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PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH THE COMPONENT FOOD IN ENGLISH

This article is dedicated to English food-related idioms functioning in the English-language mass media texts. We define idioms as stable, recurrent phrases or expressions which meaning cannot be deduced from the individual components. Rooted in cultural stereotypes and reflecting national identity, idioms are characterized by their figurative and expressive nature. This research examines the semantic-grammatical classification types of food-related idioms. The object of the research is food-related idioms used in the English-language mass media texts.

The vocabulary related to food products attracts the attention of many researchers who examine it from various perspectives. In particular, Ye.V. Viznichak and O.V. Podvoiska studied the specifics of translating gastronomic lexical units from German into Ukrainian [1, p. 31]. I.P. Bryzhytska researched gastronomic vocabulary in the works of Hryhorii Skovoroda [2, p. 14]. I.O. Kryknitska characterized culinary phraseological units as an object of ethnophraseology [3, p. 25]. H.B. Melekh analyzed the main functions of culinary vocabulary in the system of a literary work [4, p. 110]. N. Shklyayeva and T. Nikolyuk dedicated their research to the vocabulary denoting culinary products in the folklore of Western Polissia and the western part of Volyn [5, p. 25].

The article focuses on the study of phraseological units with food component in the contexts. Phraseological units are an important part of the English language. They make speech more expressive and reflect the culture and traditions of native speakers. One interesting group of such expressions includes phrases with the component food. Studying food-related idioms is useful because they are common in everyday speech, books, and media.

Recent studies in the field of English phraseology confirm the significance of food-related components in the formation of stable expressions that reflect cultural characteristics, historical context, and the mentality of native speakers. We have examined the connection between idioms containing the component “food” and their metaphorical meanings, noting that such expressions are often related to human emotions, character traits, and social relationships (e.g., “piece of cake” – щось легке, “spill the beans” – розрити секрет, “big cheese” – важлива персона, “bread and butter” – засоби до існування).

Phraseological units have different nominative structures (they can be phrases, sentences, or even microtexts). Therefore, phraseologists aiming to classify these structures distinguished a separate field within phraseology – paremiology. The object of its analysis includes proverbs, sayings, tongue twisters, riddles, incantations, and winged expressions.

As it is known, full phraseological equivalence refers to equal imagery, structural and grammatical composition, as well as the coincidence of the conceptual-logical, expressive-emotional, and functional-stylistic meaning of phraseological units in the compared languages [6, p. 63]. Absolute equivalents are not very common due to

grammatical differences between English and Ukrainian, as well as certain variations in lexical composition within phraseological units that are nearly identical in meaning and structure. It should be noted that the source of many phraseological equivalents with the component “food” is not only the Holy Scripture, ancient history, and mythology but also the similarity of different nations’ views on food, particularly staple foods such as bread, salt, meat, and others. Big cheese – велика цяця, велике цабе; break the egg in one’s pocket – вставляти палиці в колеса; butter wouldn’t melt in one’s mouth – і мухи не скривдить; to go nuts, to go bananas – з глузду з’їхати, з ума спасти, звихнутися розумом. As we can see, the “food” component is not always present in phraseological analogs: as nutty as a fruitcake – макітра не в порядку, не вистачає клепки (crazy, not right in the head). Sometimes, the equivalent in the target language contains the name of a different food product: ложка дьогтю в бочці меду – bug in the butter (a small flaw that spoils something good).

To conclude, food-related idioms enhance speech and reflect culture. Full equivalence between English and Ukrainian expressions is rare, and sometimes the food component changes. Studying these idioms helps understand linguistic and cultural connections.

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