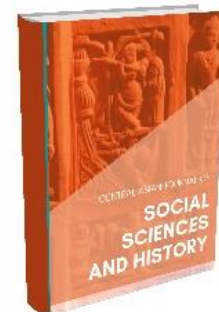




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Stylistic Use of Phraseological Units in the Olinguistics

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ABSTRACT

There is no doubt that phraseological units of all types are “dead” in collections and dictionaries. In fact, most of them do not include any contexts and ignore diachronic considerations. Thus in Uzbek language there are only a few dictionaries devoted to phrases. That is not to say that individual investigations of the contextualised use of proverbs, proverbial expressions, and other phrases do not exist.

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There certainly are such studies on some of the major literary authors and historical figures, as for example on European linguists Geoffrey Chaucer, Charles Dickens, Abraham Lincoln, and Winston on russian linguists V.Vinogradov, A.Yefimov, N.Shanskiylar, Y.Pinxasov, in uzbek linguists Sh.Raxmatullayev, A.Shaxmatov, M.Husainov, I.Qo`chqortoyev, B.Yo`ldoshev. However, while they present the various phraseological units in context, they do not go into major detail concerning their actual stylistic use, including the variation, expansion, and augmentation of particular phrases. They could all benefit from the theoretical framework and the discussion of numerous examples that Anita Naciscione's book named *Stylistic Use of Phraseological Units in Discourse*, so appropriately provides. Anybody undertaking a stylistic and interpretive study of phraseological units in the context of literary works or the mass media would do well in making the methodology presented in her book the foundation for their work. Below I try to analyse some pages of her book.

This is not the place to offer detailed definitions or descriptions, but it might be stated that Naciscione's special approach consists of looking at the stylistic discourse-level features of phraseological units from a cognitive perspective. In addition, she is correct in stating that this presupposes an interdisciplinary analysis, since such fields as linguistics, psychology, folklore, literature, and iconography are necessarily part of it. Her distinction among the base form, core use, and instantiable stylistic use serves very well as a theoretical basis in studying the naturally occurring

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phraseological units in all types of discourse. Above all, she is for the last time breaking with the traditional notion that phraseological units are characterised by fixedness, frozenness, or dead metaphors. Anybody who has studied such phrases in detail has long noticed that they are frequently varied, modified, parodied or simply stated in a changed way in actual use. They are much more flexible and adaptable than previous scholarship has shown, and it is important to note that the author is adding the extremely important cognitive aspect to her study of the instantly use of phraseologisms. After all, when we are confronted with such texts, matters like access and recall, memory, identification, interpretation, perception, recognition, and comprehension enter into all of this. The use, function, and meaning of a given phrase might well change over time, as has been shown in comprehensive studies of such proverbs and proverbial expressions as “Big fish eat little fish”, “Don’t swap horses in the middle of the stream”, “A house divided against itself cannot stand”, and “To throw the baby out with the bath water”.^{*}

The longer first part of the book is a highly informed theoretical presentation of what the author means by “instantial stylistic use” of phraseological units that is based on applied and cognitive stylistics dealing with discourse as it appears in literature and the mass media — obviously this approach is perfectly adapted to the study of radio, film, television, and song, that is, to the oral contextualised use of phraseological units. Of course, the author shows all of this by numerous contextualised examples ranging from authors like Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare, Mark Twain, George Bernard Shaw, D. H. Lawrence, Lewis Carroll, James Thurber, and many others.[†] This is an impressive spread of literary talents over time by which she is able to show diachronically that this differentiated stylistic use of phraseological units is actually nothing new! It would be utter nonsense — as has been claimed at times — that phraseologisms in discourse are absolutely fixed. Nothing is further from the truth, as a large percentage of contextualised references show. Nevertheless, as expected, the author goes, of course, far beyond just stating the obvious. Instead she discusses in much detail such matters as phraseological cohesion, patterns of instantly use, extended phraseological metaphor, phraseological puns, phraseological allusion, diminutives in phraseology, phraseological titles, and even phraseological saturation of discourse.[‡]

These are but a few aspects of particular interest to me that should also whet the reading appetite of others. Regarding this last point, the author has also included a completely new chapter on “Visual Representation of Phraseological Image” with which she once again charts a new way of interpreting the ubiquitous appearance of phraseologisms in various types of media. Claiming that “visualisation is part of metaphor recognition”, she is especially concerned with the visual aspects that are part of metaphorical thought representation and of course the creative employment of phraseological metaphors in visual discourse. She emphasises the appearance of phraseological illustrations in book illustrations of Mark Twain, James Thurber, Lewis Carroll, and others. Above all, the author zeroes in on how phraseologisms play a definite role in the visual aspects of the mass media, where they appear as texts with innovative and often literal pictorialisations of their metaphors. Once again her methodology could easily be transposed to the iconographic study of proverbs and proverbial expressions that has a considerable tradition among art and cultural historians, folklorists, and

^{*} Stylistic Use of Phraseological Units in Discourse – Anita Naciscione John Benjamins Publishing Company Amsterdam / Philadelphia 2010

[†] The Financial Times for permission to use the figure “The Art of Breaking a Sacrosanct Rule” (Figure 6.19), Financial Times, frn, 28 November, 2005, p. 3.

[‡] Steen, G. I. 2006. Metaphor: Stylistic approaches. In *The Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 8, 2nd edn, K. Brown (ed.), 51—58. Oxford: Elsevier.

philologists.[§] It is not easy to write a comprehensive and at the same time, truly innovative study of an entire research field and yet go far beyond the present state of scholarship.

To sum up, *Stylistic Use of Phraseological Units in Theolinguistics* accomplishes exactly that, and its author Anita Naciscione has every reason to be proud of her scholarly achievement in the service of phraseology. If we translate this book into Uzbek language and submit to learners, we fulfil our help to their researches.

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