VERBAL PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EXPRESSING POSITIVE EMOTIONS

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Abstract: The article is dedicated to the study of verbal phraseological units expressing positive emotions in English. English verbal phraseological units denoting positive emotions are selected from the phraseological dictionary by A.V. Kunin and represent here the main subject of the analysis. They are classified into groups depending on the type of emotion they represent. The article reveals the peculiarities of their semantic and structural analysis.

Keywords: emotive, verbal phraseological unit, structure, emotions, emotional state, positive emotions.

Always think positively,
And good things will never leave you!
(Anonymous)

It is quite evident that language is an important element in human communication. Human communication requires meaning; it is the language itself [3, p. 38]. But what do we know about language? Language can be understood as words, word combinations and sentences that people use to say when they fulfill the need for expressing ideas, exchanging information, conveying messages, etc. Thus, we can conclude that the language is the means of communication; and as a means of communication it must be able to help humans to maintain relationships between one another. While communicating, people use words or word combinations for making up sentences. There is also a special layer of language, which helps us to express different attitudes. These are
phraseological units. They are of great importance as they enrich our vocabulary, beautify our language, and make our communication sound unusual, vivid and more expressive.

The presence and functioning of phraseological units play an important role in characteristics of any language. Interest in phraseological units, their origin and the ways they work have existed from the time immemorial. As Smith L.P. states “phraseological units are speech phenomena which break both grammar rules and logics ones” [4, p.10].

With the help of language, which is a powerful means of expressing human individuality, people convey not only thoughts, but also feelings and emotions. The sensory foundations of language are no less important than its logical (rational) foundations. Language is the key to the study of emotions. It expresses, describes, categorizes and classifies emotions, forms an emotional picture of the world, an integral part of which are phraseological units expressing emotions. Their study within the framework of the anthropocentric scientific paradigm allows a person to realize his role in the world around him. Emotions are an integral and essential component of the human personality.

The verbalization of emotions in different linguistic cultures is carried out in accordance with specific national and cultural norms and rules. The verbal expression of emotions is the realization of the emotional function of the language, for the expression of which it has a special set of emotionally colored linguistic means, among which an important place belongs to emotive phraseological units, which are an important part of the national lexicon that conveys the specifics of the national linguistic consciousness [8, p.5].

This article is devoted to the study of English verbal phraseological units expressing positive emotions. The purpose is to study verbal phraseological units in English that help to express different positive emotions. The research hypothesis lies in the fact that English verbal phraseological units help people to express different positive emotions, such as happiness, joy, love, pleasure, delight, etc.

The following research methods have been used while doing the research: the study and analysis of literature on research issues. This allowed us to find out more information on the topic. The method of linguistic description has been also used. It helped to describe and explain verbal phraseological units expressing positive emotions. The method of translation and explanation permitted us to render the semantics of the studied verbal phraseological units.

Grammatically the verb is the most complex part of speech. First of all it performs the central role in realizing predication - connection between situation in the utterance and reality. That is why the verb is of primary informative significance in an utterance [7, p.55]. It is a very important part of any language. It should be pointed out that verbal phraseological unit are also of paramount importance in any language as they constitute a huge number.

The verbal phraseological units are the ones that functionally corresponds to verbs, i.e. those phraseological units whose core component is the verb. For instance, “to have a ball” – веселиться, хорошо проводить время [6, p.28]. Structurally, we can observe here that the verb is the core component of this phraseological unit in English.

According to their structure verbal phraseological units can be of the following types:
1. V + N – play the hog, beat the air, answer the door (bell), etc. [5, p. 11-12];
2. V + Adj. + N – take a strong stand, present a bold front, show a false face, etc. [5, p. 13-14];
3. V + Prep. + N – weigh in the balance, look for credit, jump at the balt, stick in the mud, etc. [5, p.14];
4. Here we have such subtypes as:
5. - V + Prep. + Pron. +N – stick to one’s colours, be in smb’s beard, dance after smb’s pipe, etc. [5, p.14];
6. - V + Prep. + Adj. +N – be of good cheer, work at high pressure, look on the dark sides, etc. [5, p.14];
5. V + N+ Prep. +N – pass the bottle of smoke, take the bull by the horns, find quarrel in a straw, etc. [5, p.16];
6. V + Adv. – run straight, play double, play fair, etc. [5, p.17];
7. V + N + Adv. – play one’s cards well, hold the scales equally, keep one’s mouth shut, etc. [5, p.18];
8. V + N + N – give tip service, wet the baby’s head, die a dog’s death, etc. [5, p.19];
9. V + comp. + N – chatter like a magpie, act as a chameleon, run like a dear, etc. [5, p.19-20];
10. V + and + V – bow and scrape, pick and choose, wait and see, etc. [5, p.20];
11. V + N + Prep. – take the gloves off, lay the butter on, knock the end in, etc. [5, p.21];
12. Verbal Phraseological units with subordinate clauses – sleep (lie) on (in) the bed one has made, fiddle while Rome is burning, bite off more than one can chew, etc. [5, p.21].

