

# Linguacultural Analysis Of English And Russian Phraseological Units

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**Abstract.** The article is dedicated to the linguistic and cultural analysis of phraseological units in Russian and English. Phraseologisms, as an important part of the lexicon, not only reflect linguistic norms but also carry cultural peculiarities, worldview, and traditions of the people. The article examines both similarities and differences in phraseological expressions between the two languages, focusing on cultural realities, animal images, nature, labor activities, and social stereotypes. The linguistic-cultural approach helps uncover the deep connections between language and culture, revealing the unique features of how the world is perceived by speakers of different languages.

**Keywords:** linguistic and cultural studies, phraseology, phraseological units, English language, Russian language, cultural peculiarities, worldview, traditions, metaphor, language and culture, social stereotypes, lexicology.

Phraseological units are a crucial part of the lexical system of any language. These are fixed expressions whose meanings cannot be reduced to a simple summation of the meanings of the words that make them up. They are the foundation of the richness and expressiveness of a language and also serve as a mirror of the culture of the people who speak that language. The linguocultural approach to phraseology allows for a deeper understanding of how phraseological units reflect the worldview, traditions, and values of the language's speakers, as well as how different cultures perceive and classify the surrounding world through language.

## **The Concept of Phraseology and Its Importance in Language**

Phraseology is a branch of lexicology that studies stable word combinations whose meaning cannot be understood through the simple addition of the meanings of individual words. For example, the phraseological unit "выносить сор из избы" (to air one's dirty laundry) in Russian has no connection to the physical act of removing something from a room. Instead, it refers to the public disclosure of personal or family secrets. In English, there is a similar expression, "airing dirty laundry," which also relates to the public revelation of private matters.

Phraseological units not only make speech more vivid and expressive, but they also serve as carriers of cultural and historical realities. They reflect the worldview of the people, their mythology, traditions, and social and cultural stereotypes. They become an important tool in the study of sociocultural peculiarities, as they contain not only lexical but also cultural meanings.

## **Linguocultural Approach to Phraseology**

Linguocultural studies examine the interaction between language and culture and phraseology is considered as an important link in this process. As an element of language, phraseological units are capable of conveying cultural peculiarities, symbols, historical events, and social norms. Through phraseological units, one can uncover stereotypes typical of a particular culture, as well as ideas about nature, humans, and society.

## **English Phraseological Units and Their Cultural Peculiarities**

English phraseological units are often connected to cultural and historical aspects of English-speaking countries. In particular, expressions related to hunting, seafaring, and British social norms are frequently encountered.

- **"To let the cat out of the bag"** (literally, "выпустить кошку из мешка") means to accidentally reveal a secret. This phrase comes from a medieval practice where market sellers would replace pigs with cats, and if someone accidentally opened the bag, the secret was exposed. In English culture, this reflects a tendency toward secrecy and caution in relationships.

- **"To cry over spilled milk"** (literally, "плакать над пролитым молоком") means to regret something that cannot be undone. This phrase reflects the British philosophy of practicality and problem-solving, rather than excessive worrying.

- **"A penny for your thoughts"** (literally, "пенни за твои мысли") is used to ask someone what they are thinking. This expression is linked to the historical practice where money for conversations or thoughts was considered a fair exchange in English-speaking society.

### **Russian Phraseological Units and Their Cultural Specificity**

Russian phraseological units are also closely connected with the cultural realities, history, and worldview of the Russian people. Many phraseological units reflect peasant life, everyday hardships, and the rich symbolism of nature.

- **"Вешать лапшу на уши"** (literally, "to hang noodles on one's ears") means to deceive or mislead someone. This phrase is likely associated with the image of deception, where a person "hangs" a lie on the listener, much like hanging noodles on their ears.

- **"Зарубить на носу"** (literally, "to carve it on the nose") means to remember something very important or not forget it. This expression is linked to the tradition of marking important events with notches on a tree, highlighting the attention given to significant moments.

- **"Как с гуся вода"** (literally, "like water off a goose's back") means that a person does not react to criticism or trouble. This expression is associated with the image of a goose, which doesn't feel the water, no matter how much it is frightened.

### **Comparative Analysis of English and Russian Phraseological Units**

When comparing English and Russian phraseological units, one can observe both similarities and differences in cultural contexts and in the perception of the world. Both languages have fixed expressions that help convey complex ideas in a compact and expressive form, but the approaches to metaphorization can differ significantly.

#### **Similarities**

Many phraseological units in both Russian and English reflect common cultural stereotypes, especially those related to nature, everyday life, and human emotions. For example, both cultures use animal imagery to create phraseological units:

- **"A wild goose chase"** (an English expression, literally "погоня за дикой гусёнком") and **"гнаться за хвостом"** (the Russian equivalent) both refer to futile, absurd efforts that will not lead to any results.

- **"To have a bee in one's bonnet"** (literally "иметь пчелу в шляпе") means to obsess over an idea or be preoccupied with something. The similar Russian expression is **"покопать косточки"** (literally "to dig up bones"), which is also related to the idea of focusing on minute details, sometimes to the point of absurdity.

#### **Differences**

However, there are also many differences in metaphorization and phraseological imagery. For example:

- In English, images related to seafaring and travel are often used, reflecting the historical importance of navigation to the United Kingdom. For example, **"to sail under false colors"** means to act deceitfully, hiding one's true intentions.

- In Russian, there is a greater connection to nature and labor activities, as seen in the expression **"с котом за пазухой"** (literally "with a cat under one's arm"), which means to hide something or keep a secret. This reflects the image of the Russian village and the relationship with animals as helpers in daily life.

**Conclusion.** Linguocultural analysis of phraseological units not only deepens our understanding of how phraseology functions in a language but also reveals how cultural features, historical realities, and the worldview of a people are reflected in language. Despite the similarities, English and Russian phraseological units reflect unique aspects of each culture. The application of a phraseological approach in linguistics allows us to not only identify parallels and differences between languages but also to gain a deeper understanding of the worldview of their speakers.

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