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Phraseological Variativity and Phraseological Synonymy (Based on the materials of English and Azerbaijani languages)

Abstract

Since variability is one of the specific, characteristic and distinctive features, phraseological units also have a large number of variants according to their lexical and grammatical properties. Variants of phraseological units arise as a result of changes that occur at the semantic and grammatical levels, but do not violate the integrity of phraseological units. Linguists who study the units of the phraseological system always pay attention to the importance of studying both the paradigmatic and syntagmatic properties of phraseology, as well as the potential capabilities of their components. This is manifested in the internal transformation of phraseological units. Phraseological units undergo various changes in speech. However, not all of these changes are reflected in the phraseological system.

The following aspects can be considered features of the synonymy of phraseological units: the identity of lexical meaning; the presence of the same lexical and grammatical properties. It should be noted that if one of the components of a phraseological unit changes, then they cannot be synonymous. Synonyms have a closer connection of phraseological units than semantic correlation. Phraseological units must belong to the same syntactic type and have the same semantic intensity for being considered synonymous. In other words, they must have the same conceptual and categorical grammatical components of phraseological meaning. It is the minimum requirement for phraseological synonyms.

Keywords: *lexical substitution, phraseological variant, phraseological synonymy, phraseological stability, monostructural synonymy, structurally similar synonyms*

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Frazeoloji variativlik və frazeoloji sinonimiya (İngilis və Azərbaycan dillərinin materialları əsasında)

Xülasə

Variativlik spesifik, xarakterik və fərqləndirici xüsusiyyətlərdən biri olduğu üçün frazeoloji vahidlər də leksik-qrammatik xüsusiyyətlərinə görə çoxlu sayda variantlara malikdir. Frazeoloji vahidlərin variantları – semantik və qrammatik səviyyədə baş verən, lakin frazeoloji vahidlərin bütövlüyünü pozmayan dəyişikliklərin nəticəsində yaranır. Frazeoloji sistemin vahidlərini araşdıran dilçi alimlər frazeologizmin həm paradigmatik və sintaqmatik xüsusiyyətlərinin, həm də onların komponentlərinin potensial imkanlarının öyrənilməsinin əhəmiyyətini hər zaman diqqət mərkəzində saxlayırlar. Bu, frazeoloji vahidlərin daxili mütəhərriklində özünü göstərir. Niteqədə frazeoloji vahidlər müxtəlif dəyişikliklərə uğrayır. Lakin bu dəyişikliklərin hamısı frazeoloji sistemdə öz əksini tapmır.

Frazeoloji vahidlərin sinonimlik xüsusiyyətlərinə aşağıdakı cəhətləri aid etmək olar: *leksik mənanın eyniliyi; eyni leksik və qrammatik xüsusiyyətlərin olması*. Qeyd etmək lazımdır ki, frazeoloji vahidin komponentlərindən biri dəyişirsə, o zaman onlar sinonim ola bilməz. Sinonimiya frazeoloji vahidlərin semantik korrelyasiyadan daha sıx əlaqəsidir. Frazeoloji vahidlərin sinonim sayılmaq üçün eyni sintaktik tipə aid olması və vahid məna intensivliyi olmalıdır. Başqa sözlə, onlar frazeoloji mənanın eyni konseptual və kateqorial qrammatik komponentlərinə malik olmalıdırlar. Bu frazeoloji sinonimlər üçün minimum tələbdir.

Açar sözlər: *leksik əvəzetmə, frazeoloji variant, frazeoloji sinonimlik, frazeoloji sabitlik, monostrukturlu sinonimlər, oxşar strukturlu sinonimlər*

Introduction

Variation is a general linguistic phenomenon and is a manifestation of the regularities characteristic of all levels of the linguistic system. F.P.Filin notes that “variation is one of the most important conditions for the development of language, because as the relationships between variants change, numerous shifts occur at all levels of the language” (Filin, 1982, p.11).

Scholars have different viewpoints on the lexical substitution of components of phraseological units. For instance, A.M.Babkin, A.I.Fyodorov, N.M.Shanski and some other researchers believe that such a transformation of a phraseological unit changes its metaphorical nature, imagery, stylistic coloring and therefore, as a result of lexical substitutions, phraseological synonyms are formed rather than phraseological variants. The opposite of this view is proposed by V.P.Jukov (Jukov, 1986).

