Divergence of direction of semantic transfer on the phraseological level

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Abstract. Relevant criteria of phraseological units are transferred semantics, semantic stability, and separate structural arrangement of the component parts. The criteria for identification of phraseological units are fully or partially transferred meanings of the component parts, separate structural arrangement, stability of lexical components, reproducibility in the fixed form. Unlike the lexical, the phraseological level involves deeper semantic processes due to separate structural arrangement of phraseological units. Semantic relations of polysemantic phraseological units are broken down into radial phraseological polysemy, chain phraseological polysemy, and radial-chain phraseological polysemy. Polysemy is a linguistic universal. It is an inherent component of languages, their constituent characteristics. Words and phraseological units of a language represent a perfect basis for polysemy development, with virtually any language unit having enough potential to develop new meanings. When translating and interlanguage correlation of Russian, German and Yakut polysemantic phraseological units, the analyzed units of indirect nomination correlate with full or partial equivalence of meaning. Correlation of semantics of Russian, German and Yakut polysemantic phraseological units is complicated and represents a sum of interlanguage relations of all its individual meanings.

Introduction

Polysemy is a semantic category most represented in lexical and phraseographic resources [1, 437]. Traditionally, polysemy is referred to as presence of several meanings, lexical-semantic variants in one word or of phraseological unit. Polysemy is a linguistic universal. There is insufficient information on the phenomenon of phraseological polysemy, so research on divergence of direction of semantic transfer on the phraseological level is of great significance. Comparative analysis of modern Russian, German and Yakut polysemantic phraseological units has not been a subject of research yet. The purpose of the paper is to determine divergence of semantic transfer of modern Russian, German and Yakut phraseological units. Polysemy is an inherent component of a language, its constituent characteristic. Words and phraseological units (further referred to as PU) of a language represent a universal basis for polysemy development, with virtually any language unit having enough potential for development of new meanings. PU are language units of indirect nomination. Since interpretation of the term phraseological unit is ambiguous in Russia and abroad [2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7], it makes sense to clarify our understanding of PU. We share the opinion of scholars who refer to PU as "a set word group of different structural types …, the meaning of which results from full or partial transferred meanings of its component parts" [8, 29]. The relevant characteristics of PU are semantic transfer, separate structural arrangement and stability of constituent parts. When analyzing set of criteria for PU identification (full or partial transferred meanings of component parts, separate structural arrangement, stability of lexical components, reproducibility in a set form), the semantic criterion, i.e. fully or partially transferred meanings of component parts, is prioritized. Under conditions of globalization and intensification of cross-cultural communication, concepts set in collective consciousness of one social stratum with particular degree of accuracy are, as a rule, absent in another. Therefore, it is necessary to correlate polysemantic PU, as a result of which a foreign recipient is able to form new phraseological images in his consciousness according to the speaker's concepts of these linguistic units of indirect nomination. Here, the role and significance of lexical and phraseographic resources is indisputable [9]. Phraseographic resources of the modern Russian and German languages contain PU with five meanings: *open wide one's mouth* (Russian PU) - 1) start talking, speak out, 2) disagree, object, 3) be surprised, astonished, 4) be extremely inattentive, absent-minded, gape, 5) stop doing something to gape at someone or something and *put someone or something on legs* (German PU) – 1) rouse (all residents); work someone up, 2) put someone on one's feet; cure someone, 3) improve one's (financial) situation, 4) arrange, organize something / someone, 5) (with difficulty) arrange, recruit, gather (people etc.).

The phraseological level involves deeper semantic processes than the lexical level due to secondary nature of PU formation and we think it is possible to differentiate the following types of semantic relations of polysemantic PU:

1) radial phraseological polysemy;
2) chain phraseological polysemy;
3) radial-chain phraseological polysemy;
4) phraseological homonymy [10, 87].

Let us consider the main types of semantic relations of German and Yakut polysemantic PU in detail.

1. With the radial phraseological polysemy, all phrase-semantic variants are united by a common phrase-semantic invariant, e.g.:

drive a wedge between someone or something (Russian PU - RPU) - 1) disunite, alienate someone or something (e.g. military troops), 2) alienate, make someone feel estranged, hostile towards each other;

be (stay) close at one's heels (German PU - GPU)– 1) chase, pursue someone at the heels, 2) follow someone at the heels, follow someone closely;

the face has gone (Yakut PU - YPU) – 1) lose at a card game, 2) lose, bankrupt.

