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SEMANTIC INTERPRETATION OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN UKRAINIAN-POLISH ELECTRONIC PHRASEOLOGICAL DICTIONARY

Abstract

When compiling bi- and multilingual phraseological lexicons it is necessary to address such theoretical issues as the formulation linguistically grounded principles of selection of phraseological units and their translation, semantic interpretation based on differentiation of pictures of the world of the linguistic systems, comprehensive combination of elements of the structure and presentation of various linguistic ambiguities, rational form of dictionary entries and building of user-friendly interface in electronic dictionary systems, etc. The article addresses the principles of Ukrainian-Polish electronic phraseological dictionary, which is one of the first attempts of complex and systematic presentation of Ukrainian and Polish phraseology. The main attention is paid to the lexicographic representation of phraseological units, their semantic characterization and selection problem idiomatic equivalents.

Keywords: phraseological unit; semantic characteristics; bilingual phraseology; dictionary entry; electronic phraseological dictionary

The last decades in Slavistics were marked by growth of interest towards phraseology in its various aspects, especially lexicographical. However, despite the significant developments in the theory and practice of compiling translated lexicons, Ukrainian-Polish and Polish-Ukrainian contrastive phraseology remains understudied, due to lack of work that would systematically represent phraseology of these Slavic languages.¹

¹Phraseological information was reviewed in the “Ukrainian-Russian-Belorussian-Bulgarian-Polish Comparisons Dictionary” by O. P. Levchenko (2011). Known in Slavistics are also “Ukrainian-Polish Dictionary of Word Equivalents” (Luchyk, Antonova, & Dubrovs’ka, 2011) and

In the Ukrainian Lingua-Information Fund of the NAS of Ukraine there is work being carried based on the lexicographical method of virtual laboratories (Shyrovkov, 2011, p. 283) to create an instrumental complex of the translational phraseological system of Ukrainian-Polish electronic phraseological dictionary (EPD). It involves the construction of lexicographic model of representation of phraseology in the system of the Ukrainian and Polish languages, as well as the formation of lexicographical database (LDB) of Ukrainian and Polish phraseological units (hereinafter — PU). To this end there has been developed the software aimed to distinguish the structural elements of the digital dictionary according to the structure of lexicographical system, and created the computer technology for compilation of translational resources.

The basis for formation of a dictionary database of the registry of Ukrainian PU is the phraseological subsystem of academic explanatory dictionary of the Ukrainian language in 20 volumes (SUM-20). The phraseological units of SUM-20 level include phrases that are of established composition and structure and lexically undividable and express complete specific meaning that is not the sum of the values of its components, but occurs on the basis of rethinking mainly due to metaphorical and analogical processes (SUM-20, 2010, p. 24). Separated into the so-called “rhombed” zone of the Dictionary are also the collocations — set phrases that allow slight desemantization of one component (eg. **вовчий апетит**), word equivalents (eg. **до безмежжя**) and terminological phrases (eg. **топографічна анатомія**).

The attention of applied linguists to phrases of different types has recently been intensified, first of all due to the needs in the field of automatic language processing. The importance of lexicographical processing of phrases is motivated by prevalence of the same in the texts, since statistically they represent about 77% of the texts (Belonogov, Zelenkov, Kuznetsov, Novoselov, & Khoroshilov, 1995, pp. 20–24.), whereas separate words, which are not bound by the semantic and grammatical relations, only a little more than 23%, ref. Tab. 1.

Table 1: Role of phrases in a text. Distribution by length

Length of a phrase (Number of words)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Share in a text (%)	23,4	48,3	16,0	6,6	3,0	1,5	0,7	0,3	0,2

Phraseological units are distinguished among other types of phrases by their complicated semantics, which is strongly oriented towards national linguistic worldview. Thus, the main problem in compiling of a bilingual phraseological dictionary is the selection of adequate translational equivalents with due account for differences in worldview represented in the respective language systems. This is why the task of a comprehensive translational phraseological dictionary is to convey the phraseological system of one language by the means of the other language.

