

ENGLISH PROVERBS WITH GRADUONYMS

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Abstract: in modern linguistics one of the new phenomena – “graduonymy” has appeared in the row of lexical-semantic relations of words such as synonymy, antonymy, homonymy, polysemy, hyponymy, meronymy, etc. This scientific article is devoted to the analysis of the peculiarities of English proverbs that have graduonymic relations among their components. The results and examples of this article can be bases of investigating a new linguistic phenomenon – graduonymy and its special features in some English proverbs.

Keywords: proverb, paremiology, equivalent, graduonymy, graduonym, graduonymic relation, graduonymic row, cyclic graduonymic row.

АНГЛИЙСКИЕ ПОСЛОВИЦЫ С ГРАДУОНИМАМИ

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Аннотация: в современной лингвистике в ряду лексико-семантических отношений слов, таких как синонимия, антонимия, омонимия, полисемия, гипонимия, меронимия и т.д., появилось одно из новых явлений – «градуонимия». Эта научная статья посвящена анализу особенностей английских пословиц, которые имеют градуонимические отношения между их компонентами. Результаты и примеры этой статьи могут быть основами для изучения нового лингвистического феномена – градуонимии и ее особенностей в некоторых английских пословицах.

Ключевые слова: пословица, паремиология, эквивалент, градуонимия, градуоним, градуонимическое отношение, градуонимический ряд, циклический градуонимический ряд.

A **proverb** (from the Latin word “*proverbium*” – proverb) is a complicated linguistic and folklore unit, which has a metaphorical and figurative sense and equal to a sentence taking into account its structure and completed utterance. Because of its peculiarities, a proverb differs from the other phraseological and folklore units. Proverbs reflect special semantic and stylistic colour in their sense that cannot be found in the other units of a language. They contain culturemes that express national culture obviously; therefore, they possess linguocultural features in a great quantity [7, p. 85-91]. The nations’ attitude to life, nature, human, family and society; their social-political, spiritual-educational, moral-ethic, didactic and philosophical thoughts and beliefs are conveyed in proverbial sense. Proverbs have linguodidactic function because of reflecting advice and some essential themes of human life such as goodness and evilness, friends and enemies, bravery and cowardice, diligence and laziness, generosity and miserliness, patience, ethics in their contents.

A number of linguists have investigated and are still learning proverbs and their semantic, stylistic, structural and linguocultural features in the world linguistics. However, analysing graduonymic relations among their components is a new linguistic issue.

The English language is also rich in a great deal of proverbs in various themes as other natural languages. Prominent scholars such as P. Gryzbek [1], W. Mieder [2], N. Norrick [3] work on analysing the peculiarities of the English proverbs and collecting them in a book form. Especially, Wolfgang Mieder, a well-known paremiologist has written more than 50 books and 100 articles devoted to paremiology (the study of proverbs).

Nowadays, new linguistic issues appear and they are waiting to be solved in general and special linguistics. The main stimulus of this process is stepping linguistics from the empirical (descriptive, explanatory) stage to the dialectical (having relations, essence) stage; in the other words linguistic units are learned not only separately from each other, but also taking their relations among them and their influences to each other into consideration in analysing and identifying them from the linguistic point of view. In its turn, linguistics has relations with other sciences (psychology, ontology, sociology, anthropology, ICT, etc.) as well. Particularly, in the Uzbek linguistics one of the new notions of modern linguistics – “graduonymy” has appeared in the row of lexical-semantic relations among linguistic units such as synonymy, antonymy, homonymy, polysemy, hyponymy, meronymy.

Graduonymy is defined to be a paradigmatic relation of opposition among linguistic units according to increasing or decreasing of their particular sign. In the Uzbek linguistics the terms “градуонимия”

(graduonymy), “градуонимик муносабат” (graduonymic relation) and “даражаланиш” (the Uzbek equivalent of the term “graduonymy”) are used as synonyms [5, p. 6]. Graduonymy and its features in the different layers of a language are investigated by several Uzbek linguists such as O. Bozorov [4], J. Djumabaeva [5], Sh. Orifjonova [6].

Proverbs that have graduonymic relations among their components are found in any natural language, respectively in the English language, too. In our investigation several English proverbs, which have **graduonyms** (members of a graduonymic row) in their contents, are analysed. For instance:

A black hen lays a white egg.

This English proverb is about good and bad notions, and it has graduonyms of this increasing graduonymic row: *egg – chicken – hen/cock*.

A friend to all is a friend to none.

The proverb, which is about friendship, has pronouns that reflect decreasing graduonymic relation as following: *all – some people – someone/somebody – anyone/anybody – nobody/no one/none*.

In the following English proverb, graduonymy in the semantics of adverbs is seen:

A Joke never gains an enemy but often loses a friend.

Here the adverbs of frequency are forming an increasing graduonymic row: *never – rarely – seldom – sometimes – often – frequently – usually – always*.

One of the types of a graduonymic row is a cyclic graduonymic row and its graduonyms repeat their cycle continuously (for example: *breakfast – dinner – supper, morning – afternoon – evening – night, north – east – south – west*, etc.). There are a lot of proverbs that contain cyclic graduonyms in English:

After dinner sit a while, after supper walk a mile.

An hour in the morning is worth two in the evening (this English proverb possesses components of two graduonymic rows: simple increasing graduonymy (*an/one – two – three – ...*) and cyclic graduonymy).

East or west, home is best.

According to its number, the most graduonyms that are found in English proverbs express quantity:

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

A fool may throw a stone into a well, which a hundred wise men cannot pull out.

Give him an inch and he will take an ell (1 ell = 1.14 meter = 45 inch).

Better give a shilling than lend a half-crown (1 crown = 5 shillings, shilling=12 pence (old), 1 pound (sterling) – 100 pence).

To conclude, graduonymic relations are found among linguistic units in any language, as well as in the content of English proverbs. Graduonyms in proverbs provide their semantic colourfulness, emotionality and effectiveness. Moreover, such proverbs exist in English in a great number and their components have mostly quantitative and cyclic graduonymic relations among them. Consequently, English proverbs that reflect graduonymic relations among their components are used in oral speech actively because of their obvious, effective, touchable and emotional meanings.

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