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PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH SOMATIC COMPONENTS

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ABSTRACT

This article introduces the nature of the functions of body parts and organs, called somatic components, determines the imagery of most somatic phraseology. Somatic phraseological units, commonly known as idioms, are linguistic constructs that use human body-related imagery to convey abstract meanings. They play a fundamental role in English language communication, contributing to the richness and depth of expression.

KEYWORDS

Phraseological units, somatisms, expressions, stable combination, emotionally expressive, metaphorical, figurative.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a tapestry made up of complex expressions, idioms, and phrases, all of which have psychological, cultural, and historical importance. Somatic phraseological units are particularly noteworthy as they utilize the human body to represent abstract ideas.

Somatic phraseological units are linguistic constructs that utilize body parts or bodily actions to convey

metaphorical or figurative meanings. These phrases often originate from physical experiences, embodying the fusion of language and embodied cognition.

The word ‘soma’ comes from Greek meaning “body”. Estonian scholar F. Vack was the first who introduced the term “somatic” to linguistics. In his opinion: “Somatisms belong to one of the oldest layers of phraseology and constitute the most used part of any

vocabulary.” It divides somatisms into the following types:

- 1) those that describe a person;
- 2) those that describe a person and an animal;
- 3) those that describe an animal.

Somatic phraseological units are one of the oldest layers of phraseology. It reflects the daily life, customs, traditions and behavior of people. Each of somatism has a symbolic function that reflects certain associations that exist in one or another part of the body. Actively participates in the formation of somatic phraseological units and the formation of their meaning. Somatic expressions add color and depth to communication.

The cultural significance of somatic phraseological units cannot be overstated. These expressions not only reflect cultural attitudes towards the body but also encapsulate shared experiences and values. It is impossible to overestimate the cultural relevance of somatic phraseological units. These expressions capture common experiences and ideals in addition to reflecting cultural views regarding the body.

For example, “Cannot make head or tail of something” means to be unable to understand, while “an old hand” symbolizes very experienced and skilled in a particular area of activity, “Heart of stone” describes someone who is emotionally cold or

unfeeling, as if their heart were made of stone. The use of somatic imagery underscores the lack of warmth or empathy, painting a vivid picture of emotional detachment. By examining these phrases within their cultural contexts, we gain insight into societal norms and beliefs.

Beyond their cultural significance, somatic phraseological units offer a window into the human spirit. The use of bodily imagery to convey abstract concepts speaks to the embodied nature of cognition.

Moreover, the prevalence of certain somatic expressions can shed light on collective anxieties, desires, and emotions within a society.

Many researchers claim that man was the object of study because he began to understand the world around him without knowing it. Somatic phraseological units are anthropological units. Anthropology is from the New Latin word “anthropologia” (the study of humanity) and shares its ultimate root in Greek, “anthrōpos” (“human being”), with a number of other words in English, such as “anthropomorphize”, “philanthropy”, and “misanthrope”.

A.M. Emirova quite rightly claims that “The human body is the most accessible and studied object of human observation”, in connection with which “orientation in space, it is “more convenient” for a

person to correlate his assessment of the world around him primarily with parts of his body” .

According to T.N Chayko “Due to the fact that parts of the body are constantly in front of the eyes, they become a kind of standards for comparison” .

More precisely, somatic phraseological units refer to a special group as expressions that refer to a part of the human body or organ. The human factor plays a big role in word formation. Man refers to his body to use language units as a form of reflection of himself and the world. Because man is the center of attention, he always tries to describe the world around him in a unique way.

Mamatov, notes that somatic lexemes occupy an important place in the process of expressive and meaningful formation of phraseological units in every language, somatic components participate as a constant (unchanging) component in phraseological units .

Somatic phraseological units often metaphorically relate to the body or its functions, allowing speakers to communicate abstract concepts through concrete, bodily imagery.

We can see this in the following examples:

“Keep an eye on”: This expression means to watch or monitor something closely.

“Cold feet”: This idiom refers to feeling hesitant or apprehensive about a decision or course of action. The imagery of cold feet evokes the physical sensation of fear or uncertainty, metaphorically suggesting a reluctance to move forward.

“Jump out of one's skin”: When someone is extremely startled or surprised, they might exclaim that they feel like they could “jump out of their skin”. This vivid imagery conveys the intensity of the reaction, suggesting a sensation of being physically propelled or jolted.

“Eyes are bigger than one's stomach”: When someone takes more food than they can comfortably eat, they might be told that their “eyes are bigger than their stomach.” This expression humorously highlights the discrepancy between visual perception and physical capacity, using bodily imagery to convey the idea of overindulgence.

“Cost an arm and a leg”: Used to indicate that something is very expensive.

“Get cold feet”: This phrase means to become too afraid or nervous to do something you had planned to do.

“Give someone a hand”: To help or assist someone with something.

“Have eyes in the back of one's head” be able to see what is going on. This can be frustrating because

others might think they are being secretive and are not noticed.

CONCLUSION

Phraseology and set expressions are integral components of language that embody the richness, diversity, and complexity of human communication. From idiomatic phrases to proverbial wisdom, these linguistic artifacts serve as vessels of meaning, culture, and identity, bridging linguistic barriers and connecting individuals across borders.

Somatic phraseological units serve as both linguistic tools and cultural artifacts, offering a glimpse into the complex interplay between language, culture, and cognition. By analyzing these expressions, we gain a deeper understanding of human communication and the intricate web of meanings that underlie it. As we continue to explore the depths of language, somatic phraseology remains a fascinating and inexhaustible field of study.

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