



# MULTI-WORD EXPRESSIONS

phraseology, set expression, familiar quotations, binomials, catch phrases, slogans, clichés, proverbs and maxims

## PHRASEOLOGY (polysemantic term)

- a) a science of phraseological units – a specific linguistic field, a branch of lexicology**
- b) a set of all phraseological units**
- c) a particular manner of expression  
(a person, a field, e.g. *Ex-president Trump's phraseology, generally accepted journalistic phraseology, etc.*)

# PHRASEOLOGY

- the meaning of groups of words (combinations of at least two)  
 different from the meaning of the words individually
- group of words  **phraseological unit**, phrasemes, multiword units/lexemes, lexical units, conventional/fixed expressions, word combinations, phrasal lexemes, etc.
- Vinogradov (1947): non-motivated word-groups that cannot be freely made up in speech but are ready-made units
- Kunin (1970): a stable word-group characterized by a completely or partially transferred meaning

# PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

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Convey a single concept as a whole, e.g. *red numbers*.

No word can be replaced or changed, e.g. *To carry ~~bring~~ coals to Newcastle, the ~~big~~ white elephant.*

## FREE WORD GROUP

Each meaningful component stands for separate concept, e.g. Red flower.

Components may be changed, e.g. *The (big, ...) ship (vessel, ...) is carrying coal (cargo, ...) to Newcastle (Liverpool, ...).*

# PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS

## CHARACTERISTICS:

- polylexicality (two or more words)
- high frequency
- familiarity (familiar and treated as a unit)
- fixedness (various levels, in some p.u. some change is possible)
- idiomacity (the sense cannot be deduced from the meaning of its components)
- Bible p.u., e.g. *doubting Thomas, forbidden fruit, daily bread, ...*  
Classical mythology p.u. e.g. *Achilles' heel, the apple of discord, the Trojan horse, ...*  
Various languages p.u., e.g. *all roads lead to Rome, he laughs best who laughs last, a storm in a cup of tea, lead somebody by the nose, US: time is money, bread and butter, pie in the sky, the cold war, gone with the wind, ...*

# Classification of phraseological units

- Set expressions
- Familiar quotations
- Irreversible binomials (Siamese twins, binomial, binomial pairs, freezes)
- Catch phrases – slogans and clichés
- Proverbs and maxims

# Set Expressions

- word-groups consisting of two or more words → one unit with non-literal meaning of the whole,  
e.g. *to sleep like a log, to be busy as a bee, ...*
  
- 1) NOUNS, e.g. *white elephant, a skeleton in the cupboard, ...*
- 2) VERBS, PHRASAL VERBS, e.g. *to bark up the wrong tree, to give up, ...*
- 3) ADJECTIVES, IDIOMATIC SIMILES, e.g. *like a bull in a china shop, as old as the hills, ...*
- 4) ADVERBS, e.g. *once in a blue moon, to drink like a fish, ...*
- 5) INTERJECTIONS, e.g. *God bless me!, ...*

# Familiar Quotations/Quotes

- words/phrases taken from someone else/literary work, e.g.  
Caesar: *The die is cast.*  
Oscar Wilde: *Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.*  
Woody Allen: *My brain is my second favourite organ.*
- Bible quotes  
Luke 6:31 *Do to others as you would have them do to you.*  
Mathew 7:6 *Do not cast your pearls before swine.*

# Irreversible Binomials – Siamese Twins

- idiomatic expressions
- two words joined by a conjunction
- fixed order of the words
- words may be synonyms antonyms, alliterations, similar-sounding words, *e.g. to give and/or take, first and foremost, now and then, slowly but surely, sooner or later, ...*



# Catch Phrases, Slogans, Clichés

- CATCH PHRASE** a fashionable expression, media-inspired, short-lived, catchy, to facilitate social communication, e.g. *Make America Great Again!* (MAGA /'mæ. gə/, D. Trump), *What's up doc?* (Bugs Bunny), *Phone home.* (ET), *You can't be serious.* (John McEnroe's epic meltdown), *Houston, we have a problem.* (Apollo 13)
- SLOGAN** originally a battle-cry of a Scottish clan, short, strong rhythm, easy to remember, used to attract attention, e.g. *Make love not war*, *I'm loving it* (McDonalds), *Easy as Dell*, *It's fingerlickin' good* (KFC), ...
- CLICHÉS** a phrase or expression that has been used so often, that it is no longer original or interesting; predictable and boring, e.g. *Ah, to be young and foolish ...; better late than never; life is a bitch; no pain, no gain; ...*

# Proverbs and Maxims

## PROVERB

- a brief traditional saying that gives advice about how people should live, or that expresses a belief that is generally thought to be true;  
- popular wisdom, use of metaphors to illustrate the truth, e.g.

*Never judge a book by its cover.*

*When the cat's away, the mice will play.*

*One There is no smoke without fire.*

*Too many cooks spoil the broth.*

## MAXIM

- offers a brief rule of conduct or action, or an expression of a general principle, does not use metaphor; however, its meaning as a whole can be metaphoric, e.g.

*Look before you leap. There is no smoke without fire.*

*A friend in need is a friend indeed.*

*An apple a day keeps the doctor away.*