According to V.M.Mokienko, lexical substitution of components does not always change the imagery or character of a phraseological unit. In order to ensure the stability of the figurative description, synonym words can often be substituted, and the range of these words, especially in spoken language is very wide. This approach significantly narrows the concept of a phraseological variant and excessively broadens the scope of the concept of phraseological synonymy (Mokiyenko, 1989).

The phraseological system of Azerbaijani language is rich in phraseological variants. The national scholar H.Bayramov has presented the following ideas regarding phraseological variability and phraseological synonymy in Azerbaijani language: “Phraseological synonyms can also be non-figurative phraseological units, but in figurative phraseological variants, the figurativeness remains the same; if it is always possible to substitute phraseological variants with each other, this is not necessarily the case for phraseological synonyms” (Bayramov, 1978, p.148). In the Azerbaijani language:

1. a) arzusu gözündə qalmaq b) arzusu ürəyində qalmaq
2. a) yurduna od salmaq b) yurdunda turp əkmək

H.Bayramov considers such phraseological combinations as phraseological variants. The lexical and grammatical changes in a phraseological unit to express the same meaning are called phraseological variation, and the stable combinations formed as a result of this are called phraseological variants. As the national scholar notes, in the variation of phraseological units, replacing components with their lexical variants, changing the structure, and even changing the phraseological unit itself are considered normal. However, replacing one component of a phraseological unit with its lexical variant does not harm the other components (Bayramov, 1978, p.81).

Research

Linguists who study the units of the phraseological system emphasize the importance of studying both the paradigmatic and syntagmatic features of the phraseological units, as well as the potential possibilities of their components. This is reflected in the internal dynamism of the phraseological units. In speech, phraseological units undergo various changes. However, not all of these changes are reflected in the phraseological system. Only phraseological units with internal dynamism enrich the phraseological system in terms of synonymy or variability (Vəliyeva, 2008, p.628).

In her work “Typological Analysis of Verbal Combinations in Languages of Different Systems” (Müxtəlif sistemli dillərdə feili birləşmələrin tipoloji təhlili) N.Valiyeva highlights the following peculiar features regarding the dynamism (mobility) of phraseological units in the speech process:

1.The components of a phraseological unit may change phonetically, which can lead to the emergence of phraseological variants in the language.

2.The components of a phraseological unit may be renewed lexically, which can result in the formation of phraseological synonyms in the language.

3.The components of a phraseological unit may change grammatically, which can cause the creation of phraseological variants in the language.

A phraseological unit enhances the emotional and expressive impact of the text (sentence) in which it is used and at the same time, “melts” within the text, sometimes even controlling other sentence elements, or the entire sentence.

The concept of **internal dynamism** refers to the phonetic, lexical, grammatical, and other changes occurring in the components of phraseological units in speech, leaving a trace in the phraseological system. Changes taking place in speech process but do not find reflection in the phraseological system are classified as **external dynamism**. The events that reflect internal dynamism (as opposed to external dynamism) in the phraseological system are as follows:

1.**Phonetic changes** leading to the emergence of a phraseological variant.

2.**Morphological-syntactic changes** in the internal structure that lead to the formation of a phraseological variant.

3.**Lexical changes** of components in the internal structure, which cause the creation of synonymy.

The **increase in the number of elements** in the composition of a phraseological unit. The internal dynamism, resulting in the creation of phraseological variants and synonyms, is directly dependent on external dynamism (Vəliyeva, 2008, p.630).

