



VARIATIVITY OF PHRASEOLOGICAL UNITS IN LANGUAGES OF DIFFERENT SYSTEMS

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Abstract. The phenomenon of variability within phraseological units is a complex and multifaceted aspect of language that has drawn the attention of numerous researchers. This article delves into the grammatical variation of phraseological units in both the English and Azerbaijani languages, highlighting how these fixed expressions undergo transformations while maintaining their core meanings. Phraseological variation is seen as a natural occurrence across all linguistic levels, with grammatical variation arising from changes in number, case, and the use of different prepositions or articles.

A primary focus of the study is on grammatical variants, where phraseological units retain their lexical content but exhibit differences in grammatical structure. Such variations may result from shifts in singular and plural forms, preposition changes, or the use of components in different grammatical cases. Lexical variations, on the other hand, occur when one or more elements of a phraseological unit are replaced by synonyms or lexically similar words. Despite these changes, the semantic integrity of the expression remains intact.

In comparing phraseological units from English and Azerbaijani, the article illustrates how grammatical, lexical, and structural variations are manifested differently in each language. Through examples, it becomes clear that phraseological systems in both languages are rich with variants, contributing to the vibrancy and expressiveness of each language. The article also addresses the debate between phraseological variants and synonyms, noting that while some linguists view variations as synonymous enrichments, others argue for a distinction between the two concepts.

Additionally, the article examines the criteria for phraseological normativity, referencing the views of scholars such as F.P. Filin and B.S. Schwarzkopf, who emphasize the importance of structural and semantic stability in determining whether a variant is accepted as part of the literary language. The study also sheds light on the stylistic nuances that arise from different variants,

explaining how certain forms may be preferred in specific contexts to convey subtle shifts in meaning or tone.

So, the variation of phraseological units is an important feature that not only enhances linguistic diversity but also contributes to the richness of communication. The proper use of phraseological units in both written and spoken forms showcases the writer's or speaker's command of the language, allowing them to convey ideas more vividly and effectively. By employing phraseological variants, authors can create a more dynamic and engaging narrative, fostering a deeper connection between the writer and the reader. Ultimately, the study underscores the role of phraseological variation as a key factor in the expressive potential of both the English and Azerbaijani languages.

Keywords: phraseological units, phraseological variant, grammatical variants, lexical variation, semantic change

Many researchers dealing with the issue of variability note the complexity and diversity of this phenomenon, especially the problem of variability of phraseological units is always emphasized. Since variability is one of the specific, characteristic and distinguishing features, phraseological units also have a large number of variants due to their lexical-grammatical features. Variation is a common phenomenon in language and is a manifestation of regularities characteristic of all levels of the language system. F.P.Filin notes that "*variation is one of the most important conditions for the development of language, because multiple shifts occur at all language levels when the relationships between variants change*" [6, p.11].

Grammatical variants of the phraseological units exist with the same lexical content, but with different grammatical structure. Grammatical phraseological variants are created by changing the grammatical form of one of the constituent parts of phraseological units. They include phraseological units that have the same lexical composition, but differ in morphological or syntactic structure features. Grammatical variation can be expressed in the following way based on the transformations occurring in grammatical categories (number, case) in phraseological units:

a) use of substantive components in the phraseological unit in the singular and plural: to come to somebody's ear – to come to somebody's ears- qulağına çatmaq; darken sb's door - darken sb's doors- qapını kəsdirmək, qapının(qapısının ağzını kəsdirmək), under sb's foot - under sb's feet(ayağına dolaşmaq); before one's eye (eyes)-(gözünün önündə).

If news of my mistake ever comes to the boss's ear(ears), I'll definitely be in trouble.-Mənim səhvimlə bağlı xəbər müdirin qulağına çatsa, mütləq bəlaya düşər olacağam.

This phraseological unit is expressed in Azerbaijani with the following phraseological variants: qulağı çalmaq, qulağı söz(ü) çalmaq, qulağı bir söz almaq, qulağına dəymək, qulağa (qulağına) gəlib çatmaq

Həsənxanda o cürət hardaydı Əmrahla bu dildə danışsın?! Onun **qulağı çalmışdı** ki, Əmrahın yarası ağırlaşmış, artıq yerindən qalxa bilmir, daha sağalmasına ümid yoxdur. (Ə. İldırımoglu. Əmrahsız qalan dağlar) [2, p.1000].

b) use of different prepositions: a babe in the woods – a babe at the woods, in the guise of – under the guise of, to be in one's reckoning – to be of one's reckoning, of one's own head – on one's own head; bring out the sweat on (upon) one's body; pull in (tighten) one's belt;

c) use of the components of the phraseological unit in different cases: the Procrustean bed – the bed of Procrustes, Hercules' Pillars – the Pillars of Hercules

Grammatical variations that are characteristic for English:

a) article variability: open a door for smth – open the door for smth, give a green light – give the green light, give a lead – give the lead; in (the) sound of; lie heavy on one's (the) stomach, melt in one's (the) mouth.

b) replacing the article with a determiner: hump the back – hump one's back, pay the debt of nature – pay one's debt to nature.

