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A CASE FOR MULTILINGUAL CONTRASTIVE PHRASEOLOGY

МНОГОЯЗЫЧНАЯ КОНТРАСТИВНАЯ ФРАЗЕОЛОГИЯ: ОПЫТ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ

A multilingual analysis in contrastive phraseology is necessary in order to apprehend not only the full semantic extent of the stock of widespread idioms but also the peculiarities of the phraseology of each language. An onomasiological approach reveals how each language expresses idiomatically common metaphors and conceptual domains.

Key words: contrastive phraseology, multilingual analysis, onomasiology, conceptual domains, functional equivalence, phraseological calques.

В контрастивной фразеологии многоязычный анализ позволяет понять не только весь семантический объем широко распространенных идиом, но и особенности фразеологии каждого языка. Ономасиологический подход показывает, как каждый язык вербализует распространенные метафоры и концептуальные области посредством фразеологизмов.

Ключевые слова: контрастивная фразеология, многоязычный анализ, ономасиология, концептуальные области, функциональная эквивалентность, фразеологические кальки.

Languages and cultures have developed along the centuries their own phraseological system, even though an important number of phraseological units and conceptual metaphors are shared by many of them [Pirainen 2012, 2016].

Traditionally research in phraseology has been based on the description and analysis of one language or on the comparison of the phraseology of two languages. For instance, much has been learnt about the phraseology of German by comparing it with Russian [Dobrovol'skij 2000] or with Spanish [Mellado Blanco 2015] and vice versa. If the main aim of contrastive linguistics is "to identify the similarities and differences between the conceptual structures of different languages" [Goddard, Wierzbicka 2008], the claim of this lecture is that in order to have a more comprehensive view of the phraseology of a language, a thorough and systematic multilingual contrastive analysis is needed.

The collaborative international research project "The peculiarities of the phraseology of English from a contrastive perspective" was developed not only for identifying idioms and other fixed expressions that are specific to the phraseology of the English-speaking world but also to that of the other thirty-two languages involved. The research does not look for the equivalence between two languages considered as abstract systems or even the lexicographic equivalence, but the functional equivalence of idioms

as they are actually used in real texts. As a result, one must affirm that languages either share the same conceptual metaphors with slight variations or on the contrary, there seem to be specific metaphors for each language.

Multilingual contrastive phraseology allows the retrieval of the common or specific idiomatic expressions used by several languages and the notional or conceptual domains shared by them thanks to an onomasiological perspective – for instance, when joy is expressed idiomatically in English, Spanish and French, all phraseological units fall within the same four conceptual domains, that is HEAVEN or PARADISE, CHILDHOOD, MADNESS, and ANIMALS [Martí Solano 2013].

My professoral dissertation “A contextualist approach to contrastive phraseology English/Romance languages” advocates for a multilingual approach to contrastive phraseology by pointing out the need for a contextualised analysis and the search for functional equivalence [Martí Solano 2020]. In the case of the expression *to walk on eggs/eggshells*, the full semantic extent of the image cannot be perceived if English is compared either with French or with Italian, as all these three languages share the same sense. However, if the contrast is multilingual, and Spanish or Portuguese are included in the analysis, new nuances or senses can emerge.

Finally, phraseological calques from English are also widespread mainly through the mass media and concern a great number of languages, as is the case of the Russian word-for-word translation of the English idiom *to put all your eggs in one basket* [Dobrovol'skij 2000: 173]. In line with phraseological calques, collocations that have developed a metaphorical meaning in English but not in other languages (i. e. *turn the corner*) represent a phenomenon most worthy of exploration in contrastive phraseology.

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