2. Chain phraseological polysemy involves motivation of the latter phrase-semantic variant by the former up to formation of a homonym PU. The examples of German and Yakut PU:

under seven seals (RPU) - 1) under firm control, 2) hid away, inaccessible;

get into the eye (GPU) – 1) have a look at someone, something, 2) take into account / consideration, predict something;

give hands (YPU) – 1) be engaged, 2) come to an agreement, make an agreement, a deal.

3. Radial-chain phraseological polysemy is a combined type of radial and chain phraseological polysemy, e.g.:

felt the fool (RPU) - 1) act the fool, act not as one is expected, 2) pretend to be foolish, not understanding, 3) play the fool, clown, 4) play for time, 5) idle;

come to one's expenses (GPU) - 1) avoid loss, 2) be satisfied, pleased, 3) have a good time;

shake one's head (YPU) – 1) refuse, avoid something, 2) deny, 3) be surprised, astonished.

4. Phraseological homonymy is difference of phrase-semantic variants with identical structure of polysemantic PU. Divergence of direction of semantic transfer is most explicit in phraseological homonymy as illustrated by phraseological polysemy both at the level analysis, semantic nuances of a particular PU, and cross-language comparison of PU of different languages.

Four types of homonymic relations are distinguished in linguistics: interlevel, intra-phraseological, overlapping, and interlanguage homonymy [11, 12-21]. Let us consider the given types of homonymic relations in figurative Russian, German, and Yakut PU.

1. Interlevel homonymy is the most common type of relations in the languages under consideration under which the original free collocation and a PH of different language levels, syntactic and phraseological, come into homonymic relations, e.g.:

beat one's breast (RPU) – 1) beat one's breast (the original free collocation – the syntactic level), 2) claim, assure (PU – phraseological level);

let the arms fall (GPU) – 1) let one's arms down (the original free collocation – the syntactic level), 2) lose hope to do something (PU – phraseological level);

bind his eyes (YPU) – 1) bind one's eyes (the original free collocation – the syntactic level), 2) deceive (PU – phraseological level).

2. Intra-phraseological homonymy occurs when plane of content of two or more PH with identical plane of expression mismatch, e.g.:

release eggs (RPU) – 1) vomit, 2) express strong indignation;

stop one's mouth (GPU) – 1) prevent someone from speaking), 2) buy one's silence;

rise, stretch one's arms (YPU) – 1) give up, 2) help, provide help.

3. Overlapping homonymy is most characteristic for kinetic PH as gestures and facial expressions reflect the mental state of man, have particular socially-induced symbol concept, with word groups representing them having a second semantic plane, i.e. PU involves figurative and direct meaning at a time. Originally equivalent kinetic motion *come to one's legs again* (GPU) and *get up to your feet* (YPU) differ in the first meaning – while the German PU means 'get on one's feet; recover', the Yakut PU means 'stand on one's own feet, become independent'. The seme 'recover' of the first meaning of the German PU is rather equivalent to the second meaning of the Yakut PU 'get better, be cured'. The second meaning of the German PU 'regain one's footing, improve one's financial situation' more likely correlates with the seme 'become independent' of the first meaning of the Yakut PU. The third meaning 'get excited, worried, mobilize' of the German PU is entirely absent in the Yakut PU.

4. In interlanguage phraseological homonymy, PU of different languages have homonymic relations. The analysis of Russian, German and Yakut PU revealed two types of interlanguage phraseological homonymy:

1) German and Yakut PU have similar component parts and different concept content.

Different directions of figurative transfer of the same prototype [12] is observed when comparing PU with similar constituent parts: *from head to feet (heels)* (RPU) - 1) as a whole, fully), 2) in everything – thoughts, actions, etc. (be someone, be like); *from head to foot* (GPU) - 1) from top to toe, from up to down, 2) the whole; *from head to feet* (YPU) - 1) as a whole, fully (about one's body), 2) from the beginning to the end, the whole (wander, travel around etc.), 3) everything (know, tell etc.), 4) from the bottom of one's heart (thank, express gratitude). The Russian and Yakut PU are equivalent in the first meaning, the Russian and German PU – in the second. None of the meanings of the Yakut PU meet the meanings of the German PU.