Thus, we can see that the structure of verbal phraseological units can be diverse.

Having studied the theory based on the structural classification of English verbal phraseological units, we are now to select emotive phraseological units. It was decided to study namely these verbal phraseological units because emotions are very important in our life and we consider that verbal phraseological units expressing different positive emotions will help us to express our positive emotional state. Emotions constitute our health both physically and mentally. In linguistics “the category of emotivity is used to describe” emotive phraseological units [1, p.60]. In phraseology there are emotive phraseological units with both positive and negative meanings. But in this work of ours we shall focus only on those with positive meaning as we believe people should always think positively. This fact gives the opportunity to select the emotive verbal phraseological units from A.V. Kunin’s dictionary and classify them into semantic groups of positive emotions.

“Difficulty and diversity in expressing a person’s emotional state is shown by phraseological units” [1, p.63]. We are going to study emotive verbal phraseological units distributing them into semantic groups of positive emotional state.

Positive emotional state is expressed by such positive emotions as joy, happiness, pleasure, love, cheer, fun, admiration, delight, calmness and others. Having worked with the phraseological dictionary by A.V. Kunin, we have found the following verbal phraseological units expressing positive emotional state. They are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1. English verbal phraseological units denoting positive emotions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English verbal phraseological units denoting positive emotions</th>
<th>The structure of English verbal phraseological units denoting positive emotions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Joy:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. tread (walk) on (upon) air – лететь на крыльях от радости [2, p.36];</td>
<td>1. V + Prep. + N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. have a ball - везелиться [2, p.62];</td>
<td>3. V + N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Happiness:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pleasure:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. be glad to see smb.’s back (the back of smb.) – радоваться избавлению от кого-то [2, p.57];</td>
<td>5. V + Pron. + N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. have one’s bread buttered on both sides - как сыр в масле кататься [2, p.1077];</td>
<td>6. V + Pron. + N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Love:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. fix (set) one's affection on somebody – полюбить кого-либо [2, p.32];</td>
<td>7. V + Adj. + N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Admiration:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Thus, we have worked with the first 1000 phraseological units found in the Phraseological dictionary by Kunin A. V. We have selected English verbal phraseological units denoting positive emotions out of 1000 units. In general, we have 16 phraseological units denoting positive emotional state. They have been classified into groups depending on the type of emotion they represent (joy, happiness, pleasure, love, admiration, delight, calmness) and structurally analyzed. Semantic groups are represented in the following way: joy – 3 VPUs, happiness – 1 VPU, pleasure – 2 VPUs, love – 1 VPU, admiration – 6 VPUs, delight – 1 VPU, calmness – 2 VPUs. The prevailing positive emotional state is admiration. So, if we want to show our admiration we can use these verbal phraseological units instead of verbs in order to be unusual, positive and interesting to be listened to.

All the results of structural classification are included in Table 1. Among 16 verbal phraseological units denoting positive emotional state we have found the following structures:

- **V + N** – 2 units;
- **V + Prep. + N** – 4 units;
- **V + Adj. + N** – 2 units;
- **V + Pron. + N** – 6 units;
- **V + Pron. + Prep. + N** – 1 unit;
- **V + and + V** – 1 unit.

To summarize all said above, we can state that the prevailing structure of verbal emotive phraseological unit is the structure of **V + Pron. + N**. This structure is represented by 6 units.

Concluding, we would like to mention that structural principle of classifying phraseological units is based on their ability to perform the same syntactical functions as words. There are words that perform actions; they are verbs. The same thing can refer to English phraseological units that perform actions; they are verbal phraseological units, whose core component is the verb. They can be used instead of verbs in our everyday speech. For example, we can say “I loved her.” Here we have used a simple word, verb. And the same idea can be rendered in English by the use of verbal phraseological unit “fix (set) one’s affection on somebody”. The sentence will sound in the following way “I fixed (set) my affection on her”. It is obvious, that the first sentence is quite simple and ordinary one. But the second one is more complicated and more vivid. So, if we want to sound more expressive and impress someone, we should use verbal phraseological units in our speech.

**References:**


