

PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS DENOTING THE NOTION OF “SOUL” IN
ENGLISH

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Annotation: *This research is about to explore the study of English phraseological units denoting the notion of the “soul.” The research provides a clear and brief theoretical overview of phraseology and idiomatic expressions that consist of the word “soul” are examined or those idiomatic expressions that express spiritual and emotional meanings. The analysis mainly gives the focus on the semantic, cultural, and figurative aspects of these units. It can be seen that English phraseology reflects individual inner conditions, morally acceptable qualities, and emotional experiences through metaphorical and symbolic language.*

Key words: *phraseology, phraseological units, soul, idiomatic expressions, figurative meanings, semantics, cultural linguistics, metaphorical and symbolic language.*

Аннотация: *Данное исследование посвящено изучению английских фразеологических единиц, обозначающих понятие «душа». В работе представлен чёткий и краткий теоретический обзор фразеологии, а также рассмотрены идиоматические выражения, содержащие слово “soul”, или такие фразеологизмы, которые передают духовные и эмоциональные значения. Анализ в основном сосредоточен на семантических, культурных и образных аспектах этих единиц. Показано, что английская фразеология отражает внутреннее состояние человека, морально приемлемые качества и эмоциональный опыт посредством метафорического и символического языка.*

Ключевые слова: *фразеология, фразеологические единицы, душа, идиоматические выражения, образные значения, семантика, культурная лингвистика, метафорический и символический язык.*



Annotatsiya: *Ushbu izlanishimiz ingliz tilidagi “soul” (ruh, qalb) tushunchasini ifodalovchi frazeologik birliklarni o’rganish haqida olib boriladi. Ushbu izlanishimizda frazeologiyaning qisqacha nazariy sharhi berib o’tiladi va uning tarkibida “soul” so’zi mavjud bo’libgina qolmay, ma’naviy-emotsional mazmuni ifodalab keluvchi iboralar ham tahlil qilinadi. Tadqiqotda alohida e’tibor ushbu birliklarning semantik, madaniy va obrazli xususiyatlariga qaratiladi. Ushbu tadqiqotda ingliz frazeologiyasida insonning ichki kechinmalari, holati, axloqiy fazilatlar va his-tuyg’ulari metaforik va ramziy ifodalar tomonidan qanday holatlarda aks etishi ko’rsatiladi.*

Kalit so’zlar: *frazeologiya, frazeologik birliklar, qalb, ruh, idiomalar, ko’chma ma’nolar, semantika, madaniy lingvistika, metaforik va ramziy tillar.*

Phraseological units can be stable and fixed combinations of words carrying a figurative or idiomatic meaning. Their meaning is not just ordinarily derived from the literal interpretations of individual components due to the fact that idioms improve symbolic, cultural, or metaphorical senses very often as time goes by. Expressions, for example, such as “break the ice,” “heart and soul,” or “a lost soul” perform as single semantic units including meanings that expand beyond their literal parts.

There is I. v. Arnold who mentions that phraseological units differ from free day-to-day world combinations because the meanings of them cannot be deduced from the individual meanings of components. For example, there is an idiom to lose one’s heart and it does not mean that it is a physical action but it is considered and perceived as an emotional state. Various scholars have proposed classifications related to PUs. Moon distinguishes idioms, fixed expressions, and formulaic language, emphasizing the role of fixedness and idiomatic expressions. Idioms function as nearly ready-made communicative units of interactions based on her corpus-based research. The role of PUs in interactions is also emphasized by Crystal who identifies them as pre-fabricated language segments widely used in everyday communications and crucial for language smoothness.

One of the basic characteristics of phraseological units is their stability. This gives speakers the ability to use them in fixed structures without ever altering their forms. Phraseological units can also be idiomatic, which shows that the meaning of them very often cannot be comprehended directly from the words themselves. There is another important feature and it is expressiveness which lets idioms give language emotional colors and richness including imagery, and cultural knowledge.



There are several linguists and some of them are V. V. Vinogradov, A. V. Kunin, and N. N. Amosova highlight that phraseological units give information about history, culture, and the perspective of a community which include linguistics. This gives us the opportunity to consider phraseology as an important field for studying national presence and cultural identity in English, in every communication, literature, and cultural expressions idioms can extremely play a crucial and significant role, and they are very much important.

There are different linguists who have different perspectives about classifying phraseological units. One of the most influential is the classification made by V. V. Vinogradov, whose work distinguishes three basic types:

- Phraseological fusions and this means that expressions whose general meaning is absolutely non-transparent. For example: “to kick the bucket”. This expression mentioned means to die. The meaning cannot be predicted without having enough information about using those expressive idioms.

- Phraseological unities and this means that there are expressions with figurative meanings that can easily be found with the help of imagery. For example: “heart and soul” and it means with full enthusiasm and passion and devotion to the work that is being done and is can be understood with the contribution of metaphor.

- Phraseological collocations and they include combinations of words that are stable and they regularly remain semantically evident and precise. For example: “strong tea” or “to make a promise.”

We can also add another approach which is called semantic classification in which groups of idioms can get categorized based on the meaning they express:

- Idioms of physical condition (“to feel over the moon”)
- idioms of emotion (“burst with joy”)
- idioms of qualities (“a good soul”)
- idioms of spiritual concepts (“bare one’s soul,” “kindred spirit”)

These idioms express different meanings based on their contexts and the idioms mentioned are mainly connected with the notion of the soul. Such expressions very often demonstrate the cultural, religious, and emotional symbolism established in English.

Phraseological units possess not only linguistic information, but also it carries cultural information. They present the beliefs, values, and the traditions that belong to a society. Because of the fact that many English idioms have roots in folklore, religion, and literature, they can reveal crucial insights about English-speaking culture. The concept of the soul is especially worth



mentioning as it is connected with spirituality, morality, and emotions that human beings experience during their life-times.

Soul-related idioms often describe inner states (“a troubled soul”), (“bare one’s soul”), (“a kind soul”), or (“kindred soul or spirit”). Through these expressions not only can people communicate to tell about their communications, but also they can connect with each other emotionally by being able to express themselves and they can also communicate by showing their attitude and cultural perspective.

English learners can benefit from studying phraseological units while idioms are frequently used in everyday communications, literature, mass-media. Comprehending and understanding them can contribute to the improvement of their language fluency.

In conclusion, this research emphasizes the significance of phraseological units in the English language and it demonstrates how closely cultural concepts are embodied in everyday expressions and communicational circumstances. The study of idioms with the component soul gives us the information of value and important insights into the perspective of English communicators and enriches our overall comprehension and understanding of linguistic and cultural interactions.

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