2) PU of the analyzed languages partially agree in formal structure but differ in concept content, e.g.:

lick one's fingers (RPU) - 1) very tasty, appetizing, giving great pleasure, 2) very beautiful, good, interesting, amazing;

lick all ten fingers (GPU) – lick oneself all ten fingers after something;

(he) licked his fingers (YPU) – one licked one's fingers. Semantic correlation of Russian, German and Yakut polysemantic PU is of complicated nature and represents a sum of interlanguage relations of all individual meanings. When translating polysemantic PU there are two types of relations: full or partial equivalence of meanings of polysemantic PU. In most cases polysemantic PU of a compared language, having identical constituent parts, have just one similar meaning of PU in another language due to specifics and different direction of figurative transfer of the same prototypic situation in different languages and their intralinguistic semantic development.

1. The full equivalence of all meanings in the three languages is a rare phenomenon, e.g.: *not to take one's eyes off someone or something* (RPU) –*not to take one's eyes off someone or something* (GPU) – *do not tear your eyes off* (YPU). These PU are used in the analyzed languages in two meanings: 1) look fixedly, attentively, without a break at someone or something; 2) watch, observe someone or something fixedly.

2. The full equivalence is observed in Russian and Yakut PU with two meanings, e.g.:

with half an ear (RPU and YPU): 1) listen to someone inattentively, in snatches, 2) hear of something cursory, in passing;

cannot raise one's arm (RPU) and *(his/her) arm does not go* (YPU): 1) one doesn't have enough courage to do something, 2) one doesn't have enough courage to beat up, kill someone;

show one's back (bottom) (RPU and YPU): 1) turning one's back, go away without willing to explain oneself, talk to someone or expressing disregard, contempt towards someone, 2) run away, flee.

3. Less Russian and German polysemantic PU have equivalent meanings than Russian and Yakut PU:

shoulder to shoulder (RPU and GPU): 1) (walk, go, seat, etc.) in the immediate vicinity, close, next to each other, 2) (live, work, fight, etc.) together;

fall into one's hands (RPU): 1) get into dependence on someone, 2) get caught, captured by someone and *fall into one's hand* (GPU): 1) fall into one's hands (get caught), 2) fall in one's hands (be at someone's disposal).

4. Full equivalence of the first meaning in German and Yakut polysemantic PU: According to phraseographic sources, the phraseological unit *go from hand to hand* (GPU) and *go from hand to hand* (YPU) have, in general, the same first meaning 'go from hand to hand, pass from hand to hand, go from one (man) to another. The second meaning of the German PU is 'go from hand to hand (about a woman)', while in the Yakut language meaning is transferred into absolutely different area of human relations 'be invited, be respected'.

The first meaning is the same in RPU *take (collect) someone in one's hands* and *take, keep in (your) hands* (YPU) – 'subdue, make someone obey (in actions, deeds, etc.)'. In turn, these meanings come into semantic relation with the German monosemantic unit *dance on one's nose* (GPU). The second meanings of the analysed PU are not equivalent: the Yakut PU means 'take someone to take care of him', the Russian PU means 'affect, influence someone'.

The meanings of the following PU are not fully equivalent: the Russian PU *unbind one's tongue* – 1) make, force someone or give opportunity to someone to speak out, speak free, naturally, without restrictions, 2) start speaking after keeping silence when testifying, revealing a secret, etc., 3) become talkative; and the Yakut PU *open one's mouth* – 1) make someone (who is usually silent and not willing to talk) speak, start a conversation, 2) start a conversation, be the first to say a phrase to start a conversation.

5. The analysis of Russian, German and Yakut polysemantic PU did not reveal full equivalence of the second meaning.

6. Varied equivalence of meanings in Russian, German and Yakut polysemantic PU. One of the meanings of a polysemantic PU of one

language usually correlates with one meaning of a polysemantic PU of another language. Correlates of polysemantic PU of the analyzed languages have both equivalent and different meanings. The Russian PU *not to hear (sense, feel) one's feet under oneself* has three meanings: 1) (go, run, etc.) very fast, 2) get tired, fatigued (after a long walk, run, etc.), 3) be in good mood because of something. The Yakut PU with close image *his feet don't feel the ground* has two meanings: 1) be very happy, feel on the top of the world, 2) be frightened, terrified. As you can see, the PU correlate in one of their meanings: the first one of the Yakut PU and the third one of the Russian PU.