While analyzing different variants of phraseological units we come across with:

a) phraseological units with two-variants: keep / feel fit – be cheerful and healthy; keep / have one's finger on the pulse – attentively follow, be aware of things; keep / wrap smb in cotton-wool – protect someone too much, keep someone under a glass cap; keep / carry a stiff upper lip – do not lose courage, keep the presence of spirit; keep / hold the field – do not surrender positions, dominate, dominate, compare, for example:

We will keep the field against all competitions. - We can withstand any competition.

Bütün yarışmalarda meydanı qoruyacağıq. - İstənilən rəqabətə tab gətirə biləcəyik.

b) phraseological units with three-variants: keep / have / get the bulge on smb – to be in a better position than someone, to have an advantage over someone; keep / give / lend countenance to smb – encourage someone;

B.S.Schwarzkopf noted a number of cases in this regard: in the first case, the phraseological unit does not have variation, that is, the question of the normativity of the phraseological unit is expressed depending on which form of the heterogeneous national language it belongs to. a) if the phraseological unit is a part of the literary language, then it is normative; b) if it exists within the framework of dialects, slangs, it is not normative. In the second case, the phraseological unit has

variation - in this case, the relationship between the boundaries of the phraseological unit and the boundaries of its norm can develop in two ways. B.S. Schwarzkopf defines the following criteria for phraseological normativity: a) general distribution; b) predetermined structural and semantic features of the phraseological unit; c) legality of the variant for literary use. The researcher notes that: "*When coding a phraseological unit as a literary language unit (for example, in dictionaries), the presence of all three signs is assumed, they act as successive stages of checking the compliance of the variant of the phraseological unit with the literary norm*" [7, p. 172]. Sharing this point from a general point of view, we would like to draw attention to the following point: in practice, the coder does not always have the opportunity to take into account all three criteria, because in some cases they conflict with each other.

Linguists approach changes in the internal structure of a phraseological unit in different ways. According to some linguists, these changes produce variants of phraseological units, and according to others, it is mentioned as synonymic enrichment. The phraseological system of the Azerbaijani language is very rich in phraseological variants. The vast majority of linguists consider expressions with lexical, lexical-grammatical, grammatical changes in both meaning and content to be phraseological variants. However, N. Valiyeva considers the phraseologisms resulting from the replacement of synonymous words to be phraseological synonyms. In her work on phraseology, she showed many examples of both phraseological variation and phraseological synonymy: phraseological variation - *boğaza yığmaq/ gətirmək, dərisinə saman səpmək/ təpmək* ; phraseological synonymy- "*ağlını başına yığmaq- ağlını başına cəm eləmək; başına oyun açmaq- başına kələk açmaq* [4].

As noted by H. Bayramov, in the variation of phraseological units, replacing components with their own lexical variants, changing the structure, and even changing the phraseology itself is considered common. However, replacing one component with its lexical variant in phraseology does not harm other components [1, p.81].

Lexical variant means the type of variant caused by replacing one or more of the components, but with full preservation of semantic adequacy. For example, "God knows!" acting in the position of phraseoreflex, an example of the lexical variant of the emotive phraseology expressing "surprise, regret, amazement" can be given: God (heaven, goodness, devil or the Lord) knows! Lexical variation implies different types of lexeme changes, provided that the semantic paradigm is fully preserved:

- 1) Lexemes of the synonymous series: keep one's eyes peeled – keep one's eye skinned;
- 2) Such transformations are characterized by two interchangeable verb configurations: be (feel) quick about the head; be (run) in blinkers; be (run) off one's legs; eat (take) one's fill; have (got) eyes like a

hawk. Rarely, but there are phraseological units that have three interchangeable components: quiver (shake, tremble) like a jelly; be (go, pass) out like a light; slave (sweat, work) one's guts.

3) Among the lexical substantive variants of phraseology, we have recorded units with two interchangeable components: a sore point (spot); watch smb like a hawk (lynx); frozen to the bone (to the marrow); have a hole in one's stomach (tummy).

Paulaskiene E.S. and a number of other scientists believe that it is possible to have semantic nuances between the lexical variants of phraseological units that do not allow any additional semantic changes: *"Variants of phraseological units are stable types of expressions with known structural differences, formed on the basis of the same phraseological model. As a whole, the meanings of the variants, as well as the phraseologically related meanings of the components, completely coincide, but at the same time, some variants express certain semantic nuances, but this does not violate their unity. At the same time, there are variants that differ according to their stylistic use"* [5, p.81].

Conclusion. Phraseological units of the English language differ from phraseological units of other languages by their richness and variety. Variation of phraseological units is one of the most relevant issues. The presence of numerous variants of phraseological units in both languages, both Azerbaijani and English, can be emphasized as a factor that enriches and makes each language colorful. It is natural that the use of phraseological units widely and at the right moments certainly makes the report and the written article more thought-provoking and interesting for the reader. Being able to use phraseological units correctly also indicates the innovative qualities of the writer and artist, and in this way the author conveys his feelings and thoughts to the reader in an individual way, and as a result, a very figurative, different and ambiguous interpersonal communication is created between the writer and the reader. We can note that the correct use of phraseological units is the clearest proof of both the ability of the writer to effectively use the means of artistic influence and the creation of an interesting communication competence between the author and the reader.

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