harm to the children's character. Here are some idioms that prove this feature of the British mentality: Speech is silver but silence is gold means it is often better to say nothing at all and peace and quiet are to be enjoyed. The short form 'Silence is golden' is still sometimes used. A man of words and not of deeds is like a garden full of weeds means that the person, who loves to talk and does nothing is like a garden without fruit. The British are less susceptible to the influence of time than others; Moreover, conservatism is visible in their mentality. The longing is characteristic of the English. Moreover, there is nothing more valuable than customs and traditions for those people: No man is so old, but thinks he may get live another year means that Everybody thinks that he may live tomorrow however he get old. Also it means old age is not a joy, but death is not a godsend. You can't teach an old dog new tricks means that it is very difficult to teach someone new skills or to change someone's habits or character. An original English phenomenon is the notion of privacy reflecting the fact that the British prefer to keep their distance while communicating with people. Restraint, caution, practicality and self-esteem are the main features of the English national character that is very clearly expressed in phraseology: Private war means hostilities against members of another state that take place without government sanction. To violate smb.'s privacy means to violate, to transgress.

Idioms connected with English realities: Play fast and loose – to treat someone or something in a careless way. The phrase is related to an old folk game played at fairs in England; Put somebody in the cart – put someone in a difficult position. In short, the basket was called a cart, in which criminals were taken to the place of execution or carried around the city with shame. Phraseological units connected with beliefs and traditions: A black sheep – someone who embarrasses a group or family because the person is different or has gotten into trouble. According to old belief, a black sheep is marked with the seal of the devil; Halcyon days – a tranquil period of happiness, especially in the past. The phrase refers to the period around the winter solstice that is associated with calm weather, which in Greek mythology was attributed to the power of the fabled halcyon bird that was said to calm the wind and sea. «Edible» phraseological units: Butter wouldn't melt in his mouth – appear gentle or innocent

while typically being the opposite. It means that a person looks calmly, dispassionately proving his innocence to any bad act. Eat one's cake and have it too The proverb literally means «you cannot simultaneously retain your cake and eat it». Once the cake is eaten, it is gone. (To) go bananas – to become very excited or angry. Idioms connected with the sea: to launch into – begin (something) energetically and enthusiastically; to be all at sea – the phrase means confusion or being lost.

Using the analysis of only a small part of English phraseological units with a national-cultural component, we confirmed the assumption that these phraseological units are an important source of historical and cultural information about the life of the English people. It is very important at the present stage of the development of the English language. After all, British and American phraseological units, quotes from the works of modern authors and representatives of classical literature contribute to the study of historical and cultural features of the language, teach the correct use of phraseological units that give speech a distinguished national character.

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