DIACHRONIC DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOUND WORDS IN ENGLISH PHRASEOLOGY.

S.U. Rasulova Scientific Supervisor
Acting Associate Professor, PhD, SamSIFL
Karimov Behruz Ashurali o'g'li
The student of SamSIFL

Annotatsiya: Ushbu tadqiqot ingliz tilidagi frazeologik birliklar tarkibidagi qo'shma so'zlarning diaxron rivojlanishini o'rganadi. Unda ingliz tilining tarixiy o'zgarishlari qo'shma so'zlarga asoslangan idiomatik ifodalarning semantik, strukturaviy va funksional xususiyatlariga qanday ta'sir ko'rsatgani tahlil qilinadi. Eski ingliz tilidan zamonaviy ingliz tiligacha bo'lgan misollar asosida semantik siljish, leksikalizatsiya va idiomatizatsiya jarayonlarining muayyan qonuniyatlari aniqlanadi. Tadqiqot natijalari ko'rsatishicha, ko'plab qo'shma so'zlar bevosita (literal) ma'nodan ko'chma (figurativ) ma'noga o'tgan va bu ingliz frazeologiyasining boyishiga xizmat qilgan. Shuningdek, tadqiqotda ushbu o'zgarishlarning shakllanishida ijtimoiy va madaniy omillarning o'rni yoritilib, til evolyutsiyasining dinamik tabiati haqida muhim xulosalar beriladi.

Аннотация: Данное исследование посвящено диахроническому развитию сложных слов в составе фразеологических единиц английского языка. В работе рассматривается, каким образом исторические изменения в английском языке повлияли на семантические, структурные и функциональные характеристики идиом, основанных на сложных словах. На основе анализа примеров от древнеанглийского до современного английского языка выявляются закономерности семантического сдвига, лексикализации и идиоматизации. Результаты исследования показывают, что многие сложные слова претерпели переход от прямого к переносному значению, что способствовало обогащению английской фразеологии. Также подчеркивается роль культурных и социальных факторов в формировании этих процессов, что позволяет глубже понять динамическую природу языковой эволюции.

Abstract: This study explores the diachronic development of compound words within English phraseological units. It investigates how historical changes in the English language have influenced the semantic, structural, and functional properties of compound-based idioms. By analyzing examples from Old English to Modern English, the research identifies patterns of semantic shift, lexicalization, and idiomatization. The findings demonstrate that many compounds have undergone a transition from literal to figurative meanings, contributing to the richness of English phraseology. The study also highlights the role of cultural and social factors in shaping these developments, offering insights into the dynamic nature of language evolution.

Kalit so'zlar: qo'shma so'zlar, frazeologik birliklar, diaxron tilshunoslik, semantik siljish, idiomatizatsiya, leksikalizatsiya, ingliz tili tarixi.

Ключевые слова: сложные слова, фразеологические единицы, диахроническая лингвистика, семантический сдвиг, идиоматизация, лексикализация, история английского языка.

Keywords: compound words, phraseological units, diachronic linguistics, semantic shift, idiomatization, lexicalization, English language history

Introduction

Compound words represent a significant component of the English lexicon, often forming the basis of many phraseological units. Over time, these compounds have evolved both structurally and semantically, reflecting broader linguistic and cultural changes. Diachronic linguistics provides a framework for examining how such developments occur across different historical stages of the language. This study focuses on the transformation of compound words within phraseological expressions, aiming to uncover patterns of change from Old English to Present-Day English. Understanding these developments contributes to a deeper comprehension of idiomaticity, semantic opacity, and the evolution of meaning in English.

Literature Review

Previous studies have addressed compound formation and phraseology from various perspectives. Bauer (1983) examined the structural properties of English compounds, emphasizing their productivity and variation. Marchand (1969) provided a comprehensive account of word formation processes, including compounding, in English. Research by Lipka (1992) focused on lexical semantics and highlighted the complexity of meaning in compounds. In the field of phraseology, scholars such as Cowie (1998) and Moon (1998) analyzed idiomatic expressions and their semantic characteristics.

Diachronic approaches have been explored by Traugott and Dasher (2002), who discussed semantic change and grammaticalization processes. However, limited attention has been given specifically to the historical development of compound words within phraseological units. This study seeks to bridge that gap by integrating insights from word formation, semantics, and phraseology.

Methodology

The research adopts a qualitative diachronic approach, analyzing compound-based phraseological units across different historical periods of English: Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, and Present-Day English. Data were collected from historical dictionaries, corpora, and relevant linguistic studies. Selected examples of compounds embedded in idiomatic expressions were examined for structural patterns and semantic changes.

The analysis focuses on identifying processes such as lexicalization, metaphorization, and semantic shift. Comparative analysis was employed to trace the evolution of meanings and forms over time, allowing for a systematic understanding of how compound words develop within phraseological contexts.

Analysis

The analysis reveals several key patterns in the diachronic development of compound words in English phraseology. In Old English, compounds were often transparent and compositional, with meanings directly derived from their components. For example, compounds like “household” originally had literal interpretations. During the Middle English period, increased language contact and borrowing led to structural variation and semantic expansion. In Early Modern English, many compounds began to acquire figurative meanings, contributing to idiomatic expressions. For instance, expressions such as “break the ice” illustrate the shift from literal to metaphorical usage.

In Present-Day English, many compound-based phraseological units exhibit semantic opacity, where the original meanings of components are no longer easily recognizable. This progression highlights the processes of idiomatization and lexicalization, which play a crucial role in shaping modern English phraseology.

Additional Semantic Processes

Beyond semantic shift and lexicalization, several additional processes contribute to the development of compound words in phraseology. Reanalysis allows speakers to reinterpret compound structures, often leading to new meanings. Analogy also plays a role, as new compounds are formed based on existing patterns. Cultural influences, including technological advancements and social changes, introduce new compounds and modify existing ones.