According to A.V.Kunin, the variability of synonymic phraseological units, which preserve their identity and adequate meaning, can be expressed in the following ways:

a) **Lexical synonymy** – replacing one or more components in the phraseological unit with their synonym. For example, *a long/fat/heavy/well-lined/big purse* (wealth) (*zənginlik*);

b) **Morphological synonymy** – expressing components in different grammatical forms. For example, *to get into deep water/waters* (difficult situation) (*dara düşmək, çətinliyə düşmək*);

c) **Syntactical synonymy** – using different variants of syntactic constructions. For example, *to blow the cobwebs away – to blow away the cobwebs* (to refresh oneself) (*özünü yeniləmək*);

d) **Positional synonymy** –the rearrangement of components within a phraseological unit. For example, *cross the t's and dot the i's / dot the i's and cross the t's* (to do something precisely and perfectly) (*dəqiq və mükəmməl şəkildə yerinə yetirmək*) (Vəliyeva, 2017, p.71).

e) **Quantitative variability** – adding new elements to a phraseological unit. For example, *chin up – keep your chin up* (don't lose hope) (*ümidini itirmə*) (Kunin, 1965, p.107).

Phraseological synonymy differs from lexical synonymy. This difference arises from the main structural-semantic and semantic-stylistic characteristics of phraseological units and words. A phraseological unit is, on one hand, synonymous with a word and, on the other hand, with similar phraseological units. The word synonymous with a phraseological unit usually expresses a general meaning, and the meaning of this word allows several phraseological units to be grouped together as synonyms. Phraseological synonyms, like lexical synonyms, cannot be considered units that carry the same meaning and can easily replace one another (Kirsanova, 1964, p.91).

T.V.Jerebilo has developed a slightly different classification of phraseological synonyms. He divided phraseological units with the same or similar morphosyntactic structure into the following categories:

Synonymic phraseological units with one component, i.e., those with at least one significant lexical component: *to break the ice between smb. – to break the barrier between smb.* (to improve relations) (*münasibətləri yaxşılaşdırmaq*);

Synonyms with the same morphosyntactic structure: *to bury the hatchet – to sheathe the sword* (to stop a conflict) (*münaqişəni dayandırmaq*),

Structurally similar synonyms, i.e., those with morphosyntactic structures that are similar but not identical: *to seize the day – to catch the wave* (to seize the opportunity) (*fürsəti qaçırmamaq*) (Jerebilo, 2010).

The following phraseological units listed below in Azerbaijani are selected from I.Hamidov's "Phraseological Dictionary of the Azerbaijani Language".

Odlu su arasında qalmaq – (between fire and water). *Bahadır söz demirdi. Odlu su arasında qalmışdı. Kimin nənəsinin ya anasının haqlı olduğunu təyin etməyə aciz idi. (M.Hüseyn. Səhər); Şahnigar xanım odlu su arasında qaldı. (İ. Şıxlı. Dəli Kür)*

Sinonim frazeoloji vahidlər: Odlu alov arasında qalmaq; Bıqla saqqal arasında qalmaq; Çəkilə zindan arasında qalmaq; Ölüm ilə olum arasında qalmaq; Olum ilə (olumla) ölüm arasında (Həmidov, 2020, p.1122).

İslanmış cücə kimi (Like a wet chicken) *Fəttah dayı başa düşdü ki, etiraz etməyin yeri deyil. Bu qonağın islanmış cücə kimi üşüməyi də kəsmişdi. (Elçin. Ox kimi bıçaq)*

Frazeoloji sinonimlər: Yoluq sərçə kimi; Sudan çıxmış cücə kimi, Sudan çıxmış toyuq kimi (Həmidov, 2020, p.821).

Göz yaşı kimi dupduru (Like a tear, clear as crystal) **Frazeoloji sinonimlər:** Bulaq suyu kimi dumduru (dupduru); Kəhriz suyu kimi dumduru (dupduru); Quyu suyu kimi dupduru; Dağ suyu kimi dumduru (Həmidov, 2020, p.659).

Conclusion

Thus, there are different approaches to phraseological variation in linguistics. Some linguists believe that the most important factor in the emergence of phraseological variation is the disruption of stability in phraseological units, as phraseological variants arise as a result of the fragmentation of phraseological expressions. The majority of linguists consider expressions that involve lexical, lexical-grammatical, and grammatical changes in both meaning and structure as phraseological variants. Another approach, however, views the existence of phraseological variants as a process of transition to phraseological synonymy. In general, for phraseological variation, the key characteristic is the same meaning, but with one or more components overlapping; for phraseological synonymy, however, the components are completely different lexically, but they are semantically identical or similar.

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