7. Quantitative difference of meanings of Russian, German and Yakut polysemantic PU with the identical plane of expression: *show (offer, turn, turn away) one's back to someone or something*: 1) turn one's back on someone (show disregard, ignorance), 2) turn away, give up, reject something; cease one's membership in an association, 3) abandon something (motherland, etc.), flee, give up, show one's back. The prototypic kinetic seme ‚show one's back' oft he two original free phrases develops divergent on the semantic level in the compared PU. The German PU has three meanings explicite the growing degree of expansion of meaning differentiation: from the simple ‚turn one's back to someone (expressing disregard, ignorance)' through ‚turn away, give up, reject something; cease one's membership in an association' to ‚abandon something (motherland, etc.)'. The Yakut PU *show one's back (bottom)* demonstrates the opposite transfer of the second meaning from the first one: 2) ‚run away, flee; give up; show one's back' and 1) leave someone being unsatisfied; turn away from someone without willing to explain oneself, talk, etc.; show one's back'.

Comparison of Russian, German and Yakut polysemantic PU reveals ample opportunities for different meaning transfer of the same original word group. Different direction of semantic transfer is observed in the RPU *there is no face on someone* ‘someone turned very pale, grew pinched, change (usually because of pain, nervousness, etc.)'. A very pale face without vivid colors is associated with its absence that evidences sick and depressed mental state of a man. Also, the face reflects moral features of people. The YPU *do not have face* has a figurative meaning of absence of moral traits such as conscience, shame. Although having analogue plane of expression, the RPU *close (shut) someone's mouth* and YPU *close (your) mouth* possess different internal form. While the Russian PU means ‘make someone keep silent, not allow to say something or about something', the Yakut PU means ‘please

someone with a present, a bribe (to mollify someone, avoid serious consequences for oneself)'. The same subject situation ‘wag the tail' is differently interpreted by speakers of the analyzed languages: the Russian PU ‘using deceit, tricks, dodge something, fawn over somebody, be servile to someone', the Yakut PU *wag one's tail* means ‘run away'. Various directions of figurative transfer of a prototypic situation are reflected by the RPU *reach out one's hand* – 1) beg, 2) encroach on something; and YPU *reach out one's hand* ‘help, provide help to someone'.

National specifics of PU is presented in unique nature of phraseological image and represents this way the greatest challenge for translation. As a rule, RPU with a complicated and particular image are unique in every language. For example, *under a dog's tail* – 1) in vain, for nothing, to no purpose (throw away, waste, etc.), 2) something is not worth paying attention to, deserves disregard; *pull someone for the ears* – 1) help someone with all means, usually to an untalented, careless man in his studies, promotion, etc., 2) force someone to some belief, theory, etc.; *break one's teeth on someone or something* – 1) fail in relationships with someone or at work on something, 2) make a great effort to do something.

Semantic structure of German idioethnic PU is peculiar: *speak a hole in the stomach* – 1) bore with talks, tire someone out by one's talk, 2) persuade someone persistently, prevail on; *touch someone's spinal cord* – 1) touch someone's weak point, sting someone, 2) strike the fatal blow to someone; *have an eye on something or someone* – 1) think about something, concentrate on something, 2) think, take care of something, 3) take something or somebody into account.

Figurative uniqueness is characteristic for culturally specific Yakut PU: *the face has gone* – 1) lose at a card game, 2) lose, bankrupt; *bring up one's mouth* – 1) live, scratching out a living, 2) having some permanent occupation, income for living; *burden of foot* – 1) presents given by the broom or his parents to the bride's relatives present at the wedding, 2) dated a host's present to the guest as a gratitude for respect given by his visit, 3) a fee for delivery services.

In conclusion, the analysis of divergence of direction of semantic transfer in Russian, German and Yakut polysemantic PU revealed that particular culturally specific PU originate in customs, ritual or symbolic actions, traditions and superstitions that existed in the past or exist now. Some of them can have equivalents in other languages due to the fact that particular customs and beliefs are found in a number of language communities and it is not

inconceivable that some PU of this kind are adopted in one or another. The phenomenon of phraseological figurativeness still needs cognitive consideration as this phenomenon is related to world view and understanding of the world having its roots in ethnic background knowledge of the world where people, speakers of a language, live and work.

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