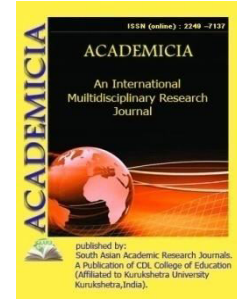




**ACADEMICIA**  
**An International  
 Multidisciplinary  
 Research Journal**  
 (Double Blind Refereed & Peer Reviewed Journal)



**DOI: 10.5958/2249-7137.2021.01874.7**

## THE INVESTIGATION OF ALL POSSIBLE STRUCTURES OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS WITH PROPER NAMES

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### ABSTRACT

*The present article is devoted to investigation of English phraseological units with proper names as well as to study of their possible structures. All structures are proved by examples. The frequency of usage of these structures is also pointed in the article. The data of lexicology make it possible to determine the nature of the components of PUs. The theory of lexical meaning developed in semantics helps to identify the semantic specificity of PUPrN and to distinguish various types of meaning in the sphere of phraseology. Moreover, proper names in PUs have specific function. From grammatical point of view their function in the sentence is expressed by subject and complement, lexical function is nomination. Historically, their function is informative. The data of syntax is very important to identify the grammatical specifics of these word combinations - their grammatical structure and functions.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Phraseological Unit, Proper Name, Grammatical Structure, Model, Semantics, Origin.*

### INTRODUCTION

#### Actuality of the theme of the research

There are idioms, proverbs, sayings, containing proper names. They originated from people's lifestyle, customs and traditions, prose and poetry, mythology, fairy stories, fables, songs, slang, novels and other sources [6]. It should be stressed, though, that proverbs or phraseological units with proper names (further PUPrN) are used in speech or writing often [1]. Also, some proverbs comprising people's names, names of ethnicities, cities or countries, may be perceived as offensive stereotypes, and should be avoided. All this makes the theme of research actual and important among the problems of modern linguistics. It is not less significant than learning

grammar, lexis and pronunciation. By knowing them we can differentiate positive and negative sides of humanity.

The investigation of PUPrN is one of the insufficiently explored fields of the modern linguistic study. Undeniable, that this research involves two branches of linguistics, at first sight phraseology and onomastics at the second. Phraseology connected with the history, literature and linguistics, but primarily with the linguistic disciplines: lexicology, semantics, grammar, phonetics, stylistics, history of language, etymology, text linguistics and general linguistics [2]. PUPrN consist of words, and the word is the main object of the study of lexicology. The data of lexicology make it possible to determine the nature of the components of PUs. The theory of lexical meaning developed in semantics helps to identify the semantic specificity of PUPrN and to distinguish various types of meaning in the sphere of phraseology. The word in phraseology does not always lose its morphological features, morphology helps to determine what is lost and what is preserved. Composition of PUPrN includes the combinations of different structural types, including PUPrN with the structure of phrases and sentences. The data of syntax is very important to identify the grammatical specifics of these word combinations - their grammatical structure and functions. The word in the phraseology is characterized by a certain phonetic form, but in the process of development it can also change.

Besides, it relates to cognitive linguistics, pragma-linguistics, linguoculturology, sociolinguistics. Apart linguistic subjects it concerns as well as non-linguistic ones, namely literature, history, ethnography, mythology, anthropology.

**The aim of the research** is to investigate the semantic peculiarities of English phraseological units with proper names as well as to study their structures.

**The object of the research** is English phraseological units and proverbs containing proper names in their semantic structures, their historical, cultural and structural peculiarities.

The following **methods of inquiry** were used in the work:

- descriptive method (to describe main points of the research work),
- componential analysis (to take component: proper name out of the whole phraseological unit or proverb and analyze it),
- cognitive-conceptual analysis (to investigate associations, background knowledge in phraseological units and proverbs with proper names),
- Lingual-cultural analysis (to find out interesting cultural events which deal with phraseological units and proverbs with proper names).

## DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

Phraseological units with proper names contain special group among phraseologies. They have certain grammatical structural patterns. To investigate structure PUPrN it is required to observe structural patterns of phraseological units themselves. Few linguists had investigated grammatical structural models of phraseological expressions and it can be found suitable structural patterns for PUPrN. In her book “Comparative analysis of phraseological units”, Arsentjeva offered the following structures of phraseological units (further we'll use abbreviation PUs):

1. PUs with phrase structure
2. PUs with sentence structure

Phraseologies with phrase structure are divided into the following types:

- a) Verbal PUs
- b) Substantial PUs
- c) Adjectival PUs

The largest class is the class of the verbal PUs, gone after substantive and adjectival phraseologies and PUs with sentence structure.

### The verbal Pus

The verbal PU is phraseologies which functionally correlated with the verb, in other words, the nuclear constituent of phraseology is a verb. There is objective relation between nuclear element and dependent subordinated PUs. The following main subclasses are distinguished:

1. The subclass **verb +noun**, for example, *raise Cain, shoot Niagara, to cross the Rubicon, To astonish the Browns, To sham Abraham, take the Mickey, be a Gypsy, discover America, to speak BBC, go Dutch.*

To this same subclass of FE we include a subspecies of PUs with a prepositive extension of a noun with possessive pronouns.

- a) The subclass **verb+pronoun+noun**, for example, *meet one's Waterloo.*
2. Phraseological structure **verb+adjective+noun**. A typical feature of phraseologies with this structure is that they contain adjective. For example, *cut the Gordian knot*, here the word "Gordian" fulfills the role of adjective, *be a Spanish village- be totally unknown to somebody, be a real/true Gypsy, have green fingers, take French leave, have kissed the Blarney Stone* [3].
3. The subclass with the most numerous phraseologies has the structure **verb +preposition +noun**, for instance, *go over to Rome, go for a Burton, be off to Bedfordshire, go to Canossa, keep up with the Joneses, be from Missouri*. This is postpositive extension.
4. Phraseologies with the structure **verb +preposition +pronoun +noun**. This model considers extension of noun with help of possessive pronouns.
5. Phraseologies with the structure **verb +preposition +adjective +noun**. This structure suggests extension of noun due to the adjective,
6. The class **verb +noun +preposition +noun**, for instance, *bend the bow of Ulysses, carry coals to Newcastle, live the life of Riley, built castles in Spain, pile/heap Pelion on Ossa, throw a sop to Cerberus* [3]. In this class, the first dependent component is a direct object, the second is an indirect object. It can be observed expansion of both dependent components with help of adjectives and possessive pronouns, subclasses

**verb +pronoun + preposition +noun**, for example, *row somebody up Salt River, tell it not in Gath, not know someone from Adam, see somebody at Jericho first;*

**verb +noun +preposition +pronoun**, e.g. *come Yorkshire over somebody, be Greek to somebody*;

7. Subclass **verb +adjective**. There is no PNPrN in this class, because proper names play the role of noun in phraseologies.

8. Subclass **verb +noun +adjective**. This subclass is characterized by complex objective postpositive type.

9. Subclass **verb +comparative +noun** is small. Role of comparative component performs words “like” or “as”. To exemplify, *drive like Jehu*;

a) **Verb +comparative +adjective +noun**, e.g., *laugh like little Audrey, grin like a Cheshire cat; fight like Kilkenny cats*;

b) **Verb +comparative +noun + preposition +noun**, e.g., *be like Hamlet without the prince, be like the Black Hole of Calcutta, feel like Daniel in the lion's den*;

10. Subclass of verbal PUs with subordinating sentences, e.g., *fiddle while Rome is burning, Is rotten in the state of Denmark*.

**Substantial PUs**. Substantial Pus are phrases functionally correlated with the noun, i.e., the core component of phraseology is a noun [5].