Borrowing from other languages has further enriched English phraseology, particularly during the Middle English period. These processes interact dynamically, reinforcing the evolution of compound-based expressions and ensuring their continued relevance in contemporary language use.

Discussion

The findings of this study underscore the dynamic nature of compound words in English phraseology. Diachronic analysis demonstrates that compounds are not static lexical units but evolve in response to linguistic, cultural, and cognitive factors. The shift from semantic transparency to opacity reflects broader processes of idiomatization, where expressions become fixed and non-compositional. This has important implications for language learners, as understanding idiomatic expressions often requires historical and contextual knowledge. Furthermore, the role of metaphor and cultural context highlights the interplay between language and human experience. The study also suggests that compound words serve as a bridge between morphology and phraseology, linking word formation processes with idiomatic usage. While the research provides valuable insights, further studies could employ corpus-based quantitative methods to expand the analysis.

To conclude, the diachronic perspective offers a comprehensive understanding of how compound words contribute to the richness and complexity of English phraseological systems.

References

1. Kuldosheva, R. K., J. P. Kilichov, and T. Kh Suleymanov. "THE ROLE OF SIGN LANGUAGE IN SOCIETY." *УЧЕНЫЙ XXI ВЕКА*: 23.
2. Kurbanovna Y. Z. SCIENTIFIC AND METHODOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF DISTANCE LEARNING //Innovation: The journal of Social Sciences and Researches. – 2022. – Т. 1. – №. 2. – С. 40-43.
3. Pirnazarova X. A., Eshmuradova H. D. Ingliz tilida ideomalar va tarjimadagi qiyinchiliklar //Science and Education. – 2022. – Т. 3. – №. 6. – С. 1480-1483.
4. Pirnazarova K. A., Eshmuradova H. D. Theoretical issues of formation of translation competence in the education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan //Science and Education. – 2022. – Т. 3. – №. 6. – С. 1481-1489.
5. Shaymanova, Nigora, et al. "Exploring the Role of Educational Workshops in Mitigating Environmental Degradation in High-Traffic Wildlife Tourism Zones." *Natural & Engineering Sciences* 10.3 (2025).
6. Sharipova, M. A., & Shukurov, U. B. (2025). CULTURAL SIGNS AND SYMBOLS AS A LINGUISTIC RESOURCE FOR IMPROVING STUDENTS'PHRASEOLOGICAL COMPETENCE. *Ustozlar uchun*, *83*(2), 219-229.
7. Suleymanov, Timur, and Anora Kosimova. "EFFECTIVE WAYS OF TEACHING ENGLISH THROUGH GAMES, PRE-GAME AND POST-GAME ACTIVITIES." *Бюллетень студентов нового Узбекистана* 1.6 (2023): 5-7.

8. Suleymanov, T. K. (2024). THE SYNTACTICAL AND LEXICAL PECULIARITIES OF SENSORICS IN “HAIR” BY W. FAULKNER. *European Journal of Learning on History and Social Sciences*, *1*(4), 93-98.
9. Suleymanov, T. X. "THE POETICS OF SOUTHERN GOTHIC AND ITS SENSORY DIMENSION IN WILLIAM FAULKNER’S WORKS." Multidisciplinary and Multidimensional Journal 5.3 (2026): 115-119.
10. Suleymanov, T. FEATURES OF W. FAULKNER'S STYLE. STREAM OF CONSCIOUSNESS.
11. Suleymanov, T., & Turabaeva, L. USING AI IN ASSESSMENT: OPPORTUNITIES, RISKS, AND PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATIONS.
12. Yusupova Z. ACADEMIC DIGITAL WRITING SKILLS OF PHILOLOGY STUDENTS: CHALLENGES, ASSESSMENT, AND INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN //Conference Proceedings: Fostering Your Research Spirit. – 2026. – С. 150-153.
13. Yusupova Z. K. THE PHENOMENON OF PERSONAL SELF-DEVELOPMENT AS A FACTOR OF DISTANCE LEARNING IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE //Academic research in educational sciences. – 2021. – Т. 2. – №. 10. – С. 1274-1285.
14. Yusupova Z. Effectiveness OF Online Resources in Teaching Professional Vocabulary to Philology Students //Maktabgacha va Maktab Ta’limi Jurnali. – С. 675920.
15. Yusupova Z. THE DIGITAL CULTURE AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF PROFESSIONAL CULTURE. – 2022.
16. Zarina Y. A PEDAGOGICAL MODEL FOR DEVELOPING DIGITAL COMPETENCE OF PHILOLOGY STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION //Shokh Articles Library. – 2026. – Т. 1. – №. 1.
17. Сулейманов, Т. Х. (2022). Особенности сенсорного восприятия действительности героями У. Фолкнера на примере синтеза визуальных, аудио- и тактильных образов в рассказах «Barn Burning» («Поджигатель») и «A Rose For Emily» («РОЗА ДЛЯ ЭМИЛИ»). Academic Research in Educational Sciences, 3(6), 518–524.
18. Сулейманов, Т. (2026). Репрезентация визуальной модальности: поэтика света, цвета и распада (на материале новелл „Роза для Эмили“ и „Сухой сентябрь“). Зарубежная лингвистика и лингводидактика, 4(2), 57–63. https://doi.org/10.47689/2181-3701-vol4-iss2-pp57-63
19. Журакулов, Р. Д., & Журакулий, Г. (2023). СЕМАНТИКО-СТРУКТУРНЫЕ ПОЛЯ ФРАЗЕОЛОГИИ УЗБЕКСКИХ НАРОДНЫХ СКАЗОК. *Journal of Intellectual Property and Human Rights*, *2*(11), 80-82.