Semantic characteristic of phraseological units in Ukrainian-Polish phraseological dictionary involves provision of semantic context, in which a phraseological

“Polish-Ukrainian Dictionary of Word Equivalents” by A. A. Luchyk (Luchyk & Antonova, 2013), which presented a special type of linguistic units, which occupies an intermediate position between the phraseological units, phrases and lexical units.

unit is used, in a dictionary entry, and inclusion of interpretation formulas (dictionary definitions). Lexical compatibility of phraseological units is presented as the accompanying words needed for the use and implementation of the meaning of the PU, eg.: **ЯК ПО МАСЛЮ** (*рідше ПО МАСЛІ*), *перев. зі сл. іти, піти i т. ін.* **jak po maśle; jak z płatka**; **ВСІМ СЕРЦЕМ** *зі сл. вірити, любити i т. ін.* **całą duszą; całym sercem; duszą i sercem; z całej duszy; z duszy i serca; z całego serca**; **ВІД ДОШКИ ДО ДОШКИ** *перев. зі сл. прочитати, читати i под.* Нічого не пропускаючи, від початку до кінця; повністю **od deski do deski; od a do z** etc.

We believe that an important element that improves the quality of bilingual phraseological dictionary is the inclusion of definitions to the register of each unit. Although this component is absent in most bilingual translational dictionaries, such lexicographical presentation is very promising, since the inclusion of interpretation formulas to the phraseological units will help to describe the nuances of meaning of PUs which are not conveyed by equivalents, and provide Ukrainian and Polish users with comprehensive lexicographic information for accurate translation:

БРАТИ / ВЗЯТИ В РУКИ (ДО РУК) *кого.* Підкоряти кого-небудь своїй волі; керувати кимсь **brać-wziąć w karby, w ryzy, w kluby** *кого;*

Мати під'юджувала Кліма: — Не можеш узяти її [Вірку] до рук (Б. Харчук); *Różniej Tadzio na szczęście został wzięty w karby przez żonę* (H. Malewska)

[ЯК (МОВ, НІБИ i т. ін.)] З НЕБА ВПАСТИ (ЗВАЛИТИСЯ). 1. Несподівано, зненацька з'явитися **spadać-spaść [jak, jak gdyby] z nieba**;

Кортить Зеневі глянути, який то улов у того хлопчини. І, мабуть, глянув би, та ніби з неба впали два жандарми (Є. Куртяк); *Trzy ptaki spadły z nieba, trzy razy okrążyły tęczę, szybiąc może o łokieć nad ich głowami, by rozlecieć się w trzy strony świata* (Т. Kołodziejczak)

2. Не усвідомлювати того, що зрозуміле для всіх **[jakby] spadać-spaść z księżycą**

Ти що, з неба впав? Командир танкового корпусу хто у нас? Балда, дурень. Тому його й побили (О. Корнійчук); *Czy pani z księżycą spadła? Starać się o zapomogę, mając pracę? Nam nie starcza dla tych, którzy nie pracują, a w rodzinie alkoholizm!* (Polityka 25/2000).

Generally we should note that the EPD dictionary entry includes such structural elements as the capital phraseological unit, alternatives, optional components, phraseological polysemy, interpretation formulas for some meanings of phraseological units, translational equivalents, grammar and stylistics remarks, illustrations to register phraseological units and equivalents thereof.

General formalized structure of the left side of the phraseological dictionary entry is as follows:

$$L(X) = X, V(X), F(X), REM(X),$$

where X — registry unit; V — alternatives of the registry unit components; F — optional components; $REM(X)$ — grammar remarks.