There are following subclasses of substantial PUs:

1. Subclass with structure **adjective +noun** is characterized by attributive connection between components. Distinctive feature of it is an interchangeability of components, e.g. *a Roman holiday, old Hickory, a Dear John, a Trojan horse, the real McCoy, Black Maria*. This subclass has two forms:

a) Adjectival-nominal group, e.g. *long Tom, clever Dick, great Caesar!*;

b) Substantial- nominal group, e.g. *Hermes fire, an April fool, Cordelia's gift, a Barmecide feast*;

2. Subclass with the structure **noun +noun**, it is noted that in English Pus the use of the proper name are both core and dependent components: *a Mark Tapley, King Log, Iack Horner, a Miss Nancy, Colonel Chinstrap, Colonel Blimp, Mother Bunch*.

These PUs are characterized by an attributive-prepositive type with an adjunction to the substantive-nominal group, in which the dependent component is expressed by a noun without any morphological design: *a Cadmean victory*.

3. Subclass with structure **noun +preposition +noun**. In this case, combination of noun with noun is carried out through prepositional subordinating connection, e.g. *the tower of Babel, the vicar of Bray, the sword of Damocles*. The second member of such phraseologies can be extended due to usage of adjectives **noun +preposition + adjective +noun**, e.g., *Father of English poetry* or **noun +preposition + noun +noun**, e.g., *the Duke of Exeter's daughter* [4].

The structure **noun +preposition +noun** is possible for both singular and plural forms, for example, *Jack of all trades*.

Following prepositions are used for forming phraseologies of that type:

**of**, e.g. *the labours of Hercules*

**on**, e.g. *the man on the Clapham omnibus*

**for**, e.g. *a Roland for an Oliver*

**in**, e.g. *Alice in Wonderland*

Other prepositions are used very rare.

4. Subclass with the structure **Participle I or II +noun**, for example, *a doubting Thomas*, *waiting Matilda*.

Phraseologies of this type in the English language correspond to the PUs of the participial-nominal group of the attributive-prepositive type with an adjunction in which the dependent component is expressed by participle.

5. Subclass with the structure **noun +and +noun**, which is characterized by coherent relation between components, e.g. *Lares and Penates*, *Castor and Pollux*, *Gog and Magog*, *Darby and Joan*, *Tom and Jerry*.

In English, there are PUs with the structure **preposition +noun** with a prepositional extension of the noun with an adjective or a numeral. The core component of such PUs is noun, but they can serve as an adjective and adverb in the sentence. For instance, *by Jove!*, *by Jupiter!*, *according to Cocker*, *by the Lord Harry!*

**Adjectival PUs.** Adjectival PUs are considered functionally correlated with adjectives. The core component in these PUs is an adjective, the dependent component is a noun. **Adjective +as +noun**, e.g. *patient as Job*, *proud as Lucifer*, *pleased as Punch*, *happy as Larry*, *hot as Hades*, *old as Adam*, *poor as Lazarus*, *rich as Croesus*.

**PUs with structure of sentence.** There are PUs with the structure of sentence but their number is small. Characteristic feature for both English is PUs constructed according to the structure of a simple sentence and having components which are related as subject and predicate. *He thinks himself God Almighty*; *Daniel comes to judgment*; *the Dutch have taken Holland*; *fiddle while Rome burns*.

As a rule, PUs based on the structure of complex and compound sentences are proverbs and sayings.

Another linguist I.V. Arnold divided expressions according their function into several types:

1. Expressions performing the function of noun:

**Noun +noun**, e.g. *the Royal Alfred*, *Aunt Fanny*, *Uncle Tom*, *Madison Avenue*, *Botany Bay*, *Annie Oakley*, *Tommy Atkins*;

**Noun's +noun**, e. g. *Pandora's box*, *Naboth's vineyard*, *Salomon's wisdom*, *Penelope's web*, *Cleopatra's needle*;

**Nouns' +noun**, e.g. *Achilles' heel*, *Achilles' spear*, *Nessus' shirt*;

**Noun +preposition +noun**, e.g. *the cask of Danaides*, *the brand of Cain*;

**Noun +and +noun**, e.g. *Alpha and Omega*;

**Adjective +noun**, e.g. *a Smart Aleck*;

2. Expressions performing the function of verbs:

**Verb +noun**, e.g. *raise Cain*;

**Verb + (one's) +noun +(preposition)**, e.g. *meet one's Waterloo*;

**Verb +subordinate clause**, e.g. *fiddle while Rome burns*;

3. Expressions performing the function of adjectives:

**Adjective +as +noun**, e.g. *happy as Larry*;

Such kind expressions frequently used as predicates, but not as attributes.

4. Expressions performing the function of adverbs:

**Noun +and +noun**, e.g. *David and Jonathan*;

**Preposition +noun**, e.g. *according to Hoyle*;

**Preposition +noun +and +noun**, e.g. *between Scylla and Charybdis*;

**Conjunction +noun**, e.g. *before you can say Jack Robinson*.

In English speech there is also a significant number of unconditional formations, at first glance, which correspond to certain features of PUs, but in reality significantly differ from them. We are referring to formation, which can be called a standard style of grammatical constructions. Before turning to their consideration, it is regarded to pay attention to some of the most important peculiarities of phraseological units derived from their essence as units of a permanent context.

The first feature. Since the result of the basis of a permanent context is the emergence in it of the phraseologically related meaning of one of the parts or the content of the whole unit. This has lexical meaning rather than grammatical.

The second feature. There is no language pattern that defines both the material structure, and specific semantic result of the verbal structure reproduced on it. The structure of any constructional type of PUs is a basic syntactic rule for constructing a word combination, which does not provide for any other idiomatic content than originally intended. The only simulated thing was that the variable word combination which, over time, under certain conditions, turned into a PU.

The third feature. The lexical meaning of every PU is individual, and not typical.

Thus, PUPrN have a certain structural and grammatical form constructed according to models of free slangs or sentences existing in one or another language.

It is known that the phraseological units' structures do not differentiate from the common phrase. They are based on the model of some free syntactic constructions existing in the language at present or existed in the past. It is clear that PUPrN have different structural models, however, there is PUs not corresponding to any structural models, they have unique structure.

**CONCLUSION**

PUPrN contain special group among phraseologies. They have certain grammatical structural patterns. There are offered the following structures of phraseologies:

1. PUs with phrase structure
2. PUs with sentence structure

Phraseologies with phrase structure are divided into the following types:

- a) Verbal PUs
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In English speech there is also a significant number of unconditional formations, at first glance, which correspond to certain features of PUs, but in reality significantly differ from them. We are referring to formation, which can be called a standard style of grammatical constructions. Before turning to their consideration, it is regarded to pay attention to some of the most significant features of PUs derived from their essence as units of a constant context.

Moreover, proper names in PUs have specific function. From grammatical point of view their function in the sentence is expressed by subject and complement, lexical function is nomination. Historically, their function is informative. In the speech, depending on the situation, they can serve as the basis of message or have communicative function. Proper names in the structure of PUs can be used as appeal or appellative function and as expressive means or expressive function. Identification, address, deixis, appeal, emphasizing, listing, differentiation, description are peculiar refinement and division of communicative function, and not separate function of names. Ideological and emotional functions are main functions of proper names in the structure of PUs, because they convey the whole essence of phraseology. Becoming part of the PU, the proper name loses its connection with a particular person or object i.e. exhausts its onomastic function. It ceases to express singularity and begins to generalize, and therefore, to perform the function of common noun.

In addition, the etymological ground of PUs in modern English is very diverse. Origin of English phraseologies can be divided into two classes: native and borrowed English PUs. Borrowed PUs are subdivided into: inter-lingual and intra-linguistic.

Thus, it is clear that in modern English, PUPrN differ according to their grammatical structure, their function in the sentence and etymological ground.

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