The structure of the right side of a dictionary entry includes the following structure-forming elements:

$$P(X) = N[C(X)], C(X), E(X), V(E), F(E), REM(E), J(X), J(E),$$

where $N[C(X)]$ — number of the semantical state (meaning) of the registry unit; $C(X)$ — interpretation formula for X ; $E(X)$ — translational equivalents; V — components' alternatives; F — optional components; $REM(E)$ — remarks (grammar, stylistics); $J(X)$, $J(E)$ — text-illustrative material.

It is also worth to note that in the bilingual dictionary translation is the primary means of opening the meaning of linguistic units. When translating phraseological units along with accurate and comprehensive depicting the meaning, it is important to consider the expressive and stylistic features of a phraseological unit, since often such units of the two languages develop in different ways, have their specific features. The authors of the dictionary follow the principle of **semantic and functional-stylistic adequacy of the translational phraseological equivalents**. In cases where there is no adequate (equivalent) match in Polish, the dictionary offers a descriptive representation of the registry word. In translation of the Ukrainian phraseological units there are three types of equivalents used:

1) **Equivalent** — the equivalents are the same by semantics, structural and stylistic characteristics. Analysis of phraseological units showed that full Ukrainian and Polish equivalents comprise more than 40% of the material studied, due to the close affinity of these languages. These are mostly international phraseological units: *Піррова перемога* — *Pyrrusowe zwycięstwo*; *перейти рубікон* — *przejsć, przekroczyć Rubikon*; *кінь троянський* — *koń trojański*; *Авгієві стайні* — *stajnia Augiasza* etc. The affinity by the semantics of Ukrainian and Polish may also be explained by the proximity of imaginative thinking, interaction of cultures of both nations, eg.: *день у день* — *dzień w dzień*; *як дві краплі води* — *jak dwie krople wody*; *кров з молоком* — *krew z mlekiem*; *буря у склянці води* — *burza w szklance wody*; *морський вовк* — *wilk morski*; *лити воду* — *lać wodę*; *ховати голову в пісок* — *chować głowę w piasek* etc.

It should be noted that cross-language phraseological equivalents may slightly differ in the structural and component composition due to the grammatical structure of the studied languages, which does not affect the semantics of the units, eg.: *бути на сьомому небі* — *być w siódmym niebie*, *десята вода на киселі* — *dziesiąta woda po kisielu*, *Авгієві стайні* — *stajnia Augiasza, stajnia augiaszowa*.

2) **Adequate (or analogous)** — the equivalents partially or completely differ by connotation, have different grammatical structure, eg.: *зуб на зуб не попадає (не потрапляє)* — *dzwonić (szczękać, zaszczękać) zębami; zęby dzwonią (szczękają, zaszczękały)*; *з одного тіста* — *ulepiony z jednej, tej samej gliny*; *хоч одним оком* — *żeby choć (chociaż) okiem*; *ні в які ворота (двері) не лізе* — *w głowie się nie mieści; do niczego niepodobne; przechodzi wszelkie wyobrażenie; nie wytrzyma krytyki*; *з горем [з лихом] пополам* — *z trudem; z [wielką] biedą*.

3) **Descriptive** — translation through conveying the meaning of the unit with one word or a free phrase, eg.: *одна нога тут, а друга там* — *w podsko-*

kach; bardzo szybko; проба (спроба) пера — pierwsza próba; pierwocina; як в аптеці — ni mniej ni więcej; dokładnie.

According to the studies, even where the form of the Ukrainian and Polish phraseological units is the same, their semantic structure may differ due to the specifics of culture of each language, reflection of peculiarities of national conceptual worldview in the respective linguistic world-image. Thus, in the Ukrainian language the phrase **біла ворона** is used to describe a person who stands out by his behavior, appearance. Compare: *В гурті окупантів Шольц видався йому білою вороною* (S. Holovanivskyi); *Похмурий вираз обличчя, широкий лоб, цинічний погляд — ця маска робить її свого роду білою вороною, ненормальною до хворобливості і різко відмінною від юрми юних акторок* (З журналу). In Polish the phrase **biały kruk** means peculiarity, rarity, uniqueness, most commonly referring to a rare, valuable book. Compare: *Bestsellerem na rynku antykwarycznym jest biały kruk Jerzego Hołubca — wydana przez Ossolineum w 1990 roku monografia Polskie lampy i świeczniki, do której dokumentacje zbierał przez ponad dziesięć lat* (J. Miliszkiewicz).

Particular difficult in choosing translated equivalents are cases where the meanings of the phraseological units coincide in one cases and differ in the others. For example, Ukrainian phrase **не нюхати / не понюхати пороху** is used in two meanings: 1. „не бути на війні, не брати участі у воєнних діях”; 2. „не мати досвіду в чому-небудь”, whereas its Polish equivalent **nie wąchać / nie powąchać prochu** is used only in its first meaning: „nie być ani razu na polu bitwy, nie brać udziału w walce”. Compare: *Były minister obrony oświadczył, że nie możemy mieć żołnierza, który nie powąchał prochu* (Gazeta Krakowska), ref. Tab. 2. Another phraseological unit **альфа і омега** in Ukrainian is interpreted as „початок і кінець чого-небудь”, as well as „головне в чомусь, основа, зміст, сутність чого-небудь”. Modern Polish lexicographical sources offer the following meaning of the phrase **alfa i omega**: „o człowieku, który dużo wie i jest niekwestionowanym autorytetem w jakichś sprawach”, and — „alfa i omega czegoś, np. jakiejś dziedziny, nazywamy coś, co stanowi jej podstawę i fundament”.

Table 2:

<p>[i] не нюхати / не понюхати пороху</p> <p>1. „не бути на війні, не брати участі у воєнних діях”</p> <p>2. „не мати досвіду в чому-небудь”</p>	<p>nie wąchać / nie powąchać prochu</p> <p>1. „nie być ani razu na polu bitwy, nie brać udziału w walce”</p> <p>2. <i>no meaning</i></p>
<p>альфа і омега, книжн.</p> <p>1. „початок і кінець чого-небудь; основне, головне”</p> <p>2. <i>no meaning</i></p>	<p>alfa i omega</p> <p>1. „początek i koniec”</p> <p>2. „o człowieku, który dużo wie i jest niekwestionowanym autorytetem w jakichś sprawach”</p>

3. чого. „головне в чомусь, основа, зміст, сутність чого-небудь”	3. „alfa i omega czegoś, np. jakiejś dziedziny, nazywamy coś, co stanowi jej podstawę i fundament”
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Such differences in semantic structure may be observed in comparison of a Ukrainian unit **мати око** and its Polish equivalent **mieć oko**, ref. Tab. 3.

Table 3:

мати око , <i>перев. на що, до чого, рідше на кого.</i>	mieć oko <i>na kogoś, na coś</i>
1. „приглядатися до чого-небудь, зацікавлюватися чимсь”	1. „obserwować kogoś, być ostrożnym, czujnym w stosunku do kogoś”
2. „бути здатним до чого-небудь, уміти робити щось”	2. <i>no meaning</i>
3. „наглядати, стежити за ким-небудь, за чиймись учинками”	3. „pilnować, strzec kogoś, czegoś, czuwać nad kimś”

Such phenomena of interaction of form and content in Ukrainian and Polish phraseology should be considered in the study of interlanguage phraseological equivalence and lexicographic representation of phraseological units in a translation dictionary.

Thus, the computer phraseological dictionary that is being created in Ukrainian Lingua-Information Fund of NAS of Ukraine is one of the first attempts of complex-system representation of Ukrainian and Polish phraseology. Digital access to phraseological units will contribute to enriching vocabulary, give possibility of updating, improving lexicographical description of registered units, and implementation in the form of a virtual lexicographic laboratory will promote the development of creative professional interaction between the linguists of the